

Communist Activities in Canada

they are to be regarded as public bodies which should be recognized as eminent democratic public bodies, then I suggest the possibility that other members of the public may think that they should be regarded in the same serious manner. And in those cases where it is definitely known that these are merely communist false fronts, then I suggest the wisdom of not giving them added importance by hearing representations that are intended as nothing else but communist propaganda.

This very week a youth gathering is being held in Toronto on Thursday, Friday and Saturday with the declared purpose of discussing peace. Whether he will actually be there or not, it was announced at one time that the red dean was to enlighten them about Russia. These organizations undoubtedly impress many innocent people.

Mr. St. Laurent: Unfortunately.

Mr. Drew: That is an unfortunate and very unhappy feature of these activities. But again we cannot ignore the danger that they will be considered seriously. For instance, here is a circular sent out by the second Canadian peace congress in regard to the meeting being held in Toronto to which I have referred. It is under the heading "The people can win the peace." Everybody is appealed to by the idea of peace and that is the sort of thing which makes appeals of this kind so dangerous and makes the corrosive influence of propaganda of this nature something that we cannot disregard.

Not only is this treachery of a particular form intended to serve Russia by weakening our democracy and by destroying faith in any way possible in our people; it is, as has already been indicated, an anti-Christian force which should be dealt with if only for that reason. No one should be complacent about the fact that there may be only a few thousand Canadian youth who come under the influence of this communist propaganda. If there is any way in our power that we can prevent it, we as the representatives of the Canadian people should take every step within our power to make sure that not a single Canadian youth will have his faith destroyed by these servants of the Kremlin.

There is another aspect of this matter which should be in the minds of members of the house at this particular time. The Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Pearson) leaves at the end of this week. World events are moving fast toward a climax. Peace or a break-down in international diplomacy depends on the conviction in the minds of the thirteen men in the Kremlin that the democracies really mean business.

[Mr. Drew.]

There are different ways in which we can convince them. We cannot convince the people of Russia, because we cannot reach them. Even if the "Voice of America" or any other powerful radio system in the world could carry this message without being jammed by the costly jamming devices erected by the Russian people, there would still be only a limited number of the Russian people that could hear shortwave messages of that kind. The overwhelming majority of the citizens of that country cannot be reached by such means.

The only people we can convince with any results flowing from that conviction are the men in whose hands lies not only the fate of Russia, but to a great extent the fate of the whole world. They will be convinced by evidence of unity on the part of the nations who have signed the Atlantic pact. They will be convinced by strong and firm and definite statements by the heads of the free nations. But I am convinced that there is another argument which will impress them. If those agents in our midst and in other free countries to whom we extend facilities so readily are able to tell them that the democracies really know what communism means and are dealing with it accordingly, it may have a very profound effect upon the thinking of the men in the Kremlin.

If within the next few weeks we in Canada show that in our own domestic activities we intend to deal with this treacherous force, that will have its effect, just as the action in Australia, South Africa, Malaya, India and other parts of the world has had its effect. It is because I believe not only that action in regard to this evil force is long overdue, it is because I believe that this criminal conduct should be dealt with as criminal conduct, and also because I believe that a strong gesture by the elected representatives of the people of Canada may have its effect that I move, seconded by the hon. member for Vancouver-Quadra (Mr. Green):

That all the words after "that" to the end of the question be deleted and the following substituted therefor:

"this house is of the opinion that appropriate legislation should be introduced so that communist and similar activities in Canada may be made an offence punishable under the Criminal Code."

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I do not think there are many Canadians who do not believe that there is ideological warfare going on and that there has been for a number of years a conflict between communism and Christian civilization. I am sure that there are very few Canadians who do not wish to see that war won by Christian civilization. It is