

*Communist Activities in Canada*

A great many people from Canada who are acting as delegates for some of the communist false fronts which have been set up in Canada and other countries find it strangely easy to go behind the iron curtain and tell the people there of the iniquities practised under the government of Canada, and then come back and, with the apparent authority of having been actual visitors to the communist scene, seek to impress the people of this country with the wonders of communism, whether in Russia or elsewhere. I think that seventh recommendation of the royal commission's report should have been acted on long ago, but since it has not been, the time has come for action; passport procedure should mean something, and should provide a method by which those who are carrying on treacherous activities of this kind can be restrained from moving back and forth in that way when their one and only purpose is to undermine the democratic processes of this country.

The time has come when we should realize that freedom of entry is something which should not be extended to those who are flagrantly seeking to carry on a program of false propaganda in this country. While there is no reason why the Red Dean should not be allowed to pass through Canada, as long as he passes through, I can see no reason why he, any more than anyone else, should be permitted to state what is not true about Russia or any other country he has visited, when it is known by everyone who has been in Russia, or who has read carefully any of the accurate documentation which is available today, that his statements with regard to Russia are thoroughly misleading; but unfortunately they mean something because of the dignified position he holds in the church of which he is a member.

These recommendations of the royal commission were made not only to the government of Canada but also to the House of Commons. They stand as recommendations which this house should say in no uncertain terms it wishes to have implemented by its executive, the government, on the one hand by whatever steps may be taken in the ordinary course of its authority, and, on the other hand by the introduction of appropriate legislation to deal with offences related to activities of this kind.

This government at one time felt convinced that it was appropriate to take action. As a result of that decision communists in this country who were occupying leading positions in the communist party were arrested and placed under restraint. My recollection is that some of the leading communists were not arrested at that time; nevertheless action was taken on October 6, 1942. In the Ottawa

[Mr. Drew.]

*Journal* of that date there is a report of the decision of government. I think it is interesting, in view of these recommendations and the fact that previous action had not been taken to implement them, to learn who those people are and what the attitude of the government was on an earlier occasion in regard to some of them. Under the heading, "Tim Buck and sixteen other Reds released", there was a subheading:

No mention of communist party ban. Justice Minister advises Hepburn that Reds freed.

The report went on:

Justice Minister St. Laurent has ordered the conditional release from custody of Tim Buck, secretary of the communist party of Canada, and sixteen other persons against whom detention orders were issued in June, 1940, and who surrendered to police a few days ago.

This information was made public through a release to the press of a telegram sent by the Minister of Justice to Premier Hepburn of Ontario.

**Mr. St. Laurent:** Have you the date of that telegram?

**Mr. Drew:** Yes; the report reads, "His telegram dated today". That is in the report of October 6, 1942.

**Mr. St. Laurent:** That must be erroneous.

**Mr. Drew:** Of course I have only the report, but the report is dated October 6, 1942.

**Mr. St. Laurent:** I think that was the report of the decision about incarceration, but the other matter arose a couple of years later.

**Mr. Drew:** Later?

**Mr. St. Laurent:** Yes.

**Mr. Drew:** At any rate, what I have here refers to a telegram replying to the premier of Ontario, and I would remind the Prime Minister that Mr. Hepburn was not premier of Ontario several years later. This was in October, 1942, and that was the last October that Mr. Hepburn was premier of Ontario. The telegram from the then minister of justice to Mr. Hepburn reads:

Your wire of 3rd October reached my office the Saturday after I had left, and I did not see it until this morning. In the meantime had received recommendations from an advisory committee, dated yesterday, that Mr. Tim Buck and sixteen other persons against whom orders of detention had been made in June, 1940, and who had surrendered to the police a few days ago, be conditionally released because their admitted hostility of that period to Canada's participation in the war on the ground that it was an imperialist war has given place to an expressed desire, since Hitler's attack on the Soviet union, and under present circumstances, to support a total Canadian effort.

It continues:

I have accepted these recommendations and ordered accordingly.