

*Communist Activities in Canada*

There was another matter mentioned by the Prime Minister which I think we have reason to think through. He said that the best way to combat communism is to make our democracy effective. That is a nice thing to say, and I am guilty of saying it myself. I am not afraid to say that sometimes I change my mind. When we talk of making democracy effective we usually think of making people economically secure, with the greatest amount of freedom.

Let me pose this question even to the Prime Minister: Some of the leading communists in the world are in one of the freest countries in the world, and have more money than they know what to do with. For instance, Hollywood is wracked from stem to gudgeon with communism; and yet nearly all of them have incomes in the millions.

Paul Robeson, that great artist and singer, was reared in the United States where he was free to pursue his talent and to become a great singer and a wealthy man. Democracy, so far as Paul Robeson is concerned, has been mighty good to him. But it does not stop him from being a communist. Furthermore let me say that those in our own country who were exposed during the recent spy trials were not those who were the rabble rousers. They were intellectuals, men of letters, men whose economic future was assured, and who reached that position very largely through the freedoms granted them by this country and others. Yet, as the leader of the opposition said, and to use his term, they are the ones who had accepted communism as a doctrine. Communism had become a conviction of their lives, and all the legislation in the world would not take that conviction away from them.

So I doubt very much whether an effective democracy will do away with any fifth column in this country. Supposing we come to the place where we have an effective democracy, supposing we come to the place where taxation is reduced, where social security is the highest in the world and is guaranteed—in other words, supposing we have a Social Credit government: granting all that, does anyone suppose that the fifth columnists would say, "Well boys, it is all up now; let us pack our grips and go back home"? No, sir, not on your life; because communism, being what it is—anti-Christ—is out to win the world, to sabotage mankind, to frustrate any divine program for man's redemption and to make your prayer, Mr. Speaker,—"Thy kingdom come"—amount to nothing but empty words. That is the issue today.

**Mr. Donald M. Fleming (Eglinton):** Mr. Speaker, may I begin by endeavouring to [Mr. Hanseil.]

clarify some aspects of the present debate and the amendment which, it seems to me, have become somewhat blurred in the course of the discussion since my leader made his speech.

I would first of all draw attention to the language of the amendment. This is an amendment to the motion that the house resolve itself into committee of supply, and it is in these words:

**This house is of the opinion that appropriate legislation should be introduced so that communist and similar activities in Canada may be made an offence punishable under the Criminal Code.**

Sir, the key words to the amendment are "legislation" and "activities". If I may say so, with respect, the full import of those words has been lost on some who have taken part in the debate today. What this amendment proposes to legalize is overt acts. It is activities necessarily involving overt acts that are to be the object of the legislation proposed in the amendment.

There is no suggestion in the amendment of penalizing people for their mere thoughts. There is no suggestion here of the suppression of unpopular ideas, if they remain nothing more than ideas, and do not result in overt acts which, in effect, strike at the security of the state or strike at human freedom.

It is of the essence of freedom and our conception of it that no man should be subject to punishment for what he thinks, provided his thoughts do not issue in acts of the kind I have described. The acts at which this amendment is directed are acts which, as I have said, strike at the security of the state, and those which strike at the roots of our freedom.

It is inherent in the communist creed that religion is the opiate of the people. That was the language of the communist manifesto nearly a hundred years ago. Sir, if anyone wishes to confine himself to thinking atheistic thoughts he is not committing an offence against the law of the land. But if he advocates a system involving the overthrow of constituted government by force, the suppression of the right of any man to worship according to the dictates of his conscience in the church or the religious organization of his choice, then that overt act is something which challenges both the security of the state and the freedom of the individual; and of acts of that kind this parliament must take due notice.

There is no suggestion here of those purges of libraries which have occurred in some places in the world. There is no suggestion here of destroying those books which record