

Thus the Moose Jaw Times-Herald in commenting on Senator Meighen's previous letter properly points out:

"To the great mass of the people the right to think, to believe, the right to speak their thoughts and beliefs, the right of a nation to decide for itself its way of life, is still "worth fighting for," and takes priority over the "fundamental human instinct of the human race to gain, to acquire, to have, to reach somewhere," Because of this human right to freedom of the mind and soul, the British people count as nothing the things which, if taken away, Senator Meighen does "not feel that we have anything worth fighting for.....Senator Meighen's mistake at Toronto was that he placed the emphasis as to the things"worth fighting for" in the wrong place, at the wrong time and in a most unfortunate connection. At a time when the powerful British Labor party has joined hands and heart with its opponents in Great Britain, at a time when Bevin and Beaverbrook, and all these two names symbolize, work in unison and harmony to secure the human rights of all, Mr. Meighen was ill-advised to place the emphasis where he did; not because of his criticism of Mr. Bevin only, but primarily because the values he considers fighting for are not the prime values that Britain is fighting for."

With Mr. Meighen's apparent view that the war is being primarily waged in defence of capitalism, we definitely do not agree. But neither do we believe that it is being mainly fought for the purpose of achieving a transformation in British society in a socialist sense.

What is really at stake is the right of British people and of other peoples to make the great decision as to their own future themselves and without dictation from a foreign power. It is this right--and not the ultimate decision--that is fundamental.

Senator Meighen--be it noted--does not dispute but in fact affirms this right. The British people may if they choose vote to retain the system of private enterprise; they may vote for socialism or they may vote themselves into monasteries, if that is their desire.

But we say that this right is worth fighting for while Mr. Meighen implies that this is only true if the ultimate decision accords with his views.

What is democracy in essence but faith in the common man as an intelligent and social being capable of deciding his own destinies?

Mr. Meighen is, of course, quite right when he says in the closing passage of his letter that the duty of an Opposition is not adulation of a government. He is quite wrong when he suggests that adulation of the government is the main concern of The Leader-Post. This newspaper has not hesitated to criticize the government now in office when it has felt that such criticism was constructive and justified.