

Hate Propaganda

Mr. Speaker; I do not need Bill C-3 to protect me from anyone in my constituency or to protect any of them from me. Apparently, though, the government does not share my views in that area. Apparently, there is a real and present need on the part of the government to secure protection for itself from something or someone. It has been my experience that the government is very much in favour of dissent. The Prime Minister has taken pains to tell us that he is not in favour of controlling or regulating the freedom of the hippies and kooks in their efforts to do their thing. No, the Prime Minister is in favour of dissent, as long as it is not directed at his government.

Could it be, Mr. Speaker, that the Prime Minister feels there is a real and present threat to the government; that his government might be rendered extinct by genocide? If that is the case, I urge the government to let us have the facts, to let us deal with them. I would not want this government to be rendered extinct in such a manner. I want them to stay around so that Canadian voters can render them extinct two years from now. I want them to stay around so that the Canadian voters can vent their anger and frustration on this ineffective and inhumane power group. It is time, Mr. Speaker, for the present government to stop worrying about being rendered extinct through genocide and start legislating for the benefit of the Canadian people. Bill C-3 legislates against the Canadian people and presupposes that the government is responding to pressures from groups rather than from the majority of the country's citizens.

It has been pointed out by other speakers that this government has taken onto itself the enormous task of eliminating hate and distrust from our society without taking the people into its confidence and without asking the people to help. This is not the government's problem alone. It is a problem that involves and concerns the people at large and it will not serve any good purpose if we sweep the problem under the rug by passing Bill C-3. In an area of human activity and human emotion where understanding and education are called for we have, instead, an arbitrary measure designed to stifle the very thing we are pledged to defend, the right of dissent.

I urge the government, Mr. Speaker, to get out among the people and see what they are really like. The Canadian people are not bent on self-destruction. The Canadian people are

[Mr. Schumacher.]

not looking for ways and means of destroying their neighbours because they might be of a different race, religion or ethnic group. The Canadian people want to build, to create, and to better themselves and their society. I say to this government, stop being so concerned with yourselves and start showing some concern for the Canadian people. I say to this government, stop showing contempt for the minds and motives of the Canadian people and start exercising the responsibilities, as well as the powers, that those people have entrusted to you.

There is one scant consolation to be found in this type of legislation, Mr. Speaker. The present government, by betraying the trust granted to it by the Canadian people, is building the platform for the opposition party in the next general election. The present government fails to take into account that, whatever damage they might do over the remaining years before the next election, the Canadian people will have one thing left: the right to a free vote two years from now.

This legislation may be classified in either of two ways. Some people say, "Don't be too strong in your opposition to it, because it really does not mean anything. It really never will be used; it is just window dressing, a sop to certain pressure groups who feel that it is necessary, and therefore it is all right to let it go through." Mr. Speaker, I did not come here to discuss or vote on window dressing. That is not the function of the House of Commons of Canada. If the bill means something, then someone will be charged under this bill and will be given a forum in which to spread his filth more widely in our society. We do not need that, so I cannot see how anybody can support this legislation on any grounds. I certainly intend to vote against it and I hope that the House of Commons will say that this legislation ought not to be passed.

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, on this very important subject these will be my only utterances, for which all may be thankful. It has been, sir, a most interesting debate, stimulating and wide ranging. Perhaps it has been such a good debate because there has been so much soul searching. I have noted, in my brief experience here, that quite often the finest debates in the House take place on matters upon which there is no question of party rigidity as to the point of view being expounded. I believe, perhaps, that we have too much partyism in our deliberations. I say this as a great believer in the party system, because I believe, as Lord