

Supply—Justice

to the historical events of western Canada. Verigin had this to say of the Kootenay:

"In British Columbia we will buy our land and own it so it will not be necessary to be subject to the English king, and keep our land. No schools are there. The air is very pure, like Switzerland. So we will live in good health in the Canadian way with no government to bother us, no rheumatism and few mosquitoes. Slava Bohu."

I will just mention that to indicate that he knew, when he came to settle in Kootenay West, as far as land and opportunities for settlement are concerned, he had picked a choice country. In 1909 we had a special train bearing about 800; in 1910 several hundred more, and in 1911 another thousand. Later, after the Saskatchewan government began to take stern action against certain practices of the Sons of Freedom in Saskatchewan, there was an influx of the Sons of Freedom. According to the editorials of all newspapers of that time, the Doukhobors were looked upon with favour and their community prospered.

Then the Sons of Freedom commenced coming from Saskatchewan. In Saskatchewan the provincial government took drastic action when they began cutting the capers that they have been cutting in Kootenay West for the last twenty-five years; but that strong action simply resulted in their leaving the area around Yorkton and coming to Kootenay West, and we have had them ever since. In 1927 the first trouble commenced with the development of what I would term the nude strategy. Since that time we have had bombings and burnings right through the years up to 1946—schools, houses, bridges and factories were destroyed.

Mr. Smith (Calgary West): Nude strategy began in Yorkton.

Mr. Herridge: I am talking about nude strategy in British Columbia.

Mr. Stewart (Winnipeg North): Oh, it started long before that.

Mr. Herridge: Shortly after that, in 1946, we had the Sullivan commission, of which we had high hopes, but nothing happened. A great deal of evidence was taken here and there, and then the commission folded up. Since that time all hon. members have read of the recent events—the burning of their own houses, the dynamiting of railroad tracks and the blowing up of bridges, until now we have over 400 in the penitentiary, with the attorney general of the province suggesting there would be many more there if there was space for them. In all it is estimated that these people have caused damage, in the district I represent, totalling over \$1 million to date.

[Mr. Herridge.]

This is a most complicated and unusual question, Mr. Chairman. We have not this situation existing anywhere else in Canada, and I know that it is not easy of solution. This Sons of Freedom problem has caused advertising of our district all over the world. Canadian papers in recent months have been carrying headlines from day to day about the continued burnings and difficulties that have occurred in Kootenay West. Here is a quotation from the *Trail Times* of April 21:

Sons of Freedom confess to guilt. Maintained they have the sanction of supernatural revelation.

Here is one from the Nelson *Daily News* of April 22:

Tot pulled in to nude display; four more Krestova buildings destroyed. Twenty arrests in two days; over 80 in cells here.

And so on and so on.

Then we have even the British press taking notice of these unusual occurrences. In the *Sunday Pictorial*, October 9, 1949, I see a picture under these large black headlines:

Strip tease girls who make a whole nation blush.

Recently I was informed of an article in one of the San Francisco papers, of typical American style and content, stating that a parade of nude Doukhobors down the main street of one of our small towns was led by a gorgeous nude blonde riding a white stallion. You can imagine the advertising, and the, shall I say, exaggeration that goes on in connection with this Sons of Freedom disorder.

The minister is well informed of this situation. The people of my district have sent letters and resolutions to the Minister of Justice and to the attorney general because it has been of serious concern to them for some years and particularly during recent months. I think the opinion of the people in the district is expressed by resolutions from the Trail board of trade, the Nelson board of trade, the West Kootenay and central farmers' institute and the associated boards of trade of eastern British Columbia.

I want to say that I think the people of our district have been most patient with this problem throughout the years. Anyone who has lived as close to it as I have lived during the last twenty-five years will realize that the patience of the people of Kootenay West is a demonstration of their belief in law and order and in making every effort to settle this difficult question according to the principles of law and order. That is the attitude of the people I represent. What is the attitude of the law-abiding Doukhobors? I just want to quote a resolution forwarded to me quite recently. It is as follows:

Resolution of a meeting of a group of Doukhobors, held at Trail, B.C., on the 8th day of June, 1949,