

*Communist Activities in Canada*

has come for more than words; indeed the time is overdue for positive action to interpret those words in legislation.

A royal commission was appointed by the government of Canada, and as a result of the findings of that royal commission a number of persons who had been stealing secret records and otherwise acting as agents of the Kremlin in this country were sent to jail.

There has been some tendency to recall the action following the presentation of the royal commission's report as evidence of the comprehensive measures adopted by this government to deal with communism. The fact is that the prosecutions which were launched carried out only to a very limited extent the recommendations of that commission. Now that world-wide communism has reached such a point that no one with any understanding of the real danger of this evil force can possibly regard it any longer as something academic and simply a matter of individual opinion, it does seem appropriate to remind hon. members, to whom after all the royal commission's report was presented, that the recommendations of that commission are still to a very large extent not dealt with. I should like to refer to some of those recommendations and show the extent to which action ceased when the prosecutions were launched which did deal with one aspect of the commission's report.

The first recommendation of the royal commission was:

1. That because of the introduction into the evidence, necessarily and unavoidably of secret technical data, the publication of which, according to the witnesses most concerned, would not be in the public interest at this time, none of the evidence or exhibits relating to any top secret, secret, restricted or confidential matters be published except with the approval of the government in consultation with the heads of the services, departments or organizations concerned.

I submit that in addition to the confidential book published by the government of Canada in February of 1949 there should be a full disclosure of all the evidence and records which are not rigidly and under the most severe terms of security still necessarily secret. The strongest weapon of democracy is freedom of speech and discussion of public issues based upon a full disclosure of all essential information. So that the people of Canada as well as their representatives in this House of Commons may be in a position to deal with this matter and to form their own opinions with full knowledge of all the facts which have been ascertained in regard to this particular form of treachery, I submit

[Mr. Drew.]

that except in the most exceptional cases there should be publication under the terms of that recommendation.

The second recommendation was:

2. That the proper authorities in each service, department and organization take such steps as may be considered desirable and effective, in the light of this report and of the evidence and exhibits, to prevent further unauthorized transmission of information and to set up further safeguards.

The disclosure, which came only after considerable pressure, that the national film board was not carrying out some of its most important duties last year because it was being screened to ascertain whether there were any communists active in its organization, was simply a disclosure that even as late as 1949 effective steps had not yet been taken to deal with this recommendation. And when we speak of further safeguards, there is after all no safeguard so effective as properly drafted laws to deal with functions of this kind.

The third recommendation was:

3. That all security measures should be co-ordinated and rendered as uniform as possible.

When this subject was under consideration in the house last year, on December 7, 1949, it was quite clear from the discussion as it is reported at page 2869 of *Hansard* that steps have not yet been taken to co-ordinate and render uniform throughout the government services and their agencies all measures intended to deal with activities of this kind, wherever those activities may be found.

The fourth recommendation was:

4. That the evidence and exhibits accompanying this report be placed before the proper persons in the various services, departments and organizations affected, for study so that a complete evaluation of the information and material handed over can be made in each case to ascertain in detail what has, and what has not, been compromised. That consideration be given to whether the findings so made should be communicated to the proper authorities in the United Kingdom and the United States.

That fourth recommendation is of special significance today because of the full implications of the Fuchs case in Great Britain. The government has been at some pains, through its appropriate spokesmen, to explain that the handbook containing Dr. Fuchs' name was disclosed to the government of the United Kingdom. But I am not aware that there was a complete evaluation of the information, in the light of the special knowledge obtained by the royal commission here, and that when the material was handed over to the government of the United Kingdom an evaluation of the significance of any particular name in that list had been prepared by the appropriate officials of the Canadian government, in keeping with the