

protecting the citizens in general, and more especially respectable persons like the hon. Pierre Laporte, from falling into the hands of kidnappers, and of bringing an end to any panic within the population.

[English]

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order. It being one o'clock I do now leave the Chair to resume the same at two o'clock this afternoon.

At one o'clock the House took recess.

#### AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

[Translation]

**Mr. Laflamme:** Mr. Speaker, at the time of adjournment, I was explaining certain issues underlying current events in Quebec, outlining to the House the significant influence of the mass media, particularly since the advent of television.

The great influence of the mass media and the misuse of the freedom of speech have lead a number of extremists to commit assault and terrorism. Those very people who want to turn our society into a "society with more freedom", deprive at the same time of their basic liberty the citizens of the country, especially Quebecers. It is not a question of establishing now who, in the past, could have been responsible for these actions and for the present situation. Rather, I think that action was imperative.

For years, civil authority has been jeered at in all structures of society, in Quebec as well as in the entire country.

By the information media, especially in Quebec, there is also "the challenge of authority constituted in the schools". And the entire present generation, which benefits from greater access to schools, is being indoctrinated by these revolutionaries who repeat emulously that our constitution is bad and should be completely remodelled.

Moreover if one would analyse the average age of alleged FLQ members one would see that they are 25 or less.

As these subversive activities were being planned drugs were distributed among young people. There is no city in Canada right now where youngsters of 16 or 17 have not impaired their health owing to uncontrolled use of drugs. Naturally, this created an atmosphere favourable to subversive action.

That is why, every time I hear members of the opposition say that the government should have acted and taken measures sooner, I contend that most of them would have been the first to say then that the government was reacting too quickly and was trying to exercise too strongly the powers it had under the law.

In my opinion, the government could not face the fact that in a society which had as much freedom as we have,

#### Invoking of War Measures Act

subversive elements were fostering a revolution to establish a dictatorship such as the ones that exist in Cuba or other countries which do not have anything like the basic freedoms we enjoy in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, before recess I was saying that on television yesterday the leader of Parti Québécois Mr. René Lévesque had suggested a federal-provincial debate on the present situation, tragic and serious as it is. In this I submit he went against the opinion of the members of his own party sitting in the National Assembly where Premier Bourassa received the unanimous support of all members to ask the federal government for armed intervention in order to assist the police forces.

Mr. Speaker, it was said time and again that the present government action is one of assistance to police forces. I do not see how we can reproach the government for having acted so swiftly and I would even say so efficiently. Hundreds of lives have thus been spared by the armed forces and the police in resorting to arrests of a preventive nature. Prompt action was required.

In fact, in Hull, a young girl was kidnapped and held captive until four o'clock this morning. She was subjected to all kinds of tortures, then she was released only so that she could warn the Prime Minister that, unless a stop was put to the use of the army to fight the FLQ, children would be the next victims. This was a message that the Prime Minister was to give, with assurance, on the radio.

That is what terrorists are doing in our country. The time had come to use against criminals, who want to spread panic and terror by threatening the lives of individuals, every measure that a structured society like ours has at its disposal.

A society such as ours does not have the right to give in to blackmail, even though young people are used to seeing such tense situations unfolding on the screen.

If the Quebec or Ottawa government had yielded to that outrageous blackmail, a lot of young people would have witnessed that blackmail and that terrorism. It is fortunate that Quebec had at its head a young premier who was wise and forceful and who acted with insight and in co-operation with the government of his country; he was thus able to keep the situation under control and to tell those people, once and for all, that terrorism has no place in Canada and that the agitators will have either to die or to change their minds.

Those are, Mr. Speaker, the preventive measures that the House should adopt unanimously. It will still be time later on to discuss the subtle technicalities aimed at preventing any kind of subversive activity in Canada.

• (2:10 p.m.)

[English]

**Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway):** I will not be here on Monday when the vote is taken. For this reason, I wish to make my stand perfectly clear. Everyone should stand and be counted on this issue, but the