

Cardinal Mindszenty

is assured of a member of parliament who goes to Ottawa with a clear and unassailable mandate from a majority of the voters.

Mr. MacNicol: It does no such thing.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

CRIMINAL CODE

PORTRAYAL OF CRIMES BY PICTURES IN
MAGAZINES, ETC., TENDING TO INDUCE
VIOLENCE

Mr. E. D. Fulton (Kamloops) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 9, to amend the Criminal Code (portrayal of crimes).

Some hon. Members: Explain.

Mr. Fulton: Mr. Speaker, this bill is designed to amend the Criminal Code to cover magazines and periodicals commonly called crime comics, the publication of which is at the present time legal, but which, it is widely felt, tend to the lowering of morals and to inducing the commission of crimes by juveniles.

Section 207 of the Criminal Code provides, upon indictment, a penalty of two years for anyone who portrays obscene literature, obscene objects or drugs. The purpose is to amend the act by adding a fourth category which would cover the crime comics. Then if anyone distributes or sells such magazines, within the definition of the act, he will have committed an offence and will be subject to the penalty set out for the three categories I have mentioned.

Mr. Cruickshank: That will work against your political propaganda.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

CARDINAL MINDSZENTY

ARREST IN HUNGARY—PROTEST OF ARCHBISHOP
VACHON

On the orders of the day:

Mr. E. O. Bertrand (Prescott): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the Secretary of State for External Affairs. On December 29 last an Ottawa newspaper, *Le Droit*, made public the text of a telegram addressed by His Excellency Archbishop Vachon to the Prime Minister urging the Canadian government to protest to the government of Hungary against the arrest of Cardinal Mindszenty. Will the Secretary of State for External Affairs let the house know whether any action has been taken by the government in this connection?

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member was good enough to give me notice of his question, and I am now in a position

[Mr. Benidickson.]

to reply. I hope my reply will be acceptable as an answer to a question put on the order paper by the hon. member for Pontiac (Mr. Caouette).

The arrest of Cardinal Mindszenty, announced by the Hungarian government on the 27th of December, has caused deep concern to all free and democratic nations. The Canadian government strongly condemns and deplores this further case of religious persecution by the communist government of Hungary, as it would any case of religious persecution in any country.

In a broadcast on New Year's day, the Prime Minister stated:

Providence will not abandon men of good will. We are fortunate to be living in a land where religion is respected by all, and the religious authorities have the fullest freedom. We are all apt to take such freedom for granted.

But the increasingly brutal persecutions of religious leaders in countries behind the iron curtain have shocked all civilized people.

Such examples remind us how precious is the personal and religious freedom which is our birth-right.

The day after the news of Cardinal Mindszenty's arrest was received, Canada, as a signatory of the treaty of peace with Hungary, took immediate steps to secure all the available information on the matter, with a view to taking any action under the peace treaty which might be effective in halting religious persecution in Hungary.

The value of a joint declaration with other signatories of the treaty of peace protesting the action of the Hungarian government in arresting Cardinal Mindszenty was examined. It was found, however, that such joint action was not possible, and indeed might have had an effect contrary to that which was desired.

In the circumstances, and acting for itself, the government, having no diplomatic representative in Budapest, instructed our ambassador in Washington to communicate with the Hungarian minister there as follows:

The Canadian government has learned that the head of the Catholic church in Hungary, Cardinal Mindszenty, has been arrested on charges of treason, espionage and illegal currency transactions, which, on the basis of the evidence submitted and in the light of Cardinal Mindszenty's previous record as a Hungarian patriot and fighter against oppression and tyranny, do not command respect.

That is diplomatic language for, "We don't believe them." The note goes on to say:

The Canadian government has also learned that the Senior Bishop of the Lutheran church in Hungary was arrested in September last on charges similar to those leveled at Cardinal Mindszenty and was sentenced to two years in prison; and that the Senior Bishop of the Calvinist church has been forced by persecution to flee from Hungary to Switzerland.

The Canadian government, therefore, wishes strongly to protest against a policy which, on the basis of information which we possess, appears designed to destroy religious freedom in Hungary,