

some of these moves there have been great capitalist institutions, great financial powers and all the rest of it. But I think that at this time we do an ill service to our democracies in belittling the amount of democracy we have; for, after all, though we have not complete democracy in the country in which we live or in the commonwealth of which we are a part, or in the nations which to-day are fighting the totalitarian powers, yet to my mind we have at least an amount of democracy that is worth preserving, an amount that is worth struggling for and fighting for. Therefore I do not like to hear men in this chamber and across the country denouncing the democracies and comparing them to a degree with Hitler. The hon. gentleman who has just spoken is a member of the social credit group. I have read the advice which was given the social credit party in the province of Alberta by the gentleman to whom they pay \$6,000 a year, a gentleman by the name of Byrne. What does he say about society? He says that society is like a pyramid. The people on the outside are the circumference, and at the top there must be one directing mind. That one mind must give orders and all must take instructions right down to the outer fringe.

Mr. JAQUES: He never advocated that.

Mr. COLDWELL: My hon. friend says that is not so. I will tell the committee what I will do. At the first opportunity I get I will read into the record the report of that gentleman's address and that will settle the question. I will read just a few paragraphs to illustrate what I have said. May I say this, that there is not a province in Canada where there is greater control from the top than in Alberta, where one man controls the thinking of a great mass of people.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): He is a great man.

Mr. COLDWELL: He certainly fills a great amount of space, if that is what the hon. member means.

Mr. HANSELL: That is not funny at all.

Mr. COLDWELL: It may not be funny but you asked for it.

Mr. BLACKMORE: It is not true.

Mr. COLDWELL: I saw him here.

Mr. HANSELL: He does not control thinking; he leads.

Mr. COLDWELL: If we are going to struggle for our democratic institutions, then let us place before us something that is better

than the kind of thing we have been and are enduring at the present time. I am persuaded that we shall never achieve peace in this world until the common people of the earth, through organizations that will arise out of their own agony, their own blood and their own toil, set up some form of international organization that will be able to control the international buccaneer and international aggressor, and that is what the League of Nations was formed to do. The League of Nations failed, they say. The League of Nations did not fail; it was the statesmen of the world who failed the idea behind the League of Nations. That is the tragedy of to-day, and the sooner we learn that lesson the sooner perhaps in the days to come will our people build something that will protect them from these recurrent wars.

Mr. JAQUES: Mr. Chairman—

The CHAIRMAN: I wish to point out to hon. members that I have given a great deal of latitude. A great deal was said which was not pertinent to the item before the committee. A line must be drawn somewhere.

Mr. JAQUES: I have tried to follow the line since this debate started, but it seems to me that that line is a complete circle; it has boxed the compass.

The CHAIRMAN: We must try to break the vicious circle.

Mr. JAQUES: I do not expect to convert with regard to his political views the hon. member who has just taken his seat, but I cannot let pass his remarks about an old and very valued friend, Mr. L. D. Byrne, who has been the victim of so many sneers because he happens to receive this \$6,000 a year. The remarks attributed to Mr. Byrne by the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggart are exactly the opposite of the views that Mr. Byrne holds. I know Mr. Byrne intimately.

Mr. BLACKMORE: So do I.

Mr. JAQUES: And we share common knowledge and common loyalty to the ideals of social credit. The very basis of the philosophy of social credit is the freedom of the individual.

The CHAIRMAN: Order. The rules do not permit the discussion of the merits or demerits of social credit at this time. The hon. member was just addressing himself to the principles underlying social credit. That has no connection with the item under discussion.

Mr. JAQUES: Then let me rebut a statement made publicly casting a reflection on a valued civil servant of the Alberta government.