

This other threat, this counter-threat to our freedom, though in Canada it has not yet reached the danger point, is one against which free democracies should be on guard. Otherwise we may one day find that we have created a tyranny in the name of protection against tyranny.

I, for one, have too much confidence in my country and countrymen to believe that a small group of wilful, frustrated, twisted men can destroy it, even in the circumstances of the present. I am satisfied that, if we continue to keep in Canada a strong, healthy and free society, alert to the dangers around and within us, but not hysterical about them, these Communists in our midst can be left to the due process of law, whenever and wherever they break the law. If further measures against them are required, then the law can be changed. But let us be careful about proceeding by improvisation or by arbitrary action. Communist subversive activity, by provoking excessive and unwise retaliatory measures may conceivably weaken us more than by the direct damage it does.

The danger from Communism can also be increased in other ways by our own actions; ways which delight the Kremlin and play its nefarious game. One such way is by magnifying everything they do and say and giving it unnecessary and even misleading publicity.

We do this regularly and distressingly with international Communism. A good example of this has been the world headlines that were given Stalin at Christmas time by putting all the prestige of a great newspaper at his disposal when its diplomatic correspondent played with the Kremlin that question-and-answer game, which now has a larger audience than any radio quiz programme. You can call it, if you like, "Nineteen hundred and fifty-three questions", but no one gets a reward from it, except Communist propaganda.

Similarly, at home, look at the attention we give men like Endicott. Believe me, he revels in this free publicity, as do his masters who recently gave him a Stalin prize. He certainly earned that prize, but for services to Stalin, not to peace. The two things are no more related than is the aim of the "Canadian Peace Congress" to the real peace which all true Canadians seek.

Exposure then, of Communist aims and treacheries is one thing. Giving them the kind of exaggerated publicity they desire is something else. We must not be deceived by their pretence of peaceful patriotism and co-operation. But we must also not inflate their power and influence to the point where fear of them saps the roots of that trust and confidence in our laws and in our liberties and in ourselves, which is essential to the functioning of democratic society.

Once such confidence is replaced by manufactured and exaggerated suspicion, repressive legislation and unnecessary administrative interference can easily follow. This, in its turn, provokes internal divisions, and bitter controversies which weaken our strength and our solidarity. It is a vicious process, and exactly what the Communist leaders wish. The stronger we become to resist external aggression, the more anxious the Communists are to weaken and divide us internally, especially by fostering suspicions, setting class against class, group against group, person against person.