

*Invoking of War Measures Act*

restoring order, but at the same time we have a responsibility to the people and we want to acquit ourselves of this duty to the best of our ability.

And Mr. Ryan's closing paragraph reads as follows:

We regret the choice that was made, for that purpose, of the framework of the War Measures Act, which has a potential scope completely out of proportion to the problem the authorities are now facing. We also regret that action under the War Measures Act should already have been initiated in a spirit and according to methods which invite the worst apprehensions. However, we can but assert anew the right of a democracy to defend itself and its duty to judge harshly those who unjustly jeopardize the freedom and life of their fellow citizens, and to restrain them.

**Mr. Marchand (Langelier):** Mr. Speaker, is the hon. member talking about the FLQ or about the government?

**Mr. Ricard:** Mr. Speaker, I have read some excerpts from an editorial in order to show that there are others besides the opposition members who are wondering about this. If the minister had listened to my speech, it would probably not have been necessary for him to interrupt me once again.

**Mr. Marchand (Langelier):** Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member will allow me, I would like to ask him what he means when he alludes to people who threaten the lives of citizens. Does that concern the members of the government or the FLQ?

**Mr. Ricard:** Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to explain all the article to the minister. If he will read it himself, he will draw his own conclusions, as I did myself.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that the crisis through which we are going will be stopped as quickly as possible. However, I cannot let this opportunity go by without recalling that this uneasiness has very deep roots. If we really want to solve that problem, we will have to grapple with the causes of the uneasiness which is grieving us now.

Nobody is ignorant of the fact that for many years the representatives of the government of the province of Quebec who succeeded each other came here to demand rights and went back home empty-handed. That has bred in the mind of the population insatisfaction and apathy towards the central government. That is one of the causes of the present uneasiness.

I would also like to take this opportunity to appeal to all my English-speaking fellow citizens, both in the House of Commons and outside, so that they make an additional effort in order to understand the aspirations of the people of Quebec.

They do not want any favours. They do not want to be treated like poor relatives. The province of Quebec is only asking for complete respect of its rights and prerogatives.

We, from the province of Quebec, want to be full-fledged Canadians and this is why I plead with my Quebec colleagues so that together we may build a better Canada in which our children will have to live. Unless there is

[Mr. Ricard.]

total understanding and agreement between the components of the Canadian nation, we will continuously be faced with emergencies such as this one. I am confident that my English speaking fellow citizens will also want to do their share for the good of the Canadian people.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

• (8:10 p.m.)

[English]

**Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay West):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to take this opportunity to express my views on the resolution now before the House. Although I come from the province of British Columbia in the extreme west of Canada, I feel we too should speak on the current crisis which affects primarily a province in the eastern part of our nation. I believe I should officially place on record my views and my position on the action taken by the government yesterday when it invoked, by Order in Council, the War Measures Act and in effect suspended the Canadian Constitution, the Bill of Rights and the civil liberties of over 21 million Canadians.

At the outset let me say that I am totally and unrelentingly opposed to the terrorist activities of the FLQ. Their bombings, kidnappings and attempted blackmail of our democratically constituted federal and provincial institutions are methods which are alien and abhorrent to our Canadian way of life. I fully endorse the stand of our federal administration in its refusal to bow to the blackmail demands of the FLQ. I believe no democratic government could long survive if blackmail, threats, bombings and violence became the order of the day. Terrorist activities to achieve social reform cannot be tolerated in Canada. The FLQ terrorists cannot justify their actions on any moral, political or humanitarian grounds, because in our nation we allow them freedom of expression and of organization to plead for all the social changes demanded by them.

I fervently hope that the kidnapped victims, Mr. Cross and Mr. Laporte, will be released to their families unharmed. Any move made by the federal government, apart from submitting to base blackmail, should be pursued with vigour and, I trust, success.

I wish briefly to discuss the action taken by the federal government yesterday when it invoked the War Measures Act to meet the crisis in the province of Quebec. I realize the tenseness and seriousness of the situation in that province, and particularly in the city of Montreal. I recognize the need for immediate and substantial assistance to meet the crisis there. But in my frank opinion the suspension of the constitutional rights of 21 million Canadians was not the manner in which this crisis should have been handled. It is too late for us to have a voice as to whether the War Measures Act should have been invoked or not, because it is already here. It became law by Order in Council at 4 a.m. yesterday. It did not have the consent of the elected members of this House.

It is rather shocking for one to realize that measures of this nature can be brought in by Order in Council. One