

doubtedly information is being sought in that connection, but the espionage net which has been referred to to-night has been in existence for a much longer time than the past seven months. It was the 8th of September when the documents came into the possession of the government.

I do not think it is necessary for me to say anything about the statements which have been made in reference to myself as being anti-labour and anti-Soviet. My feeling towards the great mass of the people in this and other lands and what should be done to improve their position is well known in this country. In regard to Soviet friendship I recall that a year or two after first coming into office twenty-five years or so ago the government of which I was then the head was the one which promoted an "Aid for Russia" fund, to help the starving children of that country. I did what I could to help further that great movement at that time. I have done what I could to further the Soviet-Canadian friendship movement. I have spoken on the platform in Toronto in support of it and on the platform in Montreal in support of it. The government of which I am a member has given aid to Russia in munitions and in food and assistance in other ways. It is the same government that invited the Russians to come and open a legation here, the same government that has sent an ambassador to Russia. All through, from the beginning to this hour, my attitude and the attitude of those who sit around me and with me on this side has been one of furthering to the utmost the friendliest and best of relations with all countries. And may I say that none of us will ever forget the heroism of the Russian people. None of us will ever forget their sacrifices and what we all owe to them, along with those of other countries in saving the freedom of the world. We are not going to let these years of sacrifices and the sacrifice of millions of lives go by in order that allied nations may become separated rather than drawn together into one great family.

I wish to conclude by saying that I hope that members in the course of the further discussion of this question will be very careful not to attempt to judge any country or any individual until we know all the facts as fully as we can possibly know them.

As far as the Russian people are concerned I am as sure as I am of anything that the Russian people are just as anxious for friendly relations with Canada and with peoples in other parts of the world as our own people are. But in this country, as in some others, there are persons who for their own selfish ends will do many things that would not be count-

enanced by the great majority. We have seen how a few men may get power into their own hands, and how, power once secured, they will do with it for selfish and ambitious ends many things that are not approved by their fellowmen. What has happened in this instance may have been the action of a few men which I am certain would not be countenanced and will not be condoned by the Russian people. So far as this matter is concerned, I intend, with whatever little power I have, to unearth whatever may be wrong, and for the remainder of my life to devote my time to trying in every way possible to see that the greatest amount of friendship and harmony and good will is promoted between all peoples, and between the Russian people and the people of Canada in particular.

Mr. M. J. COLDWELL (Rosetown-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, to-night I find myself in a somewhat difficult position. We have heard a story which I think has impressed itself upon the house and will undoubtedly impress itself further, and it is very difficult now to enter into a discussion of the speech from the throne or even of the remarks of the right hon. the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King). I realize, however, that we are late in meeting this session, and that there is a desire on the part of the house to proceed with its business. Therefore I shall refrain from doing what I might otherwise have done, ask the house to allow me to call it eleven o'clock, and proceed to say what I have to say to-night.

First I should like to make some comments on the speech which has just been made by the Prime Minister. I think that in view of the very uneasy international situation we should follow his advice and be careful in the phraseology we use in discussing what has been placed before us to-night. If I may say so, the first thing I would remark is that in reality we are discussing events which have led up to charges against Canadians and British nationals in this country in peace time. Espionage is the word that is used in this connection, and I think wrongly used, because espionage can, in my opinion, properly and best be defined as the sending of persons into an enemy's country in order to watch what the enemy is doing. But here we are dealing with persons of our own nationality who, it is alleged, have violated their trust, and who, if found guilty, will invite punishment under our Official Secrets Act. I think this should be kept in mind in discussing this matter, and that is why I try to make that point quite clear.

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]