

You in the Rotary Club listen to many speakers, you develop your minds and acquire knowledge, but are you using, or passing on, the knowledge so gained for the benefit of the community.

You have opportunities of learning something of what goes on behind the Iron Curtain, and of forming your own opinions as to the relative advantages of our respective ways of life, but are you doing enough to offset the menace of Communism?

We know that the Communist party is highly organized, that at an election - any election - all members of the party will cast their votes - at whatever inconvenience.

But what percentage of the rest of us takes any interest in political affairs, or even in the selection of our candidates? Unfortunately the figure is very small.

We are all partners, or shareholders, in this great country, Canada, and can we afford to stand idly by and take the risk of a minority group taking over, as happened in Czechoslovakia?

You are all business or professional men. What would you do if a company in which you were financially interested was in danger of being wrecked by opposition interests?

Would you quietly await developments or would you take active steps to safeguard your investment?

To-day we can no longer afford to be spectators, taking a casual interest in national and domestic affairs, but must be prepared to actively support, by word and by deed, the political parties and those national organizations in which we have confidence and which are working for the welfare and development of our country.

I have mentioned the Canadian Citizenship Council as a body which is attempting to co-ordinate the efforts of our national and local organizations to promote better citizenship, and I know that it will welcome in its task the support of the Rotary Clubs of Canada.