

Communist Activities in Canada

type discussed in the house in the last day or two, is the manner in which to meet the threat of communism. And so I say that in the light of the long experience that we in these democracies and these institutions have had, with the legislation now on our statute books sufficient to deal with overt acts, we would be ill-advised indeed to pass new legislation comparable with that we had on the statute books under the heading of section 98.

I do not wish to prolong this discussion, but I did rise to say that if we are going to protect civil liberties and if we are going to place before the people of other countries Canada as a free nation, then let us not adopt any of the methods of countries behind the iron curtain. The more we suppress, the more ammunition we give them to fight us and perhaps if we give them enough ammunition, ultimately to destroy us.

The issue was raised, I think by the hon. member for Vancouver South (Mr. Laing), about the issuance of a passport to Mr. Tim Buck. The passport was not issued to him in order that he might go on his recent journey to visit Soviet satellite countries. I felt that that was a question that it was better not to have raised in this house. After all we do not want to be in the position of the countries behind the iron curtain where people are not allowed to move freely because of their political opinions. The farther we get away from that kind of thing the stronger we are in our ability to fight communism in all its forms.

Goodness knows, I have no love for the Labour-Progressive party or the communist party or any of their activities. Indeed, sometimes they describe me in their speeches as enemy No. 1. The very book quoted this afternoon by the hon. member for Greenwood (Mr. Macdonnell) containing six essays by six former outstanding members of the communist party has a preface written by one of the leading democratic socialists of Great Britain, Mr. Richard Crossman, M.P. The words of that preface which the hon. gentleman read are words with which we can agree absolutely.

I was not here yesterday but my colleagues from Vancouver East and Winnipeg North said exactly what I would have said had I been here and what I have in mind today, that if we want to protect this country against subversive ideas then let us remove the conditions in which they may flourish and go forward confident in our free institutions and in our traditions of democracy. Then I am confident we can meet any threat from any quarter which Stalin may control.

Hon. Stuart S. Garson (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, in opening the statement which I think should be made today by the head of the Department of Justice may I first of all congratulate the leader of the opposition (Mr. Drew) on having introduced for discussion a matter the importance of which I think every one will agree is quite beyond exaggeration. There may be those who will think that he placed too much stress upon the dangers with which politically free countries of the world are faced in the present world situation, but I am certainly not one of those who think so.

One has only to consider a few of the main circumstances of the situation to realize that today political freedom is in mortal danger of extinction. One has only to realize that the greatest land mass in the world with uncounted resources and millions of virile if untrained people, people who do not chafe under the lack of freedom because most of them have never enjoyed it, have been brought, if not under the direct control, certainly under effective indirect control of the masters of the Kremlin.

We have only to consider that the mounting of any kind of revolution against such a group of determined men is a vastly different thing from what it has ever been at any previous historic time. In the days of the Roman emperors any group of resolute and determined men who could possess themselves of a few relatively primitive weapons of that day could mount and sustain a revolution for considerable periods of time. The history of the later days of the Roman empire is filled with reports of efforts by the emperors to put down revolutions in various parts of the empire.

But now that war has become the end of a complicated series of assembly lines which stretch back, not only into the forests and the fields and the workshops and the mines but into the research laboratories where hundreds of scientists are working, with perhaps only a few knowing what the whole scope of their inquiry is about, it is apparent that once a group of men as determined and able and ruthless as the masters of the Kremlin have got into the controlling situation in which they are in Russia at the present time, it is almost impossible for anything except a palace revolution to upset their might.

That is the world in which the free countries live at the present time. We are living in the face of a proclaimed philosophy which has for its purpose the destruction of our system of government and our way of life and which states that it is impossible in this one small world for both our system and