

*The Address—Mr. Chappell*

police will soon catch a few of the FLQ and that the situation will return to normal. I ask you, is there not a gun at the nation's head when it is demanded that convicted criminals be freed and transported to a nation which encourages and trains them? I ask you, how many hostages need be taken, or how many of our police must be diverted to protecting rather than apprehending roles, before we consider freedom to be on the brink?

• (3:40 p.m.)

We must realize these people are not ordinary individuals and ordinary products of our society. Neither are they political prisoners, as they are so often called by the press. A political prisoner is one who does not wish to live under the laws of a given country, and he is punished because he cannot conform. These "political prisoners" deliberately broke our laws, were apprehended under the law, tried and sentenced. They are led by international political gangsters who roam everywhere looking for a vacuum in authority and discipline and take advantage of it under foreign training and foreign support with the purpose of destroying our way of life. Needless to say these people always pick a group name associated with a local cause; thus they gain some sympathy and recruit the misguided and uninformed.

We have been living in an age of change and protest, of new demands and new strengths. Threats and selfish force have entered into protests, often joined by violence and complete disrespect for the rights and dignity of others. Important people in prominent places, both in the field of communications and in elective office, have often unwittingly, and sometimes deliberately, encouraged these people to violence by sympathizing with some seemingly worth-while element of their cause and by giving their acts excessive news coverage. People who commit violent and criminal acts are often given the chance to appear on television to try to justify them, by extolling some cause that they personally wish to espouse. This has tended to make heroes out of them in their own group, and thus has assisted their recruiting.

While protest was descending into violence and our criminal sanctions were being softened—I believe properly so far ordinary individuals—our social values have accepted the philosophy of unrestraint and permissiveness. In this environment these selfish and destructive people have been allowed to flourish, often nurtured by the comfort that they may be accepted as the radical wing of a political philosophy. Their initial success has led them to think that if they act in mobs, and boldly enough, our laws are impotent to deal with them. If caught in crime they simply commit a worse one and demand exemption from penalty for the first.

Refusal to deliver hostages is not enough; we need tougher laws to fit this type of activity. As I said earlier, this is not ordinary crime by ordinary criminals; this is sedition and revolt against law and order. It is in fact a form of warfare. Our police are not sufficient in number to cope with such organized crime, and they are handicapped because of our strict rules which protect the suspected criminal. Our ordinary judicial process is slow,

and wisely so to avoid mistakes. But will it do for the present situation where those who are apprehended could be freed by commission of another crime? We must remember that many of these people already face charges which could lead to life imprisonment if they are caught. As the law stands now, they have nothing to lose from adding kidnapping and murder to their list of crimes.

Should we not amend the Criminal Code, first of all to provide the strictest penalty for those who kidnap people and hold them as hostages, or pirate a plane or vessel, or place bombs where there is a reasonable chance of causing death?

Second, should we not also re-examine, and perhaps widen, the definition of "conspiracy" and "conspirators", so that those who openly support and encourage conspiracies can be charged?

Third, should we not re-examine, and if necessary enlarge, the section of the code dealing with treason and sedition, so that people who commit crimes of theft in order to finance revolutions are properly charged?

Fourth, should we not amend the Criminal Code to provide for speedy trial and appeal procedures so that the final penalty is carried out and attempts to rescue them by committing further crime are thwarted?

Fifth, should we not for a temporary period at least during this emergency, provide for a new type of hearing where people are forced to disclose the names of their fellow conspirators, and enable the police to use all reasonable means in order to apprehend? This would be a bold but I submit effective move, and this House has the authority to make such an amendment.

Sixth, should we not also consider making membership in organizations such as the FLQ a crime in itself? Lastly I suggest that we tighten our immigration laws to forbid entrance to Canada of those who preach the violent overthrow of our system; and I suggest we improve our intelligence in those foreign nations that assist such groups so that we know their plans in advance.

Liberty is precious. The pain and fear of those hostages and their families must be immense. But we must guard against oppression and act within the law. We cannot distort law and order by using their illegal methods—that is to say, by lining people up and shooting them—as many of our constituents have been suggesting to us during the last week end. If we did this then we would destroy that which we seek to preserve—the rule of law.

I do not call for any abandonment of the democratic or judicial process, but rather for proof that democracy can move quickly and toughen its criminal laws in times of emergency in order to save itself. I fear that if we do not show this firmness, use of the innocent hostage will spread like wildfire to other groups. Under fear of mob rule people seek protection at any cost, and we might be stampeded into a dictatorship.

[Mr. Chappell.]