

Genocide
GENOCIDE

PROVISION OF PENALTIES UNDER UNITED
NATIONS CONVENTION

The house resumed, from Friday, July 10, consideration of the motion of Mr. Klein for the second reading of Bill No. C-21, respecting genocide.

Mr. J. E. Walker (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, I want to thank those members of the house who last Friday, in an unusual move, gave unanimous consent to the request by the mover of this bill, the hon. member for Cartier (Mr. Klein), that this debate be carried forward to today's sitting so that adequate time could be given to it without danger of its being talked out.

Just so there will be no doubt in anyone's mind regarding our intentions as to the disposal of this extremely important subject, as co-sponsor of the bill I wish to tell the house that the acting house leader will be moving a motion that the said bill be not now read a second time but that the subject matter thereof be referred to the standing committee on external affairs. This will be done before six o'clock. I sincerely trust that all hon. members will agree to this procedure and allow this motion to be put before the hour of six o'clock this afternoon.

If there are hon. members, and I am sure there are, who wish to speak and are not able to do so before six o'clock today without killing the bill, then I believe their sincerity will lead them to realize that there will be the greatest scope for talking and thinking—maybe that should be reversed—once the matter is before the external affairs committee. My hon. friend from Cartier (Mr. Klein) in his calm and reasoned speech last Friday made it clear why the committee on external affairs is the proper committee to go into the whole matter.

Since last Friday's debate, an excellent and thoughtful editorial has come to my attention in connection with the opening statement of the debate. I quote from a translation into English of the column "The Crime of Defamation" which appeared in *Dimanche Matin* of Sunday, July 12, 1964.

A Liberal member of parliament, a Montreal Jewish lawyer, Mr. Milton Klein, has raised one of the most complex problems which lies at the root of all the evils of our time.

And Mr. Klein must have reckoned all the implications of this bill which he is submitting as a private member's bill for the consideration of his colleagues.

In a few words, it is a question of inscribing into the Canadian Criminal Code clauses on genocide (mass murder) and the defamation of groups.

[The Acting Speaker.]

This is a point which goes to the heart, all that is at the source of the poisoning of national and international relationships for the past few years.

Under the pretext of ideology, diplomacy, the most immoral situations have been created, and largely entertained, like soft cankers on a body in decrepitude. And the nationalist argument (we discuss the ground for complaint of this doctrine in itself) has placed hatred as the foundation of its allegation and claims.

I read, not long ago, a publicity text emanating from a Montreal source, which was most revolting! Was the author of this text responsible enough to measure the effect of his words?

Certainly prejudices have success (since anti-Britishism has developed like an octopus here at home, to the segregation of the whites from the southern American, in passing through all these genocidal movements which swarm in Asia and in Africa and which are turned against the whites) in more ways than one. Hatred engenders hatred. Defamation calls for defamation and violent action and the useless massacre of groups of human beings.

I have not tackled this problem from the viewpoint of its being just a problem of my Jewish constituents. To me it is a matter which concerns every Canadian citizen regardless of his race or creed because it was in an atmosphere of hate and distrust that the late President Kennedy was assassinated.

I think all Canadians must do some clear thinking about what is right and what is wrong, what is good and what is evil. As far as I am concerned, the current hate campaign is a very evil thing and I am committed to fight against it from the very beginning, before it has a chance to produce the conditions which allow would-be Hitlers and Stalins to gain a foothold.

People who forget the past are sometimes condemned to relive it. Spiritual terror usually precedes physical terror by the mad exponents of racial or group supremacy. I had hoped that by now some government would have found itself in a position to place proposals before this house which would have made unnecessary a debate on this Bill C-21, an act respecting genocide.

This is a matter about which I feel very deeply and I will be excused, I am sure, if I speak strongly on the subject. My remarks are directed at all members of this house and to Canadians generally when I say that governments at all levels have deferred long enough in finding a solution to vicious and intimidating attacks on groups of Canadian citizens. Fair comment is one thing but incitation to sedition is another. Surely, the legal talents of this country can come to grips with this problem and find the formula which will give protection and peace and comfort to all Canadians while at the same time