

*Supply—Justice*

that in the future—and the people I represent have the same hope—there will be a close understanding and close co-operation as well as a joint acceptance of responsibility by both federal and provincial governments.

There is a fringe of these people who are definitely criminal. I suggest—and I think I am speaking for the majority of the people I represent—that those who commit acts which are definitely criminal in their nature, such as burnings, bombings and matters of that kind, should be arrested, and, when proven guilty, receive the full impact of the law. But I cannot see any solution, and the people I represent cannot see any solution in sending people to jail or to a penitentiary for three years, just because they have taken their clothes off. I think that is evidence that the provincial government is trying to pass the responsibility over to the federal government, by simply sentencing these people who have undressed themselves to three years in jail. The sentence is out of all proportion to the offence involved, and it is a policy in my opinion of loading the expense connected with the care of these people upon the federal government.

If you once pin the leaders down it will be found that they are a very small core of crafty men who are taking advantage of a group of mentally unbalanced and mentally ill people. Get at that core, and I think it will not be long before we will solve the problem. For the greater group of mentally unbalanced and mentally ill I suggest it may be necessary to pass special legislation, after consultation between the federal and provincial governments. But I do hope that these people can be treated as people who are ill, people who are unbalanced and who require remedial treatment. \*

They may require detention without arrest. They may require being placed at some point where they can earn their own living by cultivating the land. It requires a policy of understanding, and what I would term humane firmness, to restore these people to the point where they may become good citizens, and resume normal lives.

I am just hurrying along in order not to take up too much of the time of the committee. I do hope that the government will use all its facilities, and as well the Society of Friends and the local committee. The people in my district whom I represent are the finest to be found anywhere in Canada, and they are willing to volunteer to do anything they can toward finding a solution to this problem, and work so that these unfortunate people can be restored to a proper and balanced life.

I come now to a branch of the government which I believe can do some good work. Here is an opportunity for what I would describe as some social engineering. We have only about two thousand Sons of Freedom who create difficulty. There are at least ten thousand Doukhobors who are law-abiding people. When I dealt with this question in 1946 I suggested that here was an opportunity for the citizenship branch of the then department of mines and resources to do some good work. So far the citizenship branch has not spent one five-cent piece among those ten thousand Doukhobors.

I say to the young minister now in charge of that branch that here is an opportunity to do some social engineering and to bring all the facilities of the citizenship branch to bear in assisting these people to accept more and more the full responsibilities of Canadian citizenship. In caring for these mentally ill people we have to use all possible agencies. We have to provide for the education of the children, and to make provision whereby they will graduate to full citizenship, upon evidence being advanced that they are cured of this mental unbalance and this state of disquietude.

I have mentioned the necessity of training for citizenship. Before concluding may I refer briefly to the franchise. We must have a positive approach to this question, even with that larger group in the community which is generally known as the Spiritual Community of Christ. Then there are what are known as the Named Doukhobors. Then there are the Independent Doukhobors, those who have left the community and who own land outside. There is also the small group known as the Progressive Doukhobors. Then we have this group of two thousand who call themselves the Sons of Freedom.

Everyone who is willing to accept the responsibilities of citizenship in Canada is entitled to the opportunity to exercise the franchise. We have a good number of excellent people in Kootenay West, members of boards of trade, business men in various communities, men who are respected and who have been playing their part in their communities for twenty-five or thirty years, who in some cases have had nothing to do whatsoever with Doukhobor communities in all that period and who, in our province, through present provincial and federal legislation, will never have the opportunity to exercise the franchise. The same applies to their descendants. I urge that the government of Canada bring this matter to the attention of the provincial authorities in