

the *Ottawa Citizen*. My hon. friend sent me that article, not very long ago. I may tell him that he is right. It was a subversive article which was published by the *Ottawa Citizen* on that date, and I may tell him that they will have to answer for it before the courts of the country.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): What does the minister mean by that?

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): I may wait a little, because some evil-minded people may think that it would be because of their editorials regarding myself that I would act now. But this is certainly an article which is subversive, which is an appeal to disorder and to trouble, and my hon. friend is right in denouncing it. I assure him that something will be done in the matter, if this has the effect of satisfying him.

I do not know very much about the *Canadian Tribune*. People seem to be under the impression that censorship is under the Department of Justice. It is not. The censors are under the Secretary of State. For a time I had the pleasure of closing a couple of newspapers, but on that occasion I was acting Secretary of State, and it was in that capacity I proceeded.

I am pleased my hon. friend did not use the commonplace argument or absurdity that Canada is fighting to save democracy in Europe and to destroy it here. That is the argument we read in some newspapers, and it has been used on platforms on different occasions. Of course it is an absurdity. We have enforced these restrictions not to destroy but to protect democracy. We have enforced them to keep and to preserve it. Essentially they are only temporary. They are operative in a state of emergency, and they will disappear as soon as we have peace and victory, as we hope to have some day. But those restrictions are there to control people who would do nothing to help Canada in her war work, and to prevent them from doing anything which would impede that work. That is the reason for the restrictions. I believe they serve a useful purpose. Our soldiers and sailors and airmen are subject to restrictions a great deal more severe than those contained in the defence of Canada regulations, and they do not complain. Surely our airmen and our sailors, who are willingly risking their lives every day on destroyers and other craft, have a right to expect that we in the parliament of Canada will prevent people from stabbing them in the back while they are fighting for us.

That, Mr. Speaker, is the purpose and the reason for these restrictions, and I am sure

that my hon. friend himself (Mr. Coldwell) would be the last to propose that they should be done away with. He wants to modify them and to be sure that they are applied more fairly, and he will have his opportunity before a committee of the house. I shall accept the new regulations if changes are made, and apply them with the same force and vigour and circumspection as I do to-day, using my best discretion in their application.

So far as the trade unions are concerned, it has been stated over and over again that trade unionists have been interned under the defence of Canada regulations. But that is not so. Some people who were members of a trade union have been interned, not because they were trade unionists, but because they were communists, because they had acted for the communist party, because they had exercised their activities to spread communist ideas. Why, Mr. Speaker, the trade unions themselves in some cities of Canada have been compelled to expel members from their ranks because of such activities. We know from our records in the secret service that instructions have been given to their members by the heads of the communist party to join other associations and organizations to try to spread their ideas and to sabotage the war effort of Canada. They were even instructed to join the army. Everybody knows that one man wearing his majesty's uniform was arrested last year for distributing communist literature on the streets of Ottawa. We have to protect Canada against that sort of thing, and the fact that some of these men are members of trade unions surely should not protect them against the laws of the country and the regulations.

I believe, sir, that we have applied the laws and regulations with calmness and discretion. We have not yielded to hysteria. As a matter of fact the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggart will remember that for a long time in this house I was under attack on the opposite ground, that I was too lenient, that subversive activities were going on in Canada and that I was doing nothing to check or prevent them. But now it seems that the criticism comes from the other extremity. Under these circumstances I must have struck a pretty fair average, and one criticism helps me to answer the other.

I have said what I wanted to say on this matter. I wish to impress on the house the extreme difficulty of the work we have to do, and its extreme importance. I ask the house to give me its confidence as long as I am the one designated to do this work, for without that confidence I could not fulfil my duties. I hope that at least I shall be satisfied in my own mind that I have done my best to serve my country in this time of war.