

Acts of Espionage

was engaged in a widespread plot against our country and had the assistance of one or more Canadians in connection therewith. One recalls, as the Prime Minister has, occasions in the past. Certainly one recalls what took place in April, 1964, when action was taken. At that time the Chief Justice of Canada, Hon. Robert Taschereau, who was one of the Commissioners in 1945-46, stated that it is like a chain; you break only a link at a time and the others remain intact. He said that espionage with the Russians is like a disease; you stamp out the infection in one place and it breaks out in another.

I realize, having occupied the position of Prime Minister, the difficulties in connection with giving information. However, this press release contained information that is of a shocking nature in so far as that individual is concerned who gave information and assisted the law officers. It is of great importance to know, did he receive a payment? How much was that first payment? Was it a large amount or a small amount? How long after he got that payment did he first bring to the attention of the authorities the fact that he had been approached and had received that money?

The interpretation that has been given to the revelations made in the press release has generally been that apparently there has been unearthed a rather widespread espionage conspiracy on the part of the U.S.S.R., using Canadians or endeavouring to use them to participate in this nefarious course. Under all the circumstances, if the Prime Minister would give an answer to that one question it would help.

Necessarily, as responsible Members of Parliament we do not want to do anything that will prejudice to the slightest degree the investigation that is being made. However, in view of the widespread nature of these activities, I feel that the Government should have an investigation by a royal commission, to look into this whole question and ascertain the degree to which espionage is going on within our country. Such a royal commission would not necessarily have to meet in the open. Composed of judges, it could take secret evidence which otherwise ought not to be revealed.

We have available those who have been trained in the actual school of judicial experience. We have the Chief Justice of Canada, Hon. Robert Taschereau, who was one of the Commissioners, and on the Supreme Court of Canada there are as well two of

the senior puisne judges, Mr. Justice Cartwright and Mr. Justice Fauteux, who would certainly be of tremendous help in getting to the bottom of the activities of the U.S.S.R. within our country.

The rather limited statement made by the Prime Minister, and understandably so, does not add very much to the press release, for it gives no indication of the extent to which the No. 1 Canadian civil servant was paid thousands of dollars, and whether he had been paid moneys over a period of time before he made his first revelations to the Department or to the police officials.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, I am sure the House will welcome the statement made by the Prime Minister, because there has been a good deal of concern in the light of the statement which appeared in the press yesterday and the release which was given out by the Government. I am sure all Members will be glad that any attempt at espionage in this country has been nipped in the bud, and that the Soviet Embassy has had it made clear to them that the Government will not tolerate any such activities in this country.

I know the Prime Minister is in a somewhat delicate position in mentioning names and in dealing with matters which involve counter-intelligence in Canada, but I would like to be clear about one or two things.

I take it that the two persons named were, first, a civil servant who is now gravely ill and who, I gather, if I got the right impression from the Prime Minister's statement, was only confronted last week; who apparently did not co-operate with the R.C.M.P., and who therefore stands guilty of having acted as an agent for the government of another country, and guilty of accepting thousands of dollars to carry on activities on behalf of that country. I think we can dismiss that until such time as the Government decides whether it is going to lay charges and we know what action the Government is going to take.

I would like, however, to get some clarification regarding the second person, who I assume is not a civil servant but who is described in the Government release as "a naturalized Canadian citizen" and who was paid thousands of dollars to provide technical information. There are two points on which I would like some elucidation. The first is as to whether this man co-operated with the R.C.M.P. to the extent of going to them the very moment he was approached, or whether