

is 2.75 per cent at present. Recognizing the current urgency of doing more for technical and scientific education, surely the needs of education generally could become one of the key problems to be discussed at the Dominion-Provincial Conference in November.

Honourable senators, with your indulgence I should like to take a few minutes to discuss the problem of submerged people within the U.S.S.R. Honourable members may have been made increasingly aware lately that October 1957 marks the Fortieth Anniversary of the great October Socialistic Revolution—the Russian Communist Revolution on the territory of Russia proper.

Much propaganda will be directed to Canadians and to other democratic peoples telling us how the Soviet peoples are actively preparing to celebrate the glorious 40th anniversary of the Soviet state with new and important achievements to crown great successes in developing the socialistic economy since the great October Revolution.

Ukrainian communist leaders will solemnly reiterate how the Ukrainian people gained their independence and freedom in struggle and labour with the help of all the peoples of the Soviet Union, and first of all with the help of the great Russian peoples. But they will fail to mention that Ukraine has been a land of fear, of political straight-jacketing, of concentration camps, of genocide, of artificial famine, of religious persecution, and of persistent cultural russification. It is my purpose to bring to your attention, honourable senators, the understanding and the sequential hopes and aspirations of some 400,000 Ukrainian Canadians speaking, as it were, on behalf of their Ukrainian kith and kin, who we believe are presently denied their liberties in their homeland.

As a matter of historical fact this particular October anniversary marks the Bolshevik coup which actually took place on November 7, 1917, or on October 25, 1917, according to the old Julian Calendar, which was then used. This coup which overthrew the Provisional Government of Kerensky eventually turned out to be a counter revolution by Russian Communists and their fifth column adherents against Ukraine and other non-Russian peoples, many of whom had by this time declared for freedom and self-determination through their own national revolutions. It is a matter of historical record that the revolutionary break-up of Czarist Russia began much earlier—in March of 1917—for the Czar abdicated on March 15, 1917, three days after the historic episode in Petrograd when two garrison regiments, composed chiefly of Ukrainians, refused to fire on

a mass demonstration of workers and in effect rebelled actively against the Tsarist Government.

During these momentous revolutionary years there were in fact two separate and eventually divergent and opposing currents:

1. The Russian Revolution proper, on the territory of Russia for a change of government—over which the Communists eventually seized control, and

2. The Revolutions for national liberation on the lands of Ukraine, Finland, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Byelo-Russia; among the Poles in Russia and among the Caucasian peoples and the Moslem peoples of Asiatic Russia. The national liberation movements were a natural consequence of a breakdown in the initial confidence of the non-Russian peoples in a Russian federal democracy, which had prompted many of them to be satisfied originally with a kind of limited national autonomy in a federal relationship with Russia. This idealistic coexistence was soon disillusioned by the reappearance of historic signs of Russian imperialism in somewhat new forms and under the new communist leadership.

Let me give you a resumé of key happenings in the Ukraine revolution for national determination. I place them on record as symbolic of similar events in the attempts of other non-Russian peoples to gain national freedom and full independence.

After nearly three centuries of political partition and foreign domination; after long decades of economic, social and cultural deprivation—after the so-called dark ages under Czarist Russia when it seemed that there had been complete obliteration of the Ukraine as a separate national entity—the Ukrainians seized the first available opportunity to declare their independence and to begin the building of a democratic and Christian nation.

On March 12, 1917 there was trouble in Petrograd, when two regiments of the army garrison, composed mainly of Ukrainians, revolted with demonstrating workmen. On March 15 the Czar abdicated. On March 17, two days later, the Ukrainians formed their Ukraine Central Council, amidst huge public manifestations of Ukrainian national consciousness and desire for independence. In May 1917 the All Ukrainian National Congress met in Kiev and proclaimed the Ukraine a free nation within the Russian federation. But on January 22, 1918 they had had enough, and there followed the Ukraine's declaration of national sovereignty—complete sovereignty, total independence and separation from Russia. On January 22, 1919 occurred the political unification with Western Ukraine.