

*Communist Activities in Canada*

people realize that it is the desire of those representing the majority of the people in Canada to have laws that enable each to get a fair share of the welfare which Providence makes it possible to provide for everyone in the country.

I do not attribute any special effect to that preaching, and I have not been alone in preaching it; it is being preached by a great many others. But I do believe that with respect to communism we are in a better position today than we were a few years ago. It is disagreeable to have these organizations that we are inclined to believe are false fronts before us to receive their petitions and complaints. The hon. leader of the opposition must have been bothered, as many of us were, by those gentlemen—I shall call them that here—who were calling themselves the Unemployment League of Canada or the Unemployment Association of Canada, and who had briefs and petitions to present to us. They waylaid me at more than one place, and on one occasion they had these briefs to thrust into my hands. I said, "Gentlemen, I have other occupations at this moment. We have a good postal service, and if you have anything to communicate to me, put it into the post office and when received it will get the consideration it deserves". It is difficult to turn down requests to be allowed to present petitions.

I believe that perhaps one of the best arguments against these people is found in the fact that they are allowed to do these things. It establishes the best possible contrast between what happens in a democratic country that is confident of its ability to maintain its democratic institutions, and what is enforced by fear and police in the totalitarian states. Perhaps that opinion is shared by others.

With respect to the fact that Mr. Tim Buck and Dr. Endicott have travelled abroad, I do not know whether the leader of the opposition read the article in the *Globe and Mail* today which has a leader dealing with that particular subject. The last paragraph of it is in the following terms:

Some people question the wisdom of giving such people as Buck and Endicott the passports they need for their baleful itineraries. But surely it is better to let them go than to keep them at home. They do Canada no real harm because what they say in Russia merely confirms an ignorance already total. But they discredit themselves and their cause in the eyes of the Canadian public in a highly satisfactory way. No argument against the Canadian communist party could be half so convincing or so damaging as the argument that Buck and Endicott have themselves supplied.

I am not reading this because I agree with every word that is in it, but merely in support of my argument that this is not a ques-

tion of party politics in Canada. It is a question of individual opinion as to what is the best way to deal with this obnoxious growth in our midst. There are honest, patriotic Canadians of my party and the hon. gentleman's party, of the C.C.F. party and the Social Credit party, who have views that are the same, and there are others, probably in my party as in other parties, who think that a more drastic way of dealing with the obnoxious growth would be more effective.

There are interesting experiments being attempted at the present time in Australia, South Africa, Malaya, Panama, and India. We will be interested in seeing what are the effective results of that method. There are other things being practised across the border, a sort of witch-hunt. Committees are being set up charging the department of state with being overrun with communists or communist sympathizers. People are saying, "I assert that there are communists in the department of state, and until you put the F.B.I. files at my disposal I am not in a position to prove it, but I will still assert it." I do not think that has created a very favourable impression on our Canadian public. I do not think that the charges against General Marshall of incompetency, and his leanings while he was secretary of state, have carried much conviction in the judgment of Canadians who know anything at all about the former secretary of state. I do not think that the charges levelled against the present secretary of state, Hon. Dean Acheson, are disturbing us a great deal about him. But again there are no doubt some Canadians who think that the strong hand, the padlock law and such measures are the appropriate methods to be adopted. It may happen that they are right. But up to the present time the methods we have followed here have coincided with what appears to have been a diminution in communistic activities. This is something which all of us frequently have to talk about. I was talking about it in Windsor, Ontario, in March, 1949. I then cited the *Globe and Mail* because of the fact that my view had been that this is not a partisan party thing but rather a thing as to which Canadians, regardless of the political party to which they belong, have diverging views. I cited an article from the *Globe and Mail* which reads as follows:

How to meet the communist threat to liberty is a two-sided question for Canada as for other free countries. One half of the task is checking Soviet aggression and the other is curbing communist influence in home territory. The North Atlantic pact is the obvious answer to the first problem. It is harder to find the right method of dealing with the second.