

Supply—Justice

had to deal with this question throughout the years. I think, and I have considerable knowledge of the difficulties that the police in both jurisdictions have had to work under in dealing with this most unusual and most complex question, that the provincial police have been most patient and very careful in their whole handling of this question. I want to pay a compliment to Commissioner Meade, who has given excellent advice and who has been most co-operative with the other police officials, civilians and committees who are working toward a solution of this question. I mention that because I think it is indicative of their strong sense of the civil rights of the subject in Canada. Under the most extreme provocation at times both the provincial police and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police have been very careful to act with tolerance and justice and with a full appreciation of the civil rights of the subject.

In recent months public indignation has forced both governments to take some action. I was pleased to see Mr. Wismer's statement in respect to this matter some four or five weeks ago. I was hopeful that as a result of the statement—it was termed a joint action statement, there was going to be some close co-operation between both governments on this question. I am pleased indeed to know that we now have a committee established in British Columbia headed by Dr. MacKenzie, president of the university of British Columbia. Included in the committee are other members of the faculty of the university of British Columbia. They intend to pursue a long-time study of this serious and complicated question. I am pleased indeed to see that. I understand they will start from the beginning to attempt to sort out the underlying causes or reasons for the unorthodox behaviour of the radical Sons of Freedom. Their deliberations will not be guided by emotions, but by their specialized skills applied with logic and intelligence.

In that connection, Mr. Chairman, I cannot refrain from informing the committee that that is exactly the course of action that was advocated by the C.C.F. in the provincial legislature since 1933. We have a section in the Regina manifesto entitled "Social justice". That section deals with the necessity for the use of psychiatrists and a special approach to certain problems such as these, and to certain criminal cases, if we are to rebuild these people, reform their characters and make them useful citizens. I am pleased to know, Mr. Chairman, that we have another illustration of a capitalistic government in British Columbia adopting a plank from the Regina manifesto in an effort to solve this most difficult question.

[Mr. Herridge.]

In addition to that, we have a committee in Kootenay West established by the associated boards of trade of Kootenay West, with wide representation, which is now studying the whole question, having a wide knowledge of the local background and the sequence of events throughout the years; and it is willing to co-operate in every way possible with the provincial government and with the federal government. I am also happy to know that the Society of Friends, who in the first instance were largely responsible for the coming of Doukhobors to Canada, are going to send some of their people into Kootenay West. I pay a great tribute to the work that the Society of Friends has done in many cases similar to this throughout the world.

I am sure that the local committee, the provincial committee, and the efforts of the Society of Friends will in the long run produce some lasting results.

Some hon. Members: Carried.

Mr. Herridge: Some hon. members are crying "Carried". I may say I purposely refrained from commenting on other items that I would like to have commented on in order to feel morally justified in taking up twenty-five minutes of the committee's time at this late date.

I may say that the people I represent are pleased with the actions so far in the appointment of this committee. They are very glad to know that the provincial committee, the provincial government and the federal government are willing to co-operate with the local committee. The Kootenay committee is going to keep in close touch with all those concerned with this problem.

As one who realizes to the full our priceless heritage of civil liberties, and as one who has a close personal knowledge of the situation for many years, and as the member for Kootenay West, I wish to submit the following proposals. I say first of all that both governments must accept some responsibility if this question is to be solved. I say that the federal government has a moral responsibility. The provincial government has a legal responsibility, but I think this difficult question must be approached in the spirit of co-operation between both governments. I do urge that the Minister of Justice use all the, shall I say, advantages of his supreme office and department to promote co-operation in every way possible with the provincial government. In saying that I fully realize the difficulty the minister faces. I recognize that you cannot accept responsibility without power, and that the power and the responsibility at present rest in the hands of the provincial government. But I do hope