

Hate Propaganda

and younger people that we consider genocide the greatest of evils at the present time, not only in Canada but in the world.

• (4:00 p.m.)

I have one reservation I should like to point out to the minister. The minister knows I have always very much suspected and resented the judicial power that may be given to police officers, because the minister must agree there will be many complaints, as the hon. gentleman said, that genocide has been advocated and promoted. It is also quite reasonable to presume that for the next few years the police will not be too anxious, except when they think it is important, to prosecute. This clause gives new trouble because we are now leaving it up to the police officers to decide which information to present and upon which information to prosecute. The greater the power given to police officers the greater the danger becomes to the average citizen. However, I cannot recommend any amendment that would solve this difficulty.

I would hope that the prosecuting attorneys and also the judges will lay down a precedent in the very near future so that the question we have is given greater identification. Although I fully agree with the hon. gentleman who moved the amendment, nevertheless I repeat that there will be problems at the present time and in the present circumstances in Canada. We cannot go far enough to indicate to all Canadians that the promotion and advocacy of genocide is evil and criminal.

Mr. Hogarth: Mr. Speaker, would the hon. member permit a question?

Mr. Otto: Yes.

Mr. Hogarth: I should like to ask why the hon. member would permit the most vicious advocacy of hatred in a home and yet would commend a provision which would make one comment concerning genocide punishable by five years' imprisonment. It is true this is an extreme situation, but a man could poison the mind of his child in the home and spend endless hours telling him about the ethnic groups he does not like. The hon. member supports this and yet would let one remark in respect of genocide bring about imprisonment for a five-year period.

Mr. Otto: We have not yet come to that clause which I intend to oppose as well. I said I do not agree that the advocacy of genocide is more evil than the advocacy of hatred. I

think one stems from the other. Yet when we come to that clause I shall be glad to discuss it.

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I wish to state the proposition as briefly as I can. First of all, the government accepts the bill as it has been amended by the committee. The amendments made by the committee are those indicated by special markings in the reprint of the bill that has been circulated today.

I think this particular amendment is narrowly drawn on the issue of genocide, so I shall confine myself to discussing this. However, when the hon. member for Calgary North (Mr. Woolliams) opens up on his amendment in wide terms I think I should like to say something about the implementation of it. I should like to say that the committee did reject the amendment now presented to the House by the hon. member for New Westminster (Mr. Hogarth) and the government supports the position the committee took. Therefore, I would urge the House to reject the hon. member's amendment.

In meeting the hon. member's argument, I think members of the House should refresh their minds on what we are talking about when we are talking about or advocating genocide. The term "genocide" is now limited to two specific acts. That was clarified by the substitution of the word "means" for the word "includes" by the standing committee. Genocide means either of the following two acts, committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, any identifiable group; first, killing members of the group and, second, deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction. What we are talking about here is the advocacy or promotion of the killing of members of an identifiable group, a group which may be distinguished by colour, race, religion or ethnic origin, or the promotion or advocacy of deliberately inflicting on that identifiable group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction.

We are not talking simply about the advocacy of homicide but the advocacy of group homicide. We are talking about the deliberate extinction of a group of people which can be identified by their colour or their race or their religion or their ethnic origin. The government accepts the position taken by the special committee commissioned by the former Minister of Justice, the late Guy Favreau. This committee was under the chairmanship of Dean Maxwell Cohen, then