

Supply—C.B.C.

you are looking for mud you look down and you see it; if you are looking for stars you look up and you see them. My interpretation of that play would be this. First, the Joe Hill incident took place before there was a communist party, but the communists are smart in fastening on to anything that has propaganda value.

My view of that program would be that during the period in which the Joe Hill incident took place, certain maladministrations of justice could be perpetrated. People were not allowed freedom of speech; they were not allowed to organize and, as a result, Joe Hill was one of the people who sacrificed his life in order that freedom, the right to organize and democracy in industry should take place. Today in the United States the things he visualized have become legal. It is not possible today in any part of the civilized world to commit what I think was a miscarriage of justice on the same grounds that it was committed at that time. One has only to look back and compare the conditions of those days with progress at the present time.

The communists are very adept at picking up that story and incident which set out injustices in a certain country at a certain time, putting them on the end of a stick and waving it about trying to kid the public that is the situation today. That is not the situation today. They do all kinds of these things. For example, they took the song "The Red Flag". That is not a Russian song. That song was written by a Glasgow Scotsman. It was the song of the labour movement in Europe for a good many years before there was a communist party. The same is true of "The International". This is another song they picked up and took unto themselves. It came out of the French revolution.

The story of Joe Hill is just another example of the C.B.C. wanting to give a real dramatized story of that period and the development of the labour movement. They put on that story for the benefit of the Canadian people. The communist press picked it up and played it up and created in the minds of certain people the interpretation the hon. member for Peace River puts on it. Anyone who understands the background of that particular story will realize that this action on the part of the communists is just another commie trick. They pick up something that is popular at this time, particularly among those who are engaged in the labour movement. The song "Joe Hill" is still sung in congress labour conventions. I have heard it in this province many times within the last few years, and it will always be one of the main theme songs of the labour movement in North America. I look upon the action of the

[Mr. Gillis.]

C.B.C. in bringing it up to date and dramatizing it as a gesture toward the organized labour movement in North America.

It is all a matter of opinion. For example, I can listen for an hour or so to a dramatization of the days of Shakespeare, but I do not connect it with feudalism. I can listen to the persecution and death of Socrates. I have sat and listened to that and shuddered through it. I did not construe it as propaganda, and I did not look upon it as an attempt to try to induce the Canadian people to accept the customs, conditions and methods of justice that existed at that time.

I just wanted to say that because, as far as I am concerned, the Joe Hill story which was dramatized is an old story to me and to anyone who came through the rank and file of the labour movement. While the hon. member for Peace River has every right to place any interpretation he likes on it—that is the way he sees it—yet I am telling him now that as far as I am concerned, and I think I am speaking for the organized labour movement of North America, we look upon that play, dramatized in Canada, as a gesture toward the labour movement, pointing out conditions, circumstances and injustices that existed at that time when people were trying to set the pattern of organization across the continent of North America. They will see it as a story of progress measured against that time to what it is today.

I just wanted to say that, Mr. Chairman, because I do not want the minister to back up on this kind of thing. I think the C.B.C. were right in picking it up and using it as propaganda for themselves, the communists are just repeating their old tactics.

Mr. Low: Mr. Chairman, I am going to reply first to what was said by my friend the hon. member for Cape Breton South, whose sincerity I do not doubt in any way. There is one thing he overlooked and it is the key to this whole story. He completely neglected to deal with it. I was not complaining about the portrayal of the Joe Hill story at all. What I am complaining about is that the C.B.C. producer went out of his way to link the Joe Hill story of 1915 with a very recent conviction in the United States of a communist conspirator, Elizabeth Gurley Flynn. The whole story revolves around the letters that were written by Joe Hill to Elizabeth Gurley Flynn in his adulation of her as a rebel girl.

Let me just inform the hon. member and others who may be interested that Elizabeth Gurley Flynn is one of the leaders of the communist conspiracy to overthrow the government of the United States by force. She