

# Witnesses Refused Free Assembly

The New Liskeard Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses learned last night, July 3rd, that Jehovah's Witnesses in Argentina have been denied their constitutional rights of free assembly and worship. A vote of protest was taken and plans discussed to petition the Argentine

Republic to correct the restrictions laid on the Christian group's activities.

L. J. Audet, the local congregation's presiding minister, said that in spite of many liberal advancements made by the present Argentine government that ousted the dictatorial Peron regime, a few non-Catholic religious groups that were declared illegal by Peron have yet to be recognized by Argentine's constitutional president, Arturo Frondizi.

According to Mr. Audet, two

different applications for recognition were denied by the "ministry of worship" a department of the government formed by Peron to control the registry of all non-Catholic religions in the country. Furthermore, two futile appeals have been made to the present government to rescind the order denying Jehovah's Witnesses the right to register. The latest appeal was made following a new decree signed by Frondizi on February 6, 1959, giving non-Catholic religions full right to worship God as guar-

anteed by article 14 of the Argentine constitution.

Mr. Audet said the more than 6,000 Jehovah's Witnesses in Argentina began circulation of a petition addressed to the president of the Argentine Republic requesting recognition under the new, liberal provision of his government. The neighbouring countries of Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay are circulating similar petitions to acquaint the people of those countries, as well as Frondizi, with the conditions that exist in Argentina.



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