

Supply—Justice

record. A man comes out of prison and finds that he cannot drive a truck or taxi or engage in selling, because a municipal licence is required, and the civic authority will not grant a licence to an ex-convict.

I am happy to note that the estimates provide a grant of \$35,000 to prisoners' aid societies. This grant was first made, I understand, in 1948, and it should be continued because these societies, usually known as John Howard societies, provide much after-care for prisoners. I would be remiss indeed if I did not make special mention of the aggressive and effective work that has been done in rehabilitating prisoners by Mr. J. Alex Edmison, K.C., president of the Canadian penal association. Mr. Edmison and his associates have done much to provide employment for prisoners, and set them again on the road of life. Employers have confidence in his judgment and rely upon his recommendations. Some of the elementary services which he provides are the supplying of car tickets, meals, clothing, room rent and the various equipment that might be required. This organization is filling a great need in civil rehabilitation.

In conclusion I wish to extend a word of commendation to the present Minister of Justice, who is continuing the new deal for prisoners which was established in 1946. He is doing a good job. I should also like to offer a word of congratulations to the commissioner of penitentiaries and his two assistants who have been carrying on in a fine manner. We have not evolved the perfect system, but this dominion may yet set an example for other progressive nations in the field of civil rehabilitation.

Mr. Herridge: Mr. Chairman, as the member representing the riding in which the greater number of Doukhobors live in the province of British Columbia, I make no apology for taking the time of the house for a few minutes this evening to discuss the Sons of Freedom question, and place before this house and the government the opinions of the great majority of the people I have the honour to represent. I might say, Mr. Chairman, that the Sons of Freedom have been referred to by *Maclean's* magazine as the "sons of anarchy" and I think that is a correct definition of the people with whom I shall deal this evening.

When speaking in this house in 1946 I had this to say at the conclusion of a speech upon the Doukhobor question. It appears at page 5694 of *Hansard* of August 30, 1946:

In conclusion, on behalf of my constituents I urge this government, in co-operation with the provincial government of British Columbia, to give immediate consideration to the wishes of the people

I represent with a view to solving this long-standing social problem. I am certain that, if the problem is approached with determination and understanding, the result in the very near future will be satisfactory to the people I represent, the people of Kootenay West, and will cause the great majority of Doukhobors, who wish to live according to Canadian law and Canadian standards, to say in their usual way; Slava Bohu.

That was in the summer of 1946, and since that time there have been recurrent outbreaks of burning and disorder but practically no action on the part of the provincial or federal governments to deal effectively with the situation until recent months.

Before proceeding, Mr. Chairman, I want to distinguish, for the benefit of the members of the house, between the Sons of Freedom sect and the main Doukhobor community. We have in the district about 12,000 people who are generally termed Doukhobors. This is not a race, but a group of people having certain religious beliefs. Of those 12,000, 10,000 are reasonable, law-abiding people. Two thousand are known as the Sons of Freedom, and they are the group that cause the trouble in the district which I represent. They are causing both the federal and provincial governments serious concern at this time. In my remarks from this point forward I shall refer to them as the Sons of Freedom. I believe, Mr. Chairman, in fairness to the law-abiding Doukhobors it would be more correct if the press referred to these people as the Sons of Freedom, and not by the general term of "Doukhobors".

I do not intend to deal at length with the historical aspect of this question, because I just want to present the opinions of my people to the house and the government. Anyone who is interested in the historical aspect of this question so far as British Columbia is concerned would be well advised to look at page 5691 of *Hansard* for 1946, in which they will find a comprehensive review of the situation. This is the fiftieth anniversary of the Doukhobors coming to Canada. I do not intend to go into the whole situation this evening. Suffice it to say as a brief introduction to the present situation today that the Doukhobors first came to Saskatchewan, and later Peter Verigin 1st began to seek another field for them to develop, came to Kootenay West, looking for the same, and at that time—

Mr. Smith (Calgary West): Yorkton, Saskatchewan.

Mr. Herridge: Yorkton, Saskatchewan, yes. That is quite correct. The hon. member for Calgary West is usually correct when it comes