

*Communist Activities in Canada*

that we felt could be done effectively to implement those recommendations has been left undone.

We have at times been subjected to questioning and criticism in this house because of the existence, for instance, of a security panel co-ordinating security measures adopted by all the different departments of government to ensure that the vulnerable departments of the state will be served only by persons in whom the heads of those departments can have implicit confidence. That was commenced even before the report of the royal commission was published. While the report was still in draft form and we had the advantage of knowing some of its recommendations this interdepartmental security panel was set up.

It is difficult for one to be quite positive in one's own mind as to how much one should disclose of the protective measures that are taken for the security of the state, because those who might be a threat to its security are sometimes pretty clever in the methods to which they resort in order to withhold information that would lead to proper conclusions in respect of them. I do not think it would be in the interests of security to describe too particularly the safeguards we are attempting to set up, just as trappers do not try to make their traps too obvious when they are placing them in the paths that game sometimes follow. I can assure the house, however, that we have been very much concerned about security.

It is no pleasant responsibility to have to do some of the things that I felt it was my duty to do when I was minister of justice in connection with the disclosures arising out of Mr. Gouzenko's declaration. I endured many a slap on the wrist in this house for the methods that were adopted to handle the situation. We do not want a repetition of such a situation if we can avoid it by any possible means. We have been taking all precautions that can properly be taken. One of the hon. members in the house this afternoon will recall the questions he put about the existence of snoopers for the purpose of finding out about prospective civil servants.

The association for civil liberties is not a communist organization. It is composed of a great many people with whom a great many other people may not agree as to all their views, but it is an association of which the president is the Rev. Dr. R. S. K. Seeley, the vice-presidents being Professor Harry M. Cassidy, Rabbi A. L. Feinberg, Mrs. W. L. Grant, Charles H. Millard, M.P.P., Joseph Sedgwick, K.C., Dr. Malcolm Wallace; of which the treasurer is Rev. W. P. Jenkins; the

[Mr. St. Laurent.]

executive secretary, Irving Himel; chairman of committee for a bill of rights, Dr. B. K. Sandwell, the editor of *Saturday Night*; chairman of committee for academic freedom, Dr. Malcolm Wallace; chairman of committee on group relations, Miss Vivien Mahood; chairman of legal committee for civil rights, J. S. Midanik. It has an advisory board consisting of F. Andrew Brewin, K.C., R. G. Cavell, David Croll, K.C., M.P., William Arthur Deacon, Rev. Gordon Domm, Rev. James Finlay, Anne Fromer, Professor C. E. Hendry, G. A. Martin, K.C., Norman J. McLean, E. B. Jolliffe, M.P.P., Professor Charles E. Phillips, Professor E. J. Pratt, Senator Arthur W. Roebuck, K.C., Harry Simon, Professor George Tatham, and Professor H. Wasteneys. This association presented a brief to the senatorial committee on civil liberties and human rights concerning the desirability of a bill of rights. It was a statement of what they thought should be, by constitutional amendment, put beyond the touch of common members of parliament dealing with the everyday business of the nation, something that would be absolutely sacred.

Article 19 of their declaration reads as follows:

Everyone has the right of equal access to public service in the country.

Article 20 states:

Every person is entitled to all the rights and freedoms above set forth without distinction of any kind such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

Article 17 states:

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

With regard to passports, article 13 of this declaration states:

Everyone legally resident in Canada has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the country, and the right to leave and return to Canada.

Those are things that a substantial body of public opinion in Canada think should be made a part of a Canadian constitution. They are good, honest Canadians, concerned about their own rights and about the rights of their fellows. In these matters there is room for diverging opinions as to what are the best methods of combating the spread of communism. For my part, I have been preaching for many months past that the best method of combating communism is to make democracy work as a system benefiting no particular classes or groups, but benefiting all the members of the population. There will be little danger of the spread of communism if all our