

We assist in that work if we permit or encourage witch hunting, guilt by association, accusation by implication; if we sit idly by and allow all the progressive elements in our society to be lumped with Communists as "reds". We have not approached this position in Canada, and I hope we never will. But it is something, as I have said, that we should be on guard against - as a secondary result of the Communist infection.

By all means, let us protect ourselves against those who would practice, or conspire to practice treason and sedition. Let us pursue them, unmask them and, if they have broken the law, punish them. But we should not confuse political heresy with political treason, or dissent with disloyalty. Nor should Canadians be frightened into conformity by making it dangerous to hold, to express, or to advocate unpopular doctrines. No society can be free and healthy where this occurs, no matter to what heights its national income may soar.

Mr. Truman, of Independence, Missouri, put this view forcefully and eloquently in his State of the Union message on January 7, when he said:

"...One of the things that could defeat us is fear - fear of the task we face, fear of adjusting to it, fear that breeds more fear, sapping our faith, corroding our liberties, turning citizen against citizen, ally against ally. Fear could snatch away the very values we are striving to defend.

"Already the danger signals have gone up. Already the corrosive process has begun. And every diminution of our tolerance, each new act of enforced conformity, each idle accusation, each demonstration of hysteria, each new restrictive law, is one more sign that we can lose the battle against fear.

"The Communists cannot deprive us of our liberties - fear can. The Communists cannot stamp out our faith in human dignity - fear can. Fear is an enemy within ourselves; and, if we do not root it out, it may destroy the very way of life we are so anxious to protect."

I know, of course, that there is always some risk in showing tolerance in a time of trial; in clinging to the beatitudes when there are brutes about. Our determination to stand fast for the principles that protect our freedom may, I admit, mean that one traitor may avoid exposure; one spy may escape detention.

That great American jurist, that wise benevolent man, Judge Learned Hand, gave the answer to this fear in magnificent words when he said:

"Risk for risk, for myself I had rather take my chance that some traitors will escape detection than spread abroad a spirit of general suspicion and distrust, which accepts rumour and gossip in place of undismayed and unintimidated inquiry. I believe that that community is already in process of dissolution where each man begins to eye his neighbor as a possible enemy, where non-conformity with the accepted creed, political as well as religious, is a mark of disaffection; where denunciation, without specification or backing, takes the place of evidence;