

Communist Activities in Canada

to destroy the mechanism of the state machine. That was made very clear, Mr. Speaker, in the long and I think significant debate we had at the United Nations assembly last November and December, on the essentials of peace. Today of course it is the policy of the communists to create within the borders of countries a feeling of insecurity, a feeling of fear, a feeling of suspicion that public officials and others in prominent positions may be disloyal. That feeling—and it is an asset to the communist cause, I suggest—has expressed itself in our neighbour to the south, in statements that the State Department of its government is riddled with communists, and indeed that the Secretary of State himself—who is one of the great leaders in the struggle today against communism, and is doing such a magnificent job of leadership in that field—may be a bad security risk. Thank goodness, we have nothing like that in Canada; and I hope that it will not be suggested in discussion in this country, in the press, on the air or in any other place, that there are communists holding high official positions in this government.

The detestation of communism and all that it stands for, which has been so eloquently expressed this afternoon and this evening, is shared by all of us in this house. The principles which were enunciated this afternoon in the discussion of this subject by the leader of the official opposition (Mr. Drew) will I think receive a very general agreement. I do not think that general agreement will extend to some of the evidence which he adduced to support his argument and to show that, in his view, the government was too complacent and not doing enough to meet this menace. And I do not think that all of us will be able to support the solution which he has advanced in this amendment to meet this problem.

This afternoon the leader of the opposition brought forth one or two facts in his very interesting statement with which I should like to deal very briefly because I think they misrepresent the position. He referred—and other speakers have referred—to Tim Buck. This afternoon the leader of the opposition said, and I think I am quoting him correctly: "We all know that he recently obtained a passport to go to a meeting of the cominform in Hungary." He said the same thing the other night at a meeting in Ottawa, but he went a little further at that meeting, unless the report of it was inaccurate. He said that the government gave Tim Buck an exit visa to proceed to this cominform meeting in Hungary. What is the suggestion behind that statement? It is that somehow or

other this government has tried to facilitate the work of Tim Buck at communist meetings in Europe.

Mr. Drew: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege, I would point out in the first place that at no time did I say that the government had given an exit visa, because I know perfectly well that such a procedure is not in the hands of the government. I did say that Tim Buck had a passport, and I do not believe that that is open to question; and I did point out that the recommendations of the royal commission, which were under discussion, suggested a tightening of passport provisions, and it was in relation to that recommendation that I had made the statement that Tim Buck had proceeded behind the iron curtain with a passport from Canada.

Mr. Pearson: I am very sorry if the report in the press of the hon. gentleman's statement was inaccurate, because I quoted the report which I read in the press, which was the only one that I was able to secure. But what the hon. gentleman did say this afternoon was that Tim Buck had recently obtained a passport to go to a meeting of the cominform in Hungary.

The facts of the matter are quite simple. Tim Buck did not obtain a passport from the government recently to go to that meeting. The information in my possession—and I think it is accurate—is that Mr. Tim Buck has had a passport since 1947, and his present passport is a renewal of one which he had received many years before that time.

Also this afternoon the leader of the opposition made a reference to a very important matter, one which has been disturbing not merely to this government but to all free governments, when he alluded to the scientist recently convicted in London, Dr. Klaus Fuchs. In his statement this afternoon he gave me the impression that somehow this government had been at fault in dealing with this man; and that as a consequence of negligence on the part of this government—and it certainly would be an important dereliction of duty if it were true—very important, vitally important, atomic secrets had reached the U.S.S.R. The leader of the opposition said that a complete evaluation of information, or the significance of the name of Fuchs in the light of the special knowledge obtained by the royal commission, had not been made. Now, Mr. Speaker, I think this matter should be cleared up in so far as I am able to clear it up from the facts which are available. And I should like to put on the record what the facts are in connection with this particular man.