

MR. MARTIN...

AM I CANADIAN?

YOUR FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND RELIGION IS UNDER ATTACK.

- **Bill C-250** could make the following a criminal offense: Publicly expressing or publishing moral objections towards homosexual conduct and practices, publicly expressing an opinion on the homosexual political agenda such as homosexual marriage, expressing an opinion on the health risks of certain homosexual behaviors;
- **Bill C-250** claims to protect religious texts. Yet parts of the Bible, Koran or Torah, as well as other religious texts and religious statements, could still be labeled "hate propaganda" and therefore expose faith-based leaders and others to criminal prosecution;
- **Bill C-250** virtually compels all citizens of Canada to follow and accept state-ordered thought on homosexuality and possibly other sexual orientations; and
- **Bill C-250** is an illiberal and illegitimate use of the criminal law.

Three Good Reasons Why Bill C-250 Must Die

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The Senate is scheduled to vote on the controversial Bill C-250 on Tuesday, April 20th. This gives concerned citizens a window of opportunity. Bill C-250 is an act which will make it illegal in Canada to oppose gay rights publicly. It is sponsored by Burnaby NDP MP Svend Robinson, who denies that the bill will outlaw freedom of speech. In actual practice, however, it will, and it will affect all Canadians. Particularly at risk are Christians, Catholics and evangelicals who preach the biblical condemnation of homosexuality as sin.

Bill C-250 is Robinson's Trojan Horse. While he has drafted legislation to amend only that Criminal Code section which forbids the promotion of genocide against an identifiable group, the bill, if approved, will go further. It will, by

default, alter the next section, too. According to journalist Lorne Gunter writing in the Edmonton Journal, "By adding sexual orientation to the categories protected from mass, state-sanctioned extermination, Robinson's bill also de facto makes it a federal offense to communicate statements in any public place that would wilfully promote hatred against any identifiable group."

Gunter's assessment is revealing. He writes further, "Time and again in recent Canadian court cases and human rights decisions, hate has been determined to be in the ear of the hearer, not the mind of the speaker. If a member of an identifiable group most notably gays feels someone else's words are hateful, judges and human rights tribunals have backed up those feelings with legal and administrative penalties, regardless of the defendant's intent."

Robinson is a clever politician. He

must know that this bill will silence those who oppose on religious grounds the homosexual agenda. It will stifle any meaningful public discussion on gay marriage. His own credibility comes under serious question based on recent comments to the Senate Committee where he said, "No leader of a major religion in Canada that I am aware of has voice opposition to this proposed legislation. I speak here, for example, about the United Church, the Anglican Church, the Catholic Church, the Jewish community, the Muslim community, the Buddhist community. However, I am not suggesting there are not some religious leaders who are opposed. The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, for example, continues to oppose the legislation. That is certainly the case. Overall, however, that opposition does not exist." Yet the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops is on record opposing Bill C-250.

Robinson's comments also strain

credulity in light of recent court cases against three Canadian citizens.

CASE 1: In 1997 Hugh Owens, an evangelical Christian, placed an ad in a Saskatchewan newspaper. The ad cited four Scripture passages condemning homosexuality. Also in the advertisement was an illustration of two stick men holding hands, encompassed in a circle with a line across the circle. Three homosexual men brought a complaint to the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission. The complaint was sustained and was later backed up by the court. The judge was declared guilty of a hate crime, even though Saskatchewan law protects religious speech. The judge's rationale? According to Gunter's article in the Journal, "Every major religion preaches love, not hate, he (the judge) explained. Therefore if their sacred texts are used in hateful ways they cannot be religious and therefore are not protected."

CASE 2: Scott Brockie, a Christian, and a print store owner, was forced against his convictions to do a printing for a gay and lesbian advocacy group. This time it was the Ontario Human Rights Commission which judged that Brockie was free to practice his religious beliefs in his home and in his Christian community, but not in public.

CASE 3: Teacher and high school counselor Chris Kemppling was suspended from his teaching job for one month without pay after a long and difficult battle in the courts. His offense? Writing letters to the local newspaper expressing his well-researched convictions about homosexuality. In the letters he outlined his belief that homosexuality is a lifestyle choice, not a genetic orientation, that it is often unhealthy and promiscuous, and that it can be treated, that gays can be counselled to be straight. These letters alone were sufficient evidence to pronounce Kemppling was a

bigot, the Journal column states. Identifying himself as a teacher or counselor in three letters resulted in the B.C. college teachers charging him with "conduct unbecoming a teacher." Lorne Gunter's article states, "He was never accused of discriminatory acts at all, merely of having the wrong thoughts. But in B.C., that was enough."

Passage of Bill C-250 will take things one giant step further – the end of our freedoms as we know them.

Passage of Bill C-250, which started out as a private members bill and gradually became a government bill, is destined to become a political albatross around the neck of the Paul Martin government.

Act Now! Go to www.killbillc250.com Do it today. Your freedom to publicly express your beliefs hangs in the balance.

The matter is Urgent. The Vote in the Senate May be as Early as April 20.

www.Killbillc250.com

Speak now...Or lose your right to speak.

Add your voice to a Public Rally In
Ottawa April 17, 2pm on Parliament Hill.
Go to www.freedominion.ca for details.