Supply—National Defence

after I made my comments here, I am sorry to say I did not get them from that source. The ones I have seen I had to get in some other way, but I must say that those I have examined have shown considerable improvement.

I am thinking now how useful a defence measure could be made of that improved Current Affairs magazine if it were sent out to the colleges and universities of this country filled with vital information which our young people should know. Send it out with inspirational and factual stories of the great achievements of the commonwealth and let them see that we have a cause worth fighting for. I say to you that would be of tremendous advantage to the western world in general, and certainly a useful defence measure could be made of it.

While we are talking about getting information out to our people and the failure of the government adequately to inform the people of Canada, why should it not be possible to put on a drive to popularize Hansard, to get the people in every community to take Hansard into their homes, to subscribe to it and read this debate. If that were done there would be an awareness of our needs. I think we are missing the boat in not doing that.

This government needs to give attention to ideological warfare as a front line defence at the present time. They are not doing it. The communists are paying the greatest attention to ideological warfare and have done so for quite a number of years. I have on my desk an outstanding example of the kind of things the communists are doing. This bundle of papers and magazines and periodicals came to me, just one person in this country, in the mail from the Russian embassy in this city. Much of it is beautifully got up, much of it is cleverly worded, and all of it is intended to mislead. This kind of thing is going out through the mails to thousands of Canadians. What effect is it having on them? What are we doing to combat this sort of thing?

Let me point out that this is the literature which last year was extolling the virtues of the great regime of the famous Stalin. This year it is equally emphatic in crucifying the now infamous Stalin and building up Khrushchev. What are we doing to tell the people of Canada what Khrushchev was doing during the time the infamous Stalin was carrying on his depredations? We are doing nothing. We are falling down on the ideological front. We are a complete failure. Where is our spirit? As I said, much of this is cleverly worded and attractively got up.

Mr. Blackmore: And illustrated.

[Mr. Low.]

Mr Low: And illustrated. If anyone would like to see it I have it here.

An hon. Member: We all get it.

Mr. Low: We all get it; it comes to thousands of homes. I wonder if we have investigated how it gets through the mails. Is it given any priority by virtue of the fact that it comes from an embassy? I am not charging that it does get priority, but it would be interesting to know, and I hope in the course of the debate we will find out something about it.

I should like to speak briefly about another thing, the failure of the government to present a true and attractive democracy to our young people. One can be excused for saying something about this, because today many of our young people are finding it difficult to build up that spirit which says, "Go and take your responsibilities of citizenship along wth the great privileges that are yours; stand ready for strong action if it becomes necessary." All too often you hear them say, "Well, we have a lot of faults." I wonder what we are doing about that.

Some will argue, of course, that this is not a defence matter, but it is indeed an important part of our front line defence in my judgment that a positive approach to democracy should be presented to the youth of our land, to make them aware of the great privileges and corresponding responsibilities of citizenship in Canada under a free democracy. One can be excused for wondering sometimes if this government has lost its pride in the freedoms which were won for us by our forefathers who understood and appreciated the value of the great things that we have.

To this end why should we not have far more inspiring programs sent out over the great government-owned television and radio networks, far more inspiring than we see now? Why should we not have more inspiring things on the theatre screens throughout our country, perhaps paid for out of the general treasury, in order to instil in our people a will and desire to come to the defence of our great country whenever the need arises. In my judgment this would not be a waste but would be a great forward movement in an effective front line defence.

I admit that the government at present would have to be prepared to present some unsavoury things in regard to our democracy if they would be honest and truthful in facing the youth of our land with a real challenge against communist ideologies. But it is not too late to have a change of heart and transform these unsavoury things into effective facets of an inspired democracy.