

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The decision of the Chair is this: The hon. member must recognize that he must rise in his seat and say that he accepts the statement of the right hon. leader of the opposition—that and nothing else, and he must do it.

Mr. DUPRE: Hon. gentlemen opposite certainly seem to enjoy it. At all events, Mr. Speaker, under your ruling I shall accept what you have said, and I accept also the statement and declaration made by the right hon. leader of the opposition.

Mr. MICHAEL LUCHKOVICH (Vegreville): I have two reasons, Mr. Speaker, for objecting to section 98 of the criminal code. The first is that it does not do what it purports to do, and the second is that the section might be used to prosecute and persecute the innocent. I was not particularly interested in whether the Solicitor General (Mr. Dupre) was going to withdraw his statement or not, but I was interested in the statement he made a few days ago, that communism was spreading throughout the length and breadth of this land, and that it was necessary to retain this section in order to prevent the dissemination of the pernicious and seditious doctrines of communism. But I wonder, Mr. Speaker, whether keeping this section on the statute books will do what the Solicitor General has suggested. It is my own opinion that nothing will keep extreme radicalism alive so much as the attempt forcibly to suppress it, and that is exactly what is being done by keeping this section on the statute books. I believe that communism thrives on hard times, and every club used and every man put in gaol under this section is simply making martyrs out of communists, which is exactly what they are looking for. Communism has become a religion amongst a certain class of people; like all religions it needs saints and martyrs, and the greater the number of martyrs, the greater becomes the number of adherents to join the ranks. I believe that to make communism illegal will simply result in driving the communists underground, into the catacombs of this country, as it were.

I have been informed by many men in the west and in the big cities that agitators are now going from house to house advocating communism, and that this section has absolutely failed to stop the spread of the doctrine. I have wondered whether we could not follow the custom in England where they allow people the greatest freedom of speech as a sort of safety valve. It allows people to get rid of a lot of excess steam. I visited

[Mr. Dupré.]

England in 1931, and I heard people uttering in public many seditious things against the king and the queen. There were a lot of bobbies standing around when they were saying these things, but nobody seemed to pay any attention to the speeches, and anyone who has studied the election results in England a few years ago must come to the conclusion that after all the communists have not made much headway there, and why? Because, as I have already said, they have over there a safety valve which certainly has done much to prevent the spread of communism in that country. On the statute books in England there is no legislation such as that now under consideration identical with that on ours. I am of the opinion that Englishmen would look upon it as a source of weakness, not of strength, to have such laws on their statute books. Carl Axelson told me before he died that the reason he was so anxious to increase the number of communists among the foreign born was that he wished to follow the line of least resistance. They were the class that was the most discriminated against and would therefore listen to what he had to say.

I have heard a great deal said about foreigners in Canada. I should like to say that the spread of communism among them could easily be eradicated if they were met half way, given a helping hand and a square deal. A Czechoslovakian miner some time ago gave me the reasons why he had joined the communist party. His words were, "I joined the communist party because men of my type are the under dogs; the worst, least paid and most dangerous jobs are given to us. We are the goats of all the industrial trouble. That is the reason I have become a communist." I think we might do well to ponder the words of this so-called foreigner, because if we are to eradicate communism in Canada we will have to attack it at its source. I do not think it will be destroyed simply by having section 98 on the statute books.

I believe it was an Irishman who, speaking of the foreigner said, "Don't worry about the foreigner; he's all right. All you need to do is to give him a square deal and a helping hand, and as soon as he gets out of the skinned class into the skinners' class he will sing 'God save the King and heaven bless the maple leaf forever' as vociferously as do the rest of us."

At six o'clock the house took recess.