

*Defence of Canada Regulations*

care, that they compile the information so obtained, and that in the last few days as a result of the acquisition of information over a long period of time they have been able to move forward with dispatch and place in custody various persons of Italian birth or ancestry. He has pointed out that they have the information and that they work; they do not talk.

That being so the Royal Canadian Mounted Police must have had some reason when it acted as it did in September last in taking into custody throughout western Canada numbers of men who were known to be nazi sympathizers or workers. There was no oppression in their attitude, because only three hundred out of sixteen thousand alien enemies in Canada were taken into custody. The minister has pointed out that Schneider, who was released some time ago, has been reinterned. That is all to the good.

The suggestion I humbly offer to the minister is that so long as section 26, subsection 7, permits the Minister of Justice to order the release of any enemy alien from arrest, detention or internment, there will always be statements to the effect that there has been political interference, if the political allegiance of the man released is known, regardless of the fact that the suggestions are foundationless.

The suggestion has been made that instead of the minister accepting this power, or having it placed upon his shoulders, a tribunal should be set up in the constituency or judicial district where an internment takes place, and that such tribunal should be responsible. Such tribunal might consist of a district or county court judge, as the case may be. In such circumstances judicial wisdom would be brought to bear upon the decision as to whether or not a person or persons should be released, and the evidence taken be complemented by the knowledge of local conditions of the judge resident within the local judicial district.

The Minister of Justice has said that the cases he mentioned were the only ones regarding which there has been criticism. I am not going to refer to other cases this afternoon. I would point out, however, that we have gained much benefit from the information given by the minister this afternoon. The public want to know. They want to know why those men are released. The minister has given the assurance that they were released under circumstances which could not be considered political.

There is always the suggestion of partisanship. However that may all be removed by the means I have suggested, or by the appointment of a superior court judge, as the case

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

may be. In this way we would bring to the people a feeling of security which until recently they have not possessed. There are those who may say that at a time like this, representing as I do a constituency in Saskatchewan, the stand I take is an unpopular one. As a representative from that province I feel at this time that party political expediency must pale into insignificance before public safety.

This speech I have to make in order to point out that in Saskatchewan there is an ever rising body of opinion to the effect that there are men who would undermine our institutions but who are free. It is felt the result will be that unless authorization is given for the creation of a home defence corps—and some suggestion was made to-day by the Minister of National Defence for Air (Mr. Power) that such a corps was being formed—there will arise in various parts of Saskatchewan and throughout western Canada generally committees or, if you will, vigilantes who will take the law into their own hands.

I have a few suggestions to make in addition to the one that the minister should be relieved of his responsibility under section 26 of the regulations. I believe there should be a national registration. This would give the government an opportunity of finding those who are willing to serve at this time. The women gave the lead last September and October when they had a national registration, but so far their services have not been utilized. There are men all over the dominion who want to serve. All they need is the opportunity, but that opportunity can come only from leadership. Leadership can be given only when the government is fully aware of those who are prepared to serve. Moreover, such a registration, if properly carried out, would bring to light the names of many who are to-day in Canada without having complied with the immigration regulations and who are in position to carry on subversive activities.

The necessity for establishing local defence corps throughout the dominion has been pointed out already. In this connection I should like to refer to an editorial which appeared in the *Winnipeg Free Press* of June 6. That paper deals with this problem in these words:

Why is Ottawa showing such reluctance in authorizing the formation of the volunteer defence unit here? The public wants it.

And further down:

Presumably the dominion government believes that the potential internal dangers to the state are being adequately looked after by the presence in Canada of our active armed forces, by the militia regiments, by the newly formed home guard and by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. It may be recalled to Mr. King and