

the views and practices of the Communists in our midst, our Moscow Canadians, are directed from outside; also that they are conducted with an inflexible determination, a ceaseless energy and a single minded devotion that the rest of us seldom show in discharging our social and political and economic obligations. Their strength rests on our indifference.

In the presence of these disruptive domestic influences, we must constantly ask ourselves what we shall do to minimize them and protect ourselves. The first answer to that question, I am sure, is that we should not be led into hasty or ill-considered action, either at home or abroad. The communists gain part of the victory if they mislead us into thinking that we must always take short cuts in dealing with them, for by so doing we may ourselves weaken the very political institutions which they are seeking to destroy. In endeavouring to destroy the influence of communism, therefore, we must be careful not to throw the baby out with the bath water.

We have always hesitated in this country, sensibly, I think, to make it unlawful either to hold political ideas or to establish organizations to express these ideas. We have reserved the penalties of the criminal code for those who by some overt act have threatened the peace and security of the country. I think that this particular democratic tradition is wise in both principle and practice. Once we make it a crime to hold political ideas merely because they are thought to be dangerous, it will then be but a short step to suppressing political ideas because they are not liked. And from a practical point of view, it always seems to me that there is much to be said for having people like the communists organizing in the light so that the public may know who they are and what they are doing, rather than to have them hidden underground. I agree, nevertheless, that the danger from international communism is presently such that we have to keep examining and re-examining ways of meeting that danger.

We are meeting it on the international level by arranging for collective action against an aggressor; by combining national forces and pooling national resources. We must meet it on the domestic level by strengthening, if necessary, our criminal code against actions which threaten the security of the state; but, even more, by keeping our democratic society so healthy and strong that the germs of communism cannot breed in it.

I would repeat, however, that we must never ignore the effect of any action which we take against communism on those principles of liberty and law, which Canadians have cherished and which are the source of our stability and our strength. Political freedom must mean the freedom of the man you don't like to say the things you don't believe; if it is anything less than this, it is not true freedom. The test, to justify repressive action by government, must always be whether the safety and good order of the State is in immediate danger. This is a test which must be constantly and conscientiously applied in order to determine the point at which further measures against communism or communists need be taken.

We can act against communism with far greater assurance of success if we work as hard to make our free democracy function successfully as the Communists do to destroy it; and if we use our own machinery of government for the purpose of removing the causes of distress and unrest within our own local and national communities. We have our economic and social problems. There are injustices and wrongs in our society. We know, however, that if

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