

Communist Activities in Canada

that the communists were so organized that they could have established a communist regime in that country at that time, had it not been for the presence of the British army ensuring that a free vote would be held. In the name of freedom, the communists suppress freedom; in the name of truth, they preach lies and propaganda. Falsehood is one of the tools of communism in Canada as well as elsewhere, and the subjugation of our institutions is the declared purpose of the communists in our midst.

The world is in a disturbed condition, sir, and we are not, I am sure, likely to lose sight of the dangers offered by a fifth column in Canada, or in the other free nations who are parties to the North Atlantic pact.

It is high time that parliament gave serious consideration, and got some leadership from the government, in the implementation of some of those recommendations which came from the royal commission on espionage four years ago, and which have not been implemented by the government. Sir, let us not think for one minute that the determination to support Russia in the event of war is confined to the communists of European countries. Hon. members will recall the statement made in February, 1949, by Maurice Thorez, the leader of the communists in France, to the effect that in the event of war his communists would back Russia; or the similar statement made in March, 1949, by the red leaders in Australia and in Italy. But it is not confined to these countries because here is what Tim Buck said himself in November, 1946, at a meeting in Vancouver. I am quoting from a dispatch in the *Evening Telegram* of November 13, 1946, in which this appears:

Tim Buck, leader of the Labor-Progressive party, made it plain that if Canada should be drawn into a war with Russia, he would not defend this country but "would go into hiding the same as I did at the start of the last war."

Then further on:

Buck said if war were declared on Russia "under the same conditions as in 1939, I would fight against it—and I would go into hiding the same as I did at the start of the last war."

I was a member of the Toronto city council when war broke out. In those days we had communists in that council; and I shall never forget that in those anxious days, when the safety of our way of life was literally trembling in the balance, we had to sit and listen to communists in that council get up and denounce the war as an imperialistic war.

Mr. Croll: What did you do about it?

Mr. Fleming: What did we do about it?

Mr. Croll: That is what I asked.

Mr. Fleming: We answered them, and I think we answered them effectively. Then in due course these people who were traitors to the country went into hiding so that they might carry on their nefarious work under cover.

The question comes down to this, Mr. Speaker. I see that I have but five minutes left, and I shall be brief. What is called for in the way of attacking the problem? We ask the government to give some leadership in grappling with this problem. Some teeth must be put into the Criminal Code if we are going to grapple effectively with this problem. It seems to me that the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Pearson) clearly recognized the necessity for strengthening the code in what he said to the Rotary Club in Montreal, in a speech on July 19, 1949; and I am reading from a Canadian Press dispatch.

He told the Montreal Rotary Club the domestic threat of communism must be met "by strengthening, if necessary, our Criminal Code against actions which threaten the security of the state."

That is the kind of legislation that this amendment asks, the strengthening of the code. That is precisely what we are asking. I trust that this statement by the Secretary of State for External Affairs means something more than "strengthening, if necessary, but not necessarily strengthening" the Criminal Code.

I took note of the statement made in my own riding during the election campaign last June by the then secretary of state, the Hon. Colin Gibson; and I put this before hon. members and ask them if this reflects on the part of members of the Canadian government and members of this Canadian parliament that vigilance that ought to characterize those who live in the kind of world we find ourselves in now, when communism is pounding on the doors of democracy. He said:

If enough Canadians want a communist government, that is the kind of government we should have.

That is the statement of the then secretary of state, as quoted in the *Globe and Mail* of June 10, 1949, and in other papers. We want something more than a passive folding of the hands on the part of this government while these communists carry on their nefarious work right in the midst of our people today.

The situation becomes infinitely more critical, sir, when you realize what a dead set these communists are making today on these newcomers who are coming to this land to make this country their home, whom we are welcoming here but who as yet have not come to know our system of government