

Another point in the Canadian Peace Congress programme is a proposed amendment to the Canadian Criminal Code which would make the publication and distribution of war propaganda punishable by law.

About this, I would say, first, that, so far as I am aware, the only war propaganda now being conducted in Canada is that which appears in Communist journals in support of the aggression being waged against the Republic of Korea. I take it, however, that it is not propaganda of this kind which the Canadian Peace Congress was thinking of when it called for an amendment to the Criminal Code. I can only assume that it is their wish that the Government should stifle those who say that the civilization of the West is in grave peril from the aggressive military policies of the Soviet Union and its satellites and who are anxious that our defences here in Canada and in other countries of the free world should be increased so that, with our allies, we may hope to deter the Soviet Union from further military adventures, or if aggression is committed against us, be able to defeat it. It is pertinent, I think, to remember that in the Soviet Union and its satellites long prison sentences, even death sentences, are being dealt out by the Communist courts to those who grumble against military service or who express doubts about the Soviet Union's ability to defeat the Western powers. The proposed Canadian law, if its drafters had their way, would "protect society" in the same way from Canadians who urged the strengthening of our armed forces or who were optimistic about the North Atlantic countries' ability to defend themselves against Soviet imperialism.

Nothing is more revealing of the minds of those Canadians who have sponsored the Canadian Peace Congress than the fact that they apply entirely different standards to the Soviet Union and to Canada, the country that provides them with the freedom which they abuse. Indeed, they go further. It is not only that they judge the Soviet Union with a different standard than the one they use in judging conditions in Canada. The criteria are actually turned on their heads. For a Soviet citizen to call for the strengthening of Soviet armed forces in the topsy-turvy jargon of these people is something laudable, a contribution to the safety of the home of the Soviet revolution. For a Canadian, however, to call for an increase in Canadian defences is, of course, the most arrant war-mongering. That fact alone, I think, should be a complete unmasking of the motives and spirit of the Soviet propagandists in our midst. There may be - indeed there are - some deluded idealists among them but, behind these and controlling them are the agents of the Cominform. Even the idealists cannot be regarded as disinterested enthusiasts objectively searching for peace. If they were, they would be content to apply the same standards to all countries, occasionally to criticise Russia or Poland or Czechoslovakia. They must simply be regarded as the instruments, often, I am afraid, the willing and skillful instruments, of a ruthless conspiracy which is intent on destroying the free world and imposing its powerful system of abominable repression everywhere.

The Canadian Peace Congress have also been ardently demanding support for the address to the United Nations adopted by the Second World Peace Congress which met last November in Warsaw.