

for thirty or forty years, I say that such person ought not to suffer unnecessarily. On the other hand, for those who are guilty I have no sympathy.

Mr. T. C. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggar (Mr. Coldwell) has already covered most of the representations hon. members in this group wish to make, and I do not purpose repeating what he has said. I rise merely to endorse his observations.

There is, however, one organization I would refer to the special committee, if it is going to consider questions affecting organizations which have been declared illegal. I refer to the organization generally known as Jehovah's Witnesses. I believe I have discussed this matter before in the last two years. No satisfactory statement has thus far come from the treasury benches as to why the organization has been declared illegal. I do not know how many of those responsible for the administration of the regulations have read the literature of the organization. In those years when I had more time for diversified reading I read many of the books published by the organization, as well as those published by other sects. While I disagree most heartily with their point of view, not only on religious matters but also on social matters, I have never been able to satisfy myself that any of the doctrines which they preach are of such a nature as to be subversive of Canada's war effort.

Mr. MARTIN: It discourages them.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): My hon. friend says that it discourages them. At the present time there is one sect which is preaching that before this war is over we shall be joined with Hitler in a war against the U.S.S.R. I do not agree with them, and I do not suppose that the hon. member for Essex East (Mr. Martin) agrees with them, but there is no talk about banning that organization. That would be absurd. There is a religious organization in Canada which is opposed to the bearing of arms, and which teaches that belief. That is not particularly encouraging to our war effort, but no one in this house would suggest that an organization like that should be banned. It is most difficult to define what is meant by discouraging the war effort. It is different to say that a certain point of view discourages the war effort from saying that a certain doctrine is subversive of the war effort.

For the last two or three years I have made up a file from clippings from newspapers in Canada giving accounts of arrests of and fines imposed against various people connected

with this so-called Jehovah's Witnesses organization, and this file has grown at an alarming rate. I quote one from Campbellton, New Brunswick, as follows:

Two Montreal women, Mrs. Francis Bower and Mrs. Loretta Appleby, were found guilty of a breach of the defence of Canada regulations by Sitting Magistrate J. N. Bugold in police court to-day. He ordered that the two accused each pay a fine of \$300 and costs, or in default of payment that they serve a term of six months in jail. The two took the jail terms.

There was a case in my own community where a business man was charged on two counts, one that he was a member of an illegal organization known as Jehovah's Witnesses—there was no proof of that except that he had been associated with them some time before, but he contended that he had had no contact with them since—and, second, that he had said in conversation that in his opinion Canada was not a Christian country, but a country with Christian people in it. I have heard that statement made from scores of pulpits of different Protestant denominations. It is merely expressing a difference in point of view as to what is meant by a Christian country. This man was fined, I think \$200. Fortunately he was able to pay it and did not have to take the gaol sentence. That sort of thing encourages the kind of people who like to run around telling tales or reporting to the police that they had heard in conversation that some one else had heard some one else say such a thing. In this particular case they had the evidence of only one woman, but that was considered sufficient to substantiate a charge being made against a responsible citizen of Canada. That is not good for the morale of this country. We should not do anything that will encourage tale-bearing and informing.

I have under my hand a piece of literature published by that organization entitled "Consolation, a Journal of Fact, Hope and Courage." This is published in Brooklyn, New York, but it is banned in Canada under the defence of Canada regulations. I am told that this is allowed to circulate in Great Britain, Australia and the United States. I do not know why it is banned here. I have read it through, and while I do not agree with ninety-nine per cent of what it says, I cannot understand why it has been banned. It is most intolerant of other religious groups, and it refers in the most virulent terms to the profession to which I belong. I have no reason to hold any brief for the points of view expressed in a periodical of this sort, but I cannot find anything in it that I can conscientiously say is subversive of Canada's war effort. The fact that it is intolerant, the