

Communist Activities in Canada

and who as yet do not know the two languages that are spoken in this country. It seems to me that in the light of the fact that communist sources are simply spewing forth this propaganda today, seeking to poison the minds of these people—before they ever come to know this country or to know its institutions—against the institutions of this country and against our freedoms, it emphasizes more than at any time in our previous history the necessity for putting teeth in the law and putting every obstacle we can, by democratic methods, in the way of those who would undermine our system by that method.

Then, sir, let me say this in conclusion. Vitally important as is the strengthening of the Criminal Code, I do not suggest for one minute that if we get that strengthening of the code we can simply sit down and think that the problem of communism is licked. I do not suggest that at all and my leader did not suggest it today. What we recommend to this house is that this method of strengthening the code—the democratic method, so that all may know the law, that the law may be respected, and that the law shall have teeth in it—is the first and obvious step that ought to be taken. We do not propose to stop there. We must continue. Everyone has a duty in this regard in our search for justice and for freedom. This kind of legislation that we propose is designed to strengthen our freedoms in this country. In the face of communist threats against us from abroad and communist threats against us at home, we must be strong. The communists respect force. The people in the Kremlin respect strength, and we must keep strong.

It is in no maudlin sense that I say, as my concluding words, that in the last analysis in this cold war, this ideological war, this war that is a shooting war in many parts of the globe today, this war in which the lines are clearly drawn between the forces of freedom and of Christian civilization on the one hand and the forces of totalitarianism and the enslavement of men's minds and bodies on the other, there is presented an issue in which we shall need all these resources if we are yet to win.

There is one further resource that we have which the communists have not, and which in my humble opinion will yet prove to be the deciding factor in the outcome of this struggle. It is the fact that we are spiritual creatures. We believe that the issues in life are not to be determined by materialistic forces. We believe that the supreme forces in life are not the forces of materialism. It is my humble expression of opinion that that

[Mr. Fleming.]

supreme resource, if we will but practise it and use it, will yet prove to be the deciding factor in this war of ideas.

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Secretary of State for External Affairs): This afternoon and this evening, Mr. Speaker, the house has been discussing an important question, namely, what we in our country should do to combat the menace of communism. If I may say so, the discussion of that subject has been carried on in a way which reflects its importance. In the course of this discussion we have touched on an even more difficult problem, how to reconcile, in our complicated and modern state system, the security of the state with the freedom of the individual. I hope that those of us who feel that this amendment before us is not the solution to that problem will not be accused of favouring any policy or practice of appeasement in our attitude towards communism; that we shall not be accused of being supine in our opposition to what we all recognize to be one of the greatest menaces to our domestic and international security at the present time. There is, Mr. Speaker, a very real risk of that kind of accusation being levelled at people today who sometimes do not feel it desirable or necessary to take extreme action in the circumstances in which we find ourselves. There is a risk of this happening when we try to keep our heads and refuse to yield to prejudice and popular clamour. The fact that that can happen is shown, if I may say so, in developments in certain phases of the public life of our great friend and neighbour, the United States of America, where we have recently witnessed the spectacle of innocent and respected people being persecuted and almost destroyed by innuendo and unjustified suspicion.

In certain parts of the democratic world now it is impossible to reply effectively to the charge, "he is a communist", because any evidence that can be adduced by the intended victim to overthrow that charge can of course be attacked by those who make it with the suggestion that naturally if he were a communist he would be allowed by his superiors to act in such a way as to refute that evidence. This tactic, of course, creates in the body politic disunity, division, fear and at times and in some quarters something almost approaching panic. That of course, Mr. Speaker, is exactly what the communists wish to see created in our democratic system. I hope, and I know, that in our country we shall not find it necessary to copy methods of that kind.

The first objective of the communist party in any country is to weaken and eventually