

The following is a summary of a memorandum from the Emergency Committee for Civil Rights (later renamed the Civil Rights Union) to Mackenzie King in reference to the Kellock-Taschereau Commission:

It brings findings of guilt against nine persons before they have been tried and before they have had a chance to meet the charges against them. To find them guilty in advance makes a mockery of their trials.

It brought in findings of guilt against one person in spite of the fact that he has already been discharged by the Courts on the same charge, based on substantially the same evidence and he now faces a second trial.

It denounces three persons on the grounds "that they did not take part in subversive activities but would have done so if required." These persons have not been and cannot be charged in court and there does not seem any way in which they can have the 'findings' of the Commission reviewed.

It brings in findings of guilt against two persons who have not yet been charged in court and who may never have been so charged since the Report does not disclose any evidence against them on which responsible counsel could advise prosecution. These persons have no way to clear their names.

The Report contains political findings based on heresy and opinion evidence which are outside the terms of reference of the Commission and contain unwarranted attacks on organizations and individuals in Canada.

The Commissioners and their counsel say in the Report that their findings remain valid no matter what any court says about them, that the Report is not subject to review or appeal by any court, and that they are not subordinate to anybody! By their failure to maintain a judicial point of view, their disregard for ordinary legal forms, their assumption of infallibility, and their display of political prejudice, the Commissioners have brought into disrepute the Supreme Court of Canada. The conduct of the Commission should be examined by Parliament, injustices corrected, the Commissioners and their counsel rebuked, and the names of those unjustifiably attacked, exonerated.

Source: Eggleston, W. "The Report of the Royal Commission on Espionage" *Dalhousie Review*.