

*Communist Activities in Canada*

Canadian life and thinking when the terms "communism" and "democracy" have been bounced around so much that they mean all things to all men. I wonder if the Prime Minister, who, after all is the leader of this nation, has ever actually attempted to define communism. Putting the resolution in other words, we might just as well say that anyone proposing anything contrary to our way of life be regarded as coming under the Criminal Code. Now, that would also be subject to definition. I do not know if there is anyone in this house who would be capable of defining our way of life. When we deal with these things, we are dealing with life principles. I doubt very much whether one could successfully legislate in such a way as to be able to govern great life principles.

The leader of the opposition said some things with which I agree. I was quite pleased to hear him say that communism was in reality anti-Christ, that it was anti-Christ doctrine. I do not want to appear to be splitting hairs, but in considering a matter of this nature, in order to get the most accurate picture, one has to say some things that might be interpreted as splitting hairs. I do not know whether the leader of the opposition watched his words carefully, but I think *Hansard* will record that he did not say it was anti-Christian doctrine. There is all the difference in the world to my mind between that which is anti-Christ and that which is anti-Christian. Now, that may pose a question that will involve some thought. The member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Stewart) in debating this theme during the last session of parliament, made a remark which I do not think I shall forget for a long time. It was a remark that, on the face of it, might appear to be quite agreeable. He said that Christianity must deliver the goods. I have a high regard for the member for Winnipeg North. There are many people for whom, after you get to know them a little better, you gain a high regard, even though you do not agree with what they say.

I want to say this, Mr. Speaker, that when we get to the underlying root of communism, which is anti-Christ, we discover that it is not Christianity that is at stake at all. We use the term democracy, and the Prime Minister today said the best way to defeat communism is to make democracy effective. I remind you, Mr. Speaker, of something about which I reminded you last session, and that is that as you open these sittings each day you pray on behalf of this house, "Thy kingdom come." When that prayer is ultimately answered you will not have a democracy at all, but you will have what is known as a theocracy. It is for that reason that

the issue is not Christianity versus anti-Christianity, because I fancy the world would not have any great difficulty in accepting Christianity. The issue is between Christ and anti-Christ. It is Christ the world at large is not ready to accept. I pose those thoughts which may be somewhat provoking to those with leisure to pursue them further.

When the Prime Minister replied to the leader of the opposition, I carefully noted some of the things he said. I am largely in agreement with him. I do want to say this, that I do not believe the leader of the opposition is any more concerned about this matter of communism in Canada than is the Prime Minister. I regard the Prime Minister as being a great Canadian who has the welfare of Canada at heart. I believe that he recognizes the danger of communism. But, as he said, and as the leader of the opposition would discover if he were sitting in the Prime Minister's place, it is a matter of how to deal with the situation that confronts us.

The Prime Minister referred to the labour unions, and said that they were able to take care of the situation themselves. I think he used the significant term that they had undergone an autonomous purgence. I want to make an observation on that. It is true that the great labour organizations in Canada were able to get rid of some of the trouble-makers who were communists and powerful men in them. But I will make this observation. They were able to do so only because those who were not communists still were in the majority and still had the upper hand. Given time, the picture may have changed, as it has changed in some other countries that we know of. France is supposed to be a democracy, but it just so happens that communism in France, having regard to labour, has gained the upper hand as it has also in Italy and some other countries. Given time, the picture may have been changed in those two great labour unions in Canada. If the communists had gained the upper hand, then the picture would be different today. I fancy that one reason they did not gain the upper hand was that since the war communism has become slightly more unpopular than it was during the war days when Russia was considered to be one of our allies.

Furthermore, let me say this. We must not think that all labour unions therefore have been able to cope with this particular matter. That may be so in the larger unions but it is not always so in the local unions. If any of you live in constituencies in which there are strong local labour unions, especially in some industrial areas, you will find that the communists, having regard to some of these local unions, still hold the upper hand.