

determined effort to detract from a great man, a great leader, and a great Prime Minister, than has been done in the case of the Right Honourable John G. Diefenbaker, I say to the honourable members of this chamber that the election campaign which culminated on June 18, in which the name of the Prime Minister was ridiculed by the use of the word "Diefenbuck", was a disgrace to Canada. But, as I was told by one of the members of my own constituency, they would sooner have "Diefenbuckers" than "Pearsonitis".

All I ask is that we give legislation by this Government fair consideration, that we examine it thoroughly and then make up our minds as to how we will vote.

I close by saying that I am grateful to have been appointed by the greatest Prime Minister Canada has ever had.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Hayden, debate adjourned.

### SONS OF FREEDOM DOUKHOBORS IN CANADA

#### MOTION TO APPOINT SPECIAL COMMITTEE— DEBATE CONTINUED

The Senate resumed from Wednesday, October 10, the adjourned debate on the motion of Hon. Mr. Croll:

That a Special Committee of the Senate be appointed to inquire into and report upon the continuing problems presented by the Sons of Freedom Doukhobors in Canada and any problems related thereto;

That this said committee be composed of twenty honourable senators to be named later;

That the committee be empowered to send for persons, papers and records; and

That the committee be instructed to report to the house from time to time its findings, together with such recommendations as it may see fit to make.

**Hon. Mr. Macdonald (Cape Breton):** Honourable senators, this debate has been adjourned in my name, but I am yielding my place to the honourable senator from Lumsden (Hon. Mr. Pearson).

**Hon. Arthur M. Pearson:** Honourable senators, I rise to talk on this motion now before the house, and moved by the honourable senator from Toronto-Spadina (Hon. Mr. Croll), but I am rather hesitant to follow the able speech we have just heard from the honourable senator for Peel (Hon. Mr. Willis). We have heard three good speeches from this side, and I feel I should have been inoculated with a little bit of Irish blood to be able to speak as they do.

In speaking to this motion with regard to the Doukhobors, I would like to give as my opinion, and to emphasize it very strongly, that this type of motion may cause friction between certain groups of people, and bring bad feeling upon ourselves in the Senate and to the majority of the Doukhobor people.

I personally have known many Doukhobors, and have had business dealings with them for years. I have found them as sound a class of people as any other ethnic group in Canada. They are thrifty, honest, and hardworking. They keep beautiful homes and excellent buildings. They grow flowers around their buildings to add a little touch of colour about their farm homes. They are progressive, both in farming and in business. They take part in local affairs and become municipal councillors and reeves in their municipalities. They are excellent farmers and keep up with all modern types of farming, especially in western Canada. In my opinion they are as thorough-going Canadians as any group who have come to this country from Europe.

In my relations with these people I came to know them personally. I have stayed at their homes. I have shared bread with them. I have never felt my work with these people was any different from that with any other nationality in western Canada. These people to whom I refer constitute today the bulk of the Doukhobors in Canada. They have large settlements around Canora, Blaine Lake, Borden, and Langham, in Saskatchewan, with all of which I am familiar.

Many years ago a small group known as the Freedomites, or the Sons of Freedom, started to burn schools in the settlements, and generally to carry on as they do at the present time in British Columbia. But that sect has since moved out of Saskatchewan, and as far as I know all its members have gone to British Columbia. They comprise a very small group of the race of Doukhobors.

The Doukhobor is a strong family man and is very religious in his emotions. He believes strongly in certain ways of life, and in parental authority. To them this is their way of life, and was for generations before they came to this country. It is difficult for these people to become assimilated into the western type of living and home life as we know it.

It is my opinion that the only way by which they can be assimilated into our system is the slow process of education and example given them by our own people. This has happened to those who have now taken their place in the communities of Saskatchewan, and I have no doubt that a percentage of them, though it may be small, will break