

superior to anyone. As I have often said, I am equal to any and superior to none. On the other hand, let us not forget that we here are members of the senior legislative and consultative parliamentary assembly in Canada. Do not forget our status, and do not forget that the welfare of our fellow citizens is our chief concern and responsibility. Do not forget that the solution of our people's problems is the very purpose of our existence here. Let us not talk about being superior when we try to perform the functions for which we were appointed and for which we are paid as senators. I submit to you that were this chamber to accept some of the advice we have received from various quarters, we would bear a close resemblance to that well-known character in the ancient parable who passed by on the other side.

The honourable senator from Lumsden says that he knows well and very highly commends the Doukhobors of Saskatchewan. But, honourable senators, we are not inquiring into the problems of the Doukhobors of Saskatchewan: we are inquiring into the problems of the Sons of Freedom, and they do not live in Saskatchewan. They are in British Columbia, many miles from where the honourable senator resides. He says the Doukhobors are good, sound farmers, thoroughly Canadian and law-abiding citizens. Well, that is fine. I do not dispute one word of that assertion. But what has this resolution to do with them? They have no problems. I wonder would my friend present the same bouquet of white roses to the sixty-three Sons of Freedom who are in jail at Agassiz, or indeed to that forlorn group of 1,300 people of all ages and of both sexes who sleep by the roadside near Hope, but with very little hope, in the province of British Columbia.

Now let me not allow myself to be misunderstood in one particular. I am not for lawlessness; I am not one to condone lawlessness and I do not do so in this speech. I have been the first law enforcement officer of the province of Ontario, and I know something about the problem of keeping the peace, protecting the innocent, and punishing the guilty. I do not look lightly upon arson, or the bombing of schools, or the dynamiting of bridges, or the burning of homes.

I would call attention to the fact that society has two ways of dealing with malefactors of this kind or, rather shall I say, with offences of this kind. The first of these is prevention. That is by acting before the crime is committed and before the damage has been done. The second means is by punishment after guilt has been established, after the innocent have been injured or property

has been destroyed. Those are the two methods that are employed in situations of lawlessness such as this. The preventive measures are the most difficult to accomplish successfully, but when accomplished they are inestimably more effective than those of punishment after guilt has been established, if it can be established. It is the preventive solution that the honourable senator from Toronto-Spadina is seeking in asking for this inquiry.

I am as outraged as is the member from New Westminster (Hon. Mr. Reid) at the crimes attributed to the Sons of Freedom, but I do not join with him in his denunciation of them, simply because a recital of their accusations does not tend to a prevention of their repetition.

**Hon. Mr. Reid:** They could not be prevented; the deeds were done at night.

**Hon. Mr. Roebuck:** All right, you are going to vote against the resolution.

Neither do I have any criticism of the authorities who have done their duty under extremely difficult circumstances. I submit to you that the actions of the authorities in British Columbia, and probably in Saskatchewan, would compare very favourably with that of the Russians who, the honourable senator for New Westminster (Hon. Mr. Reid) says, stood the Doukhobors up in a row and shot every tenth man.

Now, my friend from New Westminster is very frank in saying that he does not know what can be done with such a group, and I am just as frank in saying neither do I. I think that is a good reason for passing this resolution. The honourable senator from Toronto-Spadina (Hon. Mr. Croll) is attempting to find out what can be done, and having found out we can perhaps do something towards ameliorating the situation and even curing it.

I would ask all honourable senators to note that everything that has been said so far by myself and others in criticism of the Sons of Freedom supports the contention of Senator Croll that something should be done. The honourable senator from New Westminster (Hon. Mr. Reid) suggested that we appoint a committee of laymen, or private citizens of some standing in the community. Perhaps it is a good idea, although I notice he did not volunteer to engage in the promotion of any such suggestion. I think he should renew that proposal to the Senate committee, if such there be, at its first meeting, and let us consider that as one of the means of proceeding.

Let me read a statement that appeared in the *Ottawa Citizen* of October 13, 1962.