

*Communist Activities in Canada*

the essentials of the evil doctrine of communism. The people will want to know what are the essentials of that foul doctrine of communism. I am the possessor of a copy of Marx's "Das Kapital". I am the possessor of a copy of the communist manifesto. I possess a copy of the statutes of the third communist international. There is nothing in this amendment that proposes to take away from me or anyone else the right to possess documents of that kind. But it does propose that where people are animated by those ideas, where people put into action the doctrines contained in those works and in that way attack our system of government, not in a democratic way but by force seek to destroy freedom by that abuse of freedom, this parliament shall meet that danger by the democratic method of legislation passed in this parliament.

This afternoon the Prime Minister referred to this as a question of what is the best way of dealing with this obnoxious force in our midst. He said that was not a partisan question. But there are differences of view demonstrated in this debate as to our ideas of the best way to meet this challenge. The Prime Minister said this afternoon that we have sufficient legislation on the statute books to deal with all overt acts against the state. It is with that statement that this amendment takes issue. We say that there is not on the statute books of this country today sufficient legislation to deal with overt acts against the state of the kind which communism preaches, which communism indoctrinates into its followers and which communism advocates.

The Prime Minister introduced some other matters which I think were not germane to the amendment or within the proper scope of the debate before the house today.

The Prime Minister talked as though the amendment was directed toward making communism an offence under the Criminal Code. That is not what is proposed in the amendment moved by my leader. The amendment simply proposes that these activities, these overt acts—not communism as an abstract doctrine—should be made an offence under the Criminal Code. Again I say it is the results of that doctrine, it is the acts in which that doctrine seeks to issue, that are referred to.

The Prime Minister referred to the padlock law. There is nothing here that calls for a discussion of the padlock law. We are dealing here with a proposal that the Criminal Code shall be amended by democratic process in what we contend to be a necessary particular.

Then on the issue of civil liberties and the question of a bill of rights I submit

that there is nothing in the amendment proposed that runs counter to or does the slightest violence to any of our conceptions of freedom or those rights of the people of this country that it is proposed should be guaranteed within the framework of our constitution by a bill of rights.

I said there was one other key word in this amendment. It is the word "legislation". If I may say so, the hon. member for Vancouver East (Mr. MacInnis) dealt with this amendment this afternoon as though it embodied the terms of the proposed legislation. Of course that is a highly unfair, yes, an absurd approach. What we are dealing with here is a general statement in an amendment as to the tenor and object of legislation which we submit should be enacted by way of an amendment to the code. The amendment does not purport to set out in detail the terms of the legislation, and never was brought forward by my leader in that light.

A word about dealing with particular or political organizations. I for one am convinced that communism is a challenge to the fundamentals of our Christian civilization, our free way of life, more direct, more immediate, more forcible than at any time in the history of the world. It is true that there has been some recent stabilization of the political situation in Europe, and we are very thankful for that. We are thankful that the nations of western Europe along with the nations on this continent have been able to see clearly the challenge with which they are confronted and are prepared to concert measures together against a common foe in the interests of a common defence of their free way of life.

Elsewhere in the world the picture is not nearly as bright. In what has happened in Asia we have seen the numbers of those brought behind the iron curtain to live under the darkness of communist rule doubled in the past ten or twelve months. Think of it, the number of those living under communist rule in the world has been doubled in the last year. That was not by a free political decision, not as a result of the expression of any free choice on their part, but as a result of military action and massive communist propaganda working to sabotage the functioning of other systems of government and to break down, break down, break down those forces of resistance which are trying to hold their ground against the pressure of the communist menace. In the face of the challenge which has been hurled at the very ramparts of democracy we need to be utterly realistic.