

The Address—Mr. Fleming

obtained. We therefore suggest that the conditions surrounding the issue of these documents might be the subject of consideration by the proper authority.

We would like to know what action the government propose to take. There have been some routine inquiries, in the usual way, into the matter of the issuance of passports and certificates of naturalization, but where is that detailed scrutiny and investigation which was called for by the commissioners?

So, sir, I ask that the government do four things. First, that they carry out the recommendations of their own royal commission. Second, that in keeping with the proposal of the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Pearson) they take steps to strengthen the Criminal Code. Third, that they get on seriously with this work within the government service. I want to make it abundantly clear that I advocate this not only because of the necessity for finding, wherever they are, those whose first loyalty is to the Kremlin and eradicating them from the service of Canada, but also to remove any suspicion from faithful civil servants whose patriotism and loyalty never should have been called into question, and never would have been called into question if this government had done its duty as it should.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. The hon. member has exhausted his time.

Some hon. Members: Go ahead.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: If the hon. member has unanimous consent he may proceed.

Mr. Fleming: I thank hon. members for their indulgence, and I assure the house I do not intend to trespass upon it.

I indicated a few moments ago that I wished to say something about the rule of law. The hope for the future of mankind, depending as it does upon the preservation of peace in the world, lies in the establishment in international affairs of the rule of law. Within Canada it is fundamental to our freedom as citizens. It is just as important as the freedoms we enjoy in this parliament or at the ballot box. Equally important are the freedoms assured to us by the rule of law, by which we mean simply that all men are equal before the law, and not only before the law but under the law. Whether it be the Prime Minister or any citizen in any walk of life, all men are equal and none may override the law with impunity.

Closely coupled with that is this further fundamental principle, that when parliament legislates it does so, according to the terms of its enactment, for all people. Its laws are binding upon all. It rests with one branch of the government, namely the Department of Justice, to maintain the law through the

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avenues of enforcement that have been set up under our democratic processes. There has not been a graver or more deadly blow struck at that fundamental guarantee of the freedoms of all Canadians or that hope for the future of mankind in the relations between nations, than was dealt by this government by its illegal suppression last year of the report of the commissioner under the Combines Investigation Act. The law, in express terms, required that this report, which was delivered to the government in December, 1948, should be made public within fifteen days. It has been shown that this would have been perfectly possible; but for reasons best known to itself, and not frankly admitted yet, the government chose to suppress that report for a period of ten months. I say with confidence that it would not have been made public yet had it not been for the resignation of Mr. McGregor. The same reasons that led this government deliberately to suppress that report for ten months would have led it to continue to suppress the report even to this day had not Mr. McGregor's resignation forced it into the open. Why was it suppressed?

An hon. Member: There was an election coming on.

Mr. Fleming: Yes.

Mr. Stewart (Yorkton): I do not like to interrupt, Mr. Speaker, but I am next on the list, and my hon. friend has already had 60 minutes.

Mr. Fleming: A moment ago, when the house indicated that it was prepared to extend my time, I said I would not take advantage of the kindness of hon. members, and I do not wish to ask the further indulgence of the house. So if the hon. member wishes me to bring my remarks to a close, I shall do so.

I shall limit myself on this occasion to saying that the government has shown itself since to be utterly unrepentant; and it behooves this house, as the custodian, guarantor and champion of the freedoms of the people, to cleanse the treasury benches of lawbreakers and substitute for them those who will respect, obey and carry out the law. What has happened in this instance is simply the culmination of what has been going on here for a very long time. The ministers have long treated parliament with contempt, and it was only a short step until they felt perfectly free to override, disregard and disobey an enactment of parliament.

Mr. A. C. Stewart (Yorkton): Mr. Speaker, I should like to join those who have already congratulated the new minister of the crown and the new parliamentary assistants on their