

made in this house by the minister of health, as well as statements reported in the news in the daily press dealing with Doctor Shugar's special work and that he was not really discharged because he had completed his job or because there was no more need for him, but that he was in fact discharged because of the report of the royal commission. It may be too late to do anything about the matter now in the case of Doctor Shugar and others who suffered, as they must have suffered, as a result of that report, especially when that report, when published, left the impression both on the public and on the court and jury that they were guilty. That was an injustice. The dismissal of a man even before he is charged cannot very well be justified. That is the protest in the interest of civil liberty which I desire to make. I want to add that this matter has outside and international implications which, had I the time, I should very much like to comment on.

Mr. BENTLEY: Mr. Chairman,—

An hon. MEMBER: Carried.

Mr. BENTLEY: "Carried" will not help anybody, I can assure the hon. member although I intend to be brief. It was my intention to have made a statement at more length with reference to this matter, but in order to do so as other hon. members have done in this committee, I will forgo a great deal of what I had intended to say. But for a moment or two I want to take the opportunity to express my complete disapproval of the actions of the government, the Prime Minister; the Minister of Justice and the Taschereau-Kellock commission for the way in which they have carried out these investigations. I am not the only one who feels that way. I had intended to read into the record three newspaper clippings expressing the opinions of three different people. The first is an article in the *Ottawa Citizen* of August 27, and is entitled, "Canada as the Cockpit." That in the main agrees with what I would have said to-day. The second one I would have read into the record is from the *Citizen* of August 24 of this year, and is a report of a meeting held at Geneva Park, Lake Couchiching, Ontario, on August 23, including a statement made by Mr. B. K. Sandwell, editor of Toronto *Saturday Night*, when he was addressing the Canadian Institute of Public Affairs. The third one is a long statement, which I would recommend anyone to read who can obtain it, and is taken from the *Canadian Mining Reporter* of August 23, 1946, and is headed, "Leslie Roberts Speaks His Mind." It is a cold-blooded and clear analysis of the performance which this commission, supported

[Mr. Irvine.]

by the government and under government instructions, carried out during these spy trials.

I believe that a great deal of panic entered into the situation. The government's fear of communism or Soviet Russia or something else prompted it. But I submit that fear of anything is no excuse for the abrogation of the rights and fundamental liberties of individuals, and if we are to have the kind of country we would be pleased to have our new flag fly over, and be ready to stand up and face the rest of the world, as justly believing in our democratic institutions—which I do most emphatically and with great conviction and sincerity—we must prove to the people of this country and of other countries that our democracy provides those freedoms which we expect to have and to which we have a right.

I am going to give one quotation, the fourth I shall mention, from an article in the *Reader's Digest*, bearing on what I have just said and written by Mr. John Foster Dulles; it appears in the August issue, and the writer states this, on page 15, after dealing with a great many international affairs:

No programme is fruitful if it is merely against someone or something. Successful programmes are those which are constructive and creative in their own right. What we need at this critical juncture is an affirmative demonstration that our society of freedom still has the qualities needed for survival. We must show that our free land is not spiritual lowland, easily submerged, but highland that, most of all, provides the spiritual, intellectual and economic conditions which all men want.

I commend that most sincerely to the perpetrators of this flagrant abuse of our Canadian customs and principles.

In conclusion—and this will be the final conclusion—I should like the government to give serious consideration to three matters which were mentioned by the hon. member for Cariboo. First, exonerate publicly those persons at present not acquitted by the commission's report but not formally charged in the courts; second, or properly charge them and give them the fundamental right to prove their innocence; and, third, take steps to see that those already tried and found guilty and at present undergoing punishment be treated in such a manner as to preserve their physical and mental health and maintain the pride of Canada in her democratic institutions and her claim to just treatment of all citizens.

Mr. ST. LAURENT: Just one word. I do not want to provoke a debate at this time. I appreciate the views which have been expressed by the two hon. members. I shall merely repeat that in positions of responsibility there are frequently things which are very