

As to the control over trade, we have so far heard very little complaint, and rightly so. By the steps which the government took under the War Measures Act it has been able to stabilize prices, avoid profiteering and panicky reactions in the handling and merchandising of certain commodities. The very slight increase in the cost of living in Canada since the war started as compared with the increase that has taken place in other countries of the world is eloquent testimony to the wisdom of the action of the government in establishing these measures.

Strangely enough, this side of the question has not been the subject of many comments; is it that the freedom of trade has less appeal to the imagination than freedom of speech or freedom of the press? Or is it that the benefit of these regulations concerning the control of trade are so evident as to render any criticism impossible?

The main points with which we are faced to-day in the consideration of these regulations seem to concern, on the one hand, the internal security of the country—that is, the preventing of sabotage, the treatment of aliens and the control of information—and, on the other hand, the limitations imposed on certain liberties which we have been used to consider in our democratic country as the essential right of every individual, namely, freedom of the press, the freedom of speech and the liberty of association. To these latter questions may be added the much discussed issue of the outlawing of certain associations and so-called political parties.

Let us first consider the internal security of the country. Some people in many sections of Canada have been driven to the verge of hysteria by the alarming pronouncements of certain men who should have known better than to treat injudiciously a question which they had not well investigated. If I may be permitted a personal reference I may say that when the proclamation under the War Measures Act which was issued on September 1, 1939, was being considered and when the order in council embodying the defence of Canada regulations was being drafted, I had the honour to serve under the Minister of Justice as his private secretary, and I can say that at no time have I seen such painstaking efforts as were made by the officials of the Department of Justice and of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to embody in this document all the items necessary to enable the government to cope in the event of war with any emergency affecting the internal security of the state. I might add that after a close association over many years with the heads of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police I can

safely say that they had at all times the situation well in hand. I know positively, Mr. Speaker, that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police have to direct them, in the person of Brigadier Wood, a man of valour who knows the force better than any other man, and one who can get from it more service and greater devotion than any other commissioner ever did.

Mr. POULIOT: Hear, hear.

Mr. PICARD: He is a man whose coolness in any situation, coupled with an admirable clearness of mind and sincerity of purpose, is a guarantee of his fitness for the job in a period such as that through which we are passing. I do know also that he is assisted in the direction of the force by men who have had a splendid training and possess an enviable record of public service, and that they have under them a body of men of whom Canada may well be proud. The internal security of the country, the preventing of sabotage and the treatment of aliens have been entrusted to these men by the Minister of Justice, under whose direction they supervise and administer the defence of Canada regulations which have to do with the aforementioned questions. Therefore the country need not be alarmed; it has, under the authority of the Minister of Justice and the commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the most capable and efficient body of men in Canada standing guard to protect and safeguard its security from within.

Another school of thought, Mr. Speaker, seems to be very much perturbed over the idea that certain of these regulations may infringe upon the rights and liberties of the citizens. Some go so far as to say that the main principle underlying the present conflict being the safeguarding of human liberties, we should in a truly democratic country make a point never to interfere with these sacred liberties. As I stated earlier in my remarks, we have to consider now what portion of our liberties we must temporarily sacrifice in order to render more effective our cooperative effort towards the victory of our ideals.

The present war is more than a war of nations; it is a war of cultures; it is a war between two moral doctrines, between "two systems of social, political and economic organization".

Our enemies have crushed all liberties and have subdued all individuals to the service of the state. They have thereby created a homogeneous entity deriving its strength from its unity of purpose and from the abandonment of the rights of the citizens. If we want to avoid the spreading of such a system to