

*Defence of Canada Regulations*

our hemisphere, is it not worth while for us to make voluntary sacrifices which are small indeed compared with those exacted from the peoples under German domination? I think the time is ill chosen by some people to complain about the very few restrictions which the war has made it necessary to impose on our liberties, when we consider what might happen to our allies and to ourselves should our enemies win the war.

As to the banning of the nazi, fascist and communist organizations in Canada, I do not think many in this house will question the advisability of the recent governmental decree. I for one rejoice over it. Those who still proclaim that this action is a blow to political liberties should think deeper. The nazi and fascist doctrines are rejected by all Canada, except possibly by a few erratic-minded persons, by some German and Italian nationals and by some naturalized Germans and Italians.

The doctrine of Aryan or German racial superiority, which is the basis of nazism, cannot appeal, I imagine, to any intelligent person outside Germany. The doctrine of the totalitarian states can appeal only to those who imagine that they could play in a regime of force a role they were never able to achieve in a free country. No sympathy that I know of has been directed therefore to the outlawed nazi and fascist organizations.

As to the banning of the communist party, nearly all the population have approved it, but it appears that in certain sections efforts are made to have it considered as a first step endangering political liberties and freedom of thought. Some people argue that communism is an economic and social theory and therefore cannot be stopped. This is far from being true. Communism is a total doctrine offering its own specific solutions to all the great problems of man and life. It is a materialistic doctrine which is opposed to all that the western civilization has cherished since the advent of Christ. It has become more than that when put into practice; it has become a monstrous impersonation of the state over individuals and it has gone nearly as far as the nazi doctrine in destroying the minds of its subjects the better to enslave them. Some of the economic and social ideals of communism might have appealed in the past to a number of young minds in quest of a different economic system. It is true that our present system has allowed many faults and abuses to permeate it. It is true that humanity will ever strive towards an ideal of general welfare and always tend to reach the stage when the largest percentage of the population will have

[Mr. Picard.]

the minimum elementary comforts which the present system has not yet found a way to grant to such a large number of human beings. It may be that the world will evolve many systems before it finds the right one, if it ever does; but I personally am convinced, Mr. Speaker, that communism, as practised actually in certain parts of the world, is not the panacea for all ills its advocates want us to believe. It has become repugnant to most of us not so much because of the nature of its ideals as because of the methods it has used. No real Liberal at heart can approve the crushing of liberty that has taken place in the name of communism. No real Liberal can accept the negation of the liberty of creed, nay, the negation of all creeds which the communist state has made a part of its programme. If communism had been only a social and economic theory, it might have been permitted to have a certain amount of speculative thought, but if we consider its entire aspects and if we analyse its method of operation in Russia we only too well realize the danger of its doctrines. Liberty of the masses has become oppression of the masses; liberty of thought has become compulsion of thought.

Communism has been the absolute negation of liberalism. While liberalism fights for the liberty of creed, communism has denied the right to believe and has persecuted all creeds. While liberalism stands, in normal times, for the liberty of speech, of press and of thought, communism means compulsion and negation. All true liberals, all true Canadians, will approve the action of the government in outlawing the communist party.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, may I say that it is the duty of all Canadians to help the government enforce the defence of Canada regulations. The committee which is the object of this motion will report to us if it deems advisable to alter them. We shall have the opportunity of expressing our views before doing so. Until then let us trust the government to carry on the task of using these regulations to safeguard the internal security of the country.

Canada will not let its internal enemies use free speech to deprive its people of it.

Canada will not let them use the right of assembly to organize semi-military associations.

Canada will not allow the freedom of the press to cover up traitorous propaganda.

Canada will not let the fifth columnists run down its form of government to help the enemy.