

Supply—External Affairs

countries if the governments of those countries make it possible for the people to do so. However, when the vast majority of those people are not able to enjoy a fair share of those resources through their labour, the stage is set for communism. Governments should be aware of this fact and so arrange their internal affairs that the people of those countries can participate in and enjoy some of the resources that are on their doorsteps.

Mr. Matheson: Mr. Chairman, at the commencement of his remarks I believe the Secretary of State for External Affairs twice referred to the fact that we are meeting under circumstances of grave crisis. Crisis is a time of both calamity and opportunity. I think that this situation is very dangerous, and the situation with which we are faced in Berlin is precisely that. It is fraught with calamity and also with very great opportunity. Besides having courage, faith and sacrifice, these imperishable virtues, we need also imagination. We would hope that Canada may have a part in the creation of a solution of a situation that is dangerous and threatening to the world.

Dr. John MacMurray, speaking at Queen's University, said this:

Freedom is our nature. But our nature lies always beyond us and has to be intended and achieved. The obstacle lies in our fear and the craving for security which expresses it. So at every crisis we are faced with a free choice between freedom and security. If we choose security, and make that our aim, we lose freedom, and find in the end that security eludes us. If we choose freedom, then we are debarred from aiming at security; for that would mean imposing our bondage upon others. If we choose freedom we may find the security we do not seek,—

I think perhaps that is helpful to us at this time. Our only safe course is the course of freedom, freedom for those people whom we have pledged ourselves to support. We can consider no other course.

Some of the members, and I remember particularly the hon. member for Kootenay West, referred earlier today to some conversations he had had with constituents this summer. My own experience was somewhat similar to his. I found there were numbers of people, men I respected and curiously enough people who were Conservative in their political point of view, who took the view that Berlin was not worth the candle. Why should we be interested in a tiny place on the map 110 miles behind the iron curtain, north of Czechoslovakia and very close to the Polish border? I was interested to note that the people who expressed these views happened to be veterans either of world war I or world war II, and in most instances world war I. It occurred to me that perhaps hatreds

of years gone by and the experiences gained in war had to some extent coloured and influenced thinking on this matter.

I have heard other suggestions. I heard a suggestion from the engineer of an important industry in the town in which I live. He suggested that a bold approach might be made through a nation such as ourselves to have Berlin established as a subsidiary headquarters of the United Nations. I heard a number of competitors in the closed Canadian chess competition this past week say no, Berlin is vitally important. We know middle Europe and we know the reaction of many people behind the iron curtain to any abandonment of the present position in Berlin. All these factors influence us at this time. We cannot fail to remember the various steps of appeasement that were taken prior to world war II aimed at security, which did not achieve security at all but brought us into total war. Surely, with these matters in mind we must take the position that there can be no other course for us but to support fully the position to defend Berlin against any attack.

On the other hand, let us be fair and reasonable and have perhaps a more open mind than has been displayed at all times by our great friends and relatives to the south of the line. I am reading now from an article by Dr. Louis Fischer entitled, "The Soviet-American Antagonism". This article was written in July, 1959.

In the last ten years a million east Germans have escaped into West Berlin. During 1958 alone 240,000 east Germans fled into West Berlin. We know the figures because when they come into West Berlin they report for relief and for transportation to west Germany, and they are counted. Of the 1958 fugitives, 200 were university professors; 3,100 were school teachers; and 1,200 were physicians, dentists and veterinarians. It is reported that east Germany has been recruiting Czech and Polish physicians for their hospitals. The exodus from east Germany via West Berlin is continuing at the rate of 20,000 a month.

This river of human talent is not only a serious drain on east Germany with its 17 million inhabitants, it is the worst kind of propaganda mark for communism everywhere in the world. It disrupts the stability of the east German regime. The freedom to escape is a freedom; and a totalitarian regime cannot tolerate such a freedom.

That is why Khrushchev wishes to close the escape hatch; to sew up this rent in the iron curtain.

This man who has been a recognized student of this situation, who lectured in New York, tells us that the situation from the Russian point of view has become exceedingly serious. We ought to recognize this. Doubtless in the past two years the situation has become even more aggravating from their standpoint.

A little farther on this article says another thing that we might consider of interest. Again, I point out that the author is speaking of the situation two years ago. He says:

[The Matheson]