

I am sure is open to any member of this house, will realize that I am restricted in discussing this matter in so far as saying how Otto Strasser got into this country and that sort of thing.

Mr. Otto Strasser was one of the founders of the nazi party. His brother, Gregor, associated with him, played a very important part in the early days of the Brown Shirt movement in Germany, particularly in northern Germany, and while there is other evidence in the books written by Otto Strasser that he does not like Hitler, and has no love for Goering or Goebbels, his writings since his break with Hitler, writings while he was in Europe and since he has been in Canada, do not satisfy me that he is not of the view still that Germany can be restored to her former status, first by removing Hitler, and then by setting up in principle some kind of state which the philosophers of the nazi movement contemplated, and which theoretically Hitler may be assumed to support.

I do not want to do an injustice to any man. I have heard Mr. Otto Strasser speak in my own city of Windsor. I have heard him condemn Hitler. I have heard him tell the people of that city that Hitler was a menace and that those immediately associated with him were a menace. I have heard him say that the only way in which Germany could be beaten was by a distribution of pamphlets. He certainly circumscribed the possibilities of an offensive against Germany. I am not saying that there are not reasons why Otto Strasser should not find an asylum in this country. I am not commenting on that for the reason I have mentioned in reference to the departmental file, but I am saying that his writings do indicate where his sympathies lie in so far as the character of the state he would set up is concerned. Yet we have no hesitation in internment men who are citizens of this country. In many instances that is justifiable, no doubt, but I find it very difficult to see how we can carry out certain forms of internment and yet give asylum to a man who helped to set up in being the national socialist system of which Hitler is the exponent—and give the man an asylum without any restraint upon his movements.

It is significant that Mr. Otto Strasser was denied the right of entering the United States. He was refused a visa for reasons that are best known to the state department of the United States, reasons which I think should be considered in discussing this matter.

Mr. Otto Strasser has written to me and complained about my point of view. I suspect that he will write to me to-morrow after he reads what I have said to-day. That is

perhaps his privilege. To show me his position he sent me one of his books. I have read that book and, after reading it, I still have found no reason for changing the point of view I have to-day in regard to that gentleman.

One final thought, Mr. Speaker. I should have liked to hear the leader of the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation party say here to-day that the committee had considered the question of the internment of labour leaders. As a member of that committee, I would certainly not support the internment of any man on the mere ground that he was an organizer of labour. I would not support the internment of any man simply because he was trying to encourage the principle of collective bargaining in any part of this country. But I must say that the committee is not aware nor should the house be led to believe that men have been interned simply because they were labour leaders. That is not fair to labour; it is not fair to the administration; it is not fair to the members of this house; and I think when the Minister of Justice speaks he ought to make clear, as I am sure he will, that no man has been interned in this country simply because he was an organizer of labour, but that there were ancillary reasons for his internment.

I welcome the opportunity of serving once again on this committee, and I know that I shall, along with the other members of the committee, try to give this matter the careful consideration which it requires and deserves.

Mr. J. G. DIFENBAKER (Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, after listening to the address of the hon. member who has just sat down (Mr. Martin), I, as a member of the committee on the defence of Canada regulations at the first session of this parliament, want to join with my hon. friend in saying that at no time during the period I was a member of that committee did anything come before it which in any way suggested that any man had been interned in Canada by reason alone of his activities as a labour leader, or that any man had been interned who ought not to have been interned in the interests of the safety of the state at the time of his internment.

While I entirely agree that in the declaration of principles for which this empire now contends the freedoms occupy a very large and important position, nevertheless I think all of us recognize that in the interests of the safety of the state those rights of which British citizenship ordinarily consists must be sacrificed. The safety of the state must be paramount.

I congratulate the new Minister of Justice (Mr. St. Laurent) upon the way in which