

Supply—Justice

It was only a few days ago that a prominent member of the communist party in Canada was asked whether membership in his party was growing. He said, "No; we are not getting very many new members, but that matter is not important because there is already a wide public acceptance of the issues which we have advocated". That is where the most dangerous subversive activity is being carried on.

I realize that the hon. member for Port Arthur has a problem—and I think it is one that deserves attention—in that some new citizens, when they come here from other countries, are likely to become involved in subversive organizations without knowing their true nature. I believe this situation could be met, in some measure anyway, if the department of immigration would in some way warn these new immigrants that before joining or associating with such an organization, or any organization at all, they should make careful inquiries from people in whom they have confidence, as to their true nature.

Mr. Herridge: Mr. Chairman, I must take the time of the committee for a moment or two in order to refer to the most unusual statement made by the hon. member for Burin-Burgeo, in which he said that a member of the British Labour party while in Berlin said that there were over 20 undercover communist agents in the British Labour party.

Mr. Carter: Twenty-six elected members.

Mr. Herridge: Members of parliament?

Mr. Carter: Members of parliament.

Mr. Herridge: That there were 26 members of parliament of the British Labour party who were undercover agents of the communist party.

Mr. Fulton: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I rise to raise with you the question of how anything that members of the British Labour party said or did not say in Berlin, is related to the estimates of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Mr. Winch: Why did you not stop him?

Mr. Fulton: I was reading something else. Otherwise I would have done so, I assure my hon. friend.

The Deputy Chairman: The point is well taken. The hon. member for Burin-Burgeo made that point. In order to be fair I think I should allow the hon. member for Kootenay West a moment or two for the purpose of giving his side of the story.

Mr. Herridge: I just want a minute or two, Mr. Chairman in which to reply on behalf of this party. The hon. member said there

[Mr. Carter.]

were 26 members of parliament belonging to the Labour party in Great Britain who were undercover communist agents, plus over 70 fellow travellers.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to correct the record. I know the hon. member who made the statement did so in good faith, because he is not the sort of person who would willingly state an untruth to the house; but to correct the record I want to say that the secretary of the British Labour party, on behalf of the leadership of the British Labour party and the national executive of the British Labour party, denied this statement as being completely untrue, and denied it most emphatically shortly after it was made.

Mr. Fulton: Perhaps at this time, Mr. Chairman, I should deal with the remarks of the hon. member for Chambly-Rouville. He raised a matter which I think requires some reply when he drew attention to the situation in his constituency resulting from the fact that there are on the waterways in that constituency, if I followed him correctly, a number of pleasure boats and at the same time a substantial amount of commercial shipping. He made the request that we be more aggressive in our enforcement of the small boat regulations. I think he suggested that we do not have sufficient members of the force enforcing the regulations, with the result that dangers arise from the conduct of the boats in that area. I can assure the hon. gentleman that I will be very glad to do what I can to make a contribution to solving the problem, and I will be pleased to bring his remarks to the attention of treasury board.

I do not like making excuses, so I will merely state this as the fact. I said on an earlier occasion that we are faced constantly with the problem of establishment limitations. There are a number of additional functions we would be prepared to undertake and a number of functions now being discharged which we feel we could do better if we had additional personnel. But in this as in every other department of government activity there is the problem of over-all expenditure and the limitations which must necessarily be placed upon the strength of the force, as is the case with the civilian personnel employed in the department. We have rarely if ever been able to persuade treasury board that we should have as large an increase in our establishment as we think is necessary to meet the requirements we are called upon to meet.

However, this year for the first time treasury board did authorize one position at Montreal for this purpose; that is, the