

*Communist Activities in Canada*

our people; by the maintenance of prosperity and the eradication of social and economic injustices.

That in my belief is the way to defeat the domestic menace of communism. Let us then continue to follow that course which has already served us so well until it is clear, as I do not think it is now, that another course is required to accomplish the purpose which we all have in mind—the eradication of the communist menace from this country.

**Mr. Alistair Stewart (Winnipeg North):** Mr. Speaker, I for one am glad that the leader of the Conservative party has introduced this subject to the house, not only for debate but for decision. With quite a lot of what he said, and indeed with what the hon. member for Eglinton (Mr. Fleming) said, I am in agreement, but I disagree very much with the remedy which they suggest. The leader of the opposition (Mr. Drew) said that communism is not academic, and that is very true. It is certainly not an academic matter in the international field, and as we are confining our remarks to the national field I think we can say that it is not academic in Canada although not nearly so serious as he would have us believe. If communism is not academic we ought to remember that the essential civil liberties which we all profess to cherish are not academic either.

When the hon. member for Eglinton was speaking he said something with which I find myself in agreement. He said that we have one resource which communists do not have, the spiritual strength which is the legacy of Christian people. But immediately he started to tell us how he distrusted the power of that spiritual strength by insisting that there be legislation to bolster it. If we have that spiritual strength, as I think we have, I am not afraid of communism or what communists preach in this country.

Then the hon. member went on to point out certain key words in the amendment. I have picked out other key words which I think are more important. The amendment states that the practice of communist and other activities shall be a criminal offence. What are those other activities? As a member of the C.C.F. I am particularly interested because the Conservative party and individuals who supported that party, as well as individuals who supported the Liberal party, have said on more than one occasion that we in the C.C.F. are merely paving the way for communism.

[Mr. Pearson.]

**Mr. Ferrie:** You sure are.

**Mr. Stewart (Winnipeg North):** Who said "You sure are"?

**An hon. Member:** The member for Mackenzie.

**Mr. Stewart (Winnipeg North):** I should have known better than to pay any attention to what he says. The hon. member for Eglinton went on to say that he wanted to punish overt acts. I think the real danger of communism is not in the overt acts which are committed, it is in the covert acts. I do not believe Tim Buck is the most important personality in the communist party. There are others in that party in Canada who are much more important than Tim Buck. He is merely one of the front men for that party.

The hon. member for Eglinton has suggested that we should bring back section 98 of the Criminal Code and it is there that I find myself in sharp disagreement. I have never liked the things which the Conservative party has done under that section of the Criminal Code. As I mentioned once before, we have the classic example of a Tory cabinet minister, Mr. Meighen, sending a telegram in 1919 to Winnipeg ordering the officials of that city to deport certain men who were among the strikers, and then going on to say that the act would be legalized. At times the Conservative party in its zeal against communism gets very red-eyed and I distrust its judgment in these matters.

**Mr. Drew:** On a question of privilege, so that the hon. member may not be in any doubt—he may not have been in the house when I mentioned it this afternoon—the purport of that was very clearly defined by the C.C.F. party itself when an amendment to the amendment we had presented on the speech from the throne was moved. It was the C.C.F. party which added the word "fascist" to "communist" to give a similar generic description to actions of this kind, and that is what is intended in this present motion.

**Mr. Stewart (Winnipeg North):** I am all in favour of curbing the actions of both fascists and communists, but how do you go about it? Certainly not by suggestions such as have been advanced by my hon. friend. As a matter of fact communism was at its peak in this country when a Conservative government was in power. The way to eradicate communism is not to pass legislation against it but as has been pointed