

*Supply—Justice*

under the chairmanship of Peter Konkin, and secretary William P. Reibin, with regard to terrorism in the Kootenays.

We protest against any and all allegations that the Doukhobors in general are responsible for the terroristic acts committed in and around our settlements.

We directly suffer more than anyone else from the acts in question.

In the name of justice and fair play we appeal to the authorities to take the necessary measures so that we as peaceful, law-abiding citizens, would not be subjected to live in terror, as well as suffer from cruel and unjust discrimination against us at the hands of those who, due to lack of knowledge of the true facts, blame all Doukhobors for such terrorism.

It is not just to blame all for criminal actions of a few. We request immediate investigation to uncover and apprehend all persons responsible for these outrages, regardless of race, colour or creed.

We reaffirm our policy of toil and peaceful life.

Then, Mr. Chairman, I have another one here from the mass meeting of the union of the spiritual communities of Christ held on April 14 which, in similar terms, appeals to the Minister of Justice at Ottawa and to the attorney general of British Columbia for action to be taken to prevent the continuation of these outrages, these burnings and the terrorisms.

First of all, why has this situation continued throughout the years? I have no hesitation in laying the blame, in the first instance, for the development of this terrorism, these burnings and this lawlessness throughout the years, directly upon the shoulders of successive provincial governments of British Columbia.

I am not going into the details here, Mr. Chairman, but I can tell you that the matter of dealing with the Doukhobor question in British Columbia is a very mysterious one. I have no hesitation in saying that in my opinion—and it is the opinion of large numbers of responsible citizens—this situation has developed because of the failure of successive British Columbia governments to nip, shall I say, this social ulcer in the bud at the very commencement. That is a rather mixed metaphor, but I am quite sure that you, Mr. Chairman, know what I mean.

What do I find? I find further evidence of the provincial government's failing to grasp this question and to accept its responsibility. These are serious times. People in public office and people representing the public, on this question and on all public questions, must be willing to accept their responsibilities. I pick up the *Sun* of June 27, which carries a news dispatch from Victoria, as follows:

Red influence seen in Douk uprisings. Wismer says fanatics may be hostile to Canada; demands Ottawa action.

The article goes on to say:

Attorney-General Gordon Wismer, in a radio broadcast Monday night, suggested communistic influence among Sons of Freedom Doukhobors who have been resisting British Columbia's laws.

"I think I am justified," he said, "in suggesting that these people, Russian in origin, and many of whom, though born in Canada, speak only the Russian language, may, in this period when the cold war is perceptibly warmer, be actuated by motives entirely hostile to the country of their adoption."

"Their constant cries that what they are doing is in protest against a third world war—this while they are endeavouring to sabotage railway trains and to cut off the supply of power to large industries by dynamiting power lines—sound strangely familiar to those who observed the strategy of another group during the last war, before Russia entered into it."

Mr. Wismer declared flatly that solution of the Doukhobor problem is a matter for the dominion government. All British Columbia can do is arrest them for law-breaking, but it has no other powers.

In that article Mr. Wismer suggests that it is a problem for the federal government by suggesting that it is a security problem, a question of national security, and therefore it is the responsibility of the federal government.

Some three or four weeks ago, Mr. Wismer, attorney general of British Columbia, said that what was happening in Kootenay West was civil insurrection. In my opinion, that was an attempt to lead the people to believe that this was entirely a federal responsibility. Later he said it was a national emergency, again to create the impression that this question is the sole responsibility of the federal government. Thirdly, we have his recent broadcast to the people of British Columbia, in which he suggests that it is a question of national security and the prime responsibility of the federal government.

I am of the opinion that we cannot handle this difficult question, or similar questions, by trying to evade our responsibilities. Quick action in Saskatchewan soon settled the Doukhobor question to the satisfaction of Saskatchewan, but to our embarrassment. I am of the opinion, Mr. Chairman, in which opinion I think I am correct, that the legal responsibility for the administration of law and order in the province rests entirely in the hands of the provincial government; but I do say that in view of the agreement of 1898, and the particular nature of the question, the federal government has a moral responsibility. In my opinion we now have a problem of such magnitude that it can only be solved by federal and provincial governments effecting joint responsibility and approaching the problem together.

Before proceeding to give my few suggestions I want to pay a compliment to the members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the provincial police who have