

Invoking of War Measures Act

that the Canadian population, and particularly that of Quebec, has been waiting for.

The people want a progressive Canada and, most of all, the unmasking of all subversive organizations in Quebec as well as their elimination.

In view of the great number of letters and messages that I have been receiving from my constituents for a long time now but particularly today, I must at least mention one fact with regard to the CBC. All the people who have contacted me have stated that the CBC was very partial in giving free publicity to the conspirators and revolutionaries who think they are with it. In fact, to use some of their favorite expressions, the time has come to bring the CBC into line and to put an end to its partisan system of information which shows total disregard for our society.

We must first grant as much authority as possible to our police force. Then the government of the province of Quebec and the government of Canada should shoulder their full responsibilities in order to neutralize these parallel powers.

What has been decided upon during the night and what we are now debating, that is the War Measures Act, is what the people want in order to live in peace and see the troublemakers brought to heel.

Like my fellow-citizens, if I had had any illusions left, I would have lost them today upon hearing some opposition spokesmen. Responsible citizens believed, I am sure, that, on such a day as this, hon. members, because of the very serious circumstances, should have been of one mind to ensure peace and order in Canada. One should not seek order as such but one should seek freedom. However, without order, there can be no freedom. Our aim, it may be stated, is freedom within order.

For his part, the hon. member for Témiscamingue (Mr. Caouette), leader of the Ralliement créditiste, deserves our congratulations.

I do not want to become a flatterer but in fact he behaved as a convinced and earnest citizen of Quebec and we can say that he did us proud.

Some hon. Members: As always.

Mr. LeBlanc (Rimouski): As far as the hon. members for the New Democratic Party are concerned, several people including myself, after reading the newspapers and listening to the news tonight, at least in eastern Canada, will certainly be disappointed and those who still had any illusions will lose them.

In my opinion, through the voice of its leader, the New Democratic Party has showed itself in an unfavourable light. The first spokesman for the New Democratic Party said, for instance, that the government overreacted to a critical situation. We know that our voters do not share this opinion at all.

At a time where we should try to keep cool, not to lose our heads in order to consider things just as they are, the spokesmen for the New Democratic Party attempted to arouse passion in a true election speech.

[Mr. LeBlanc (Rimouski).]

I was reading recently—as I said not too long ago—that statesmen—and the leader of the New Democratic Party should certainly be considered as such—should think less of the next election and more of the future of their country. If we consider the stand taken by the leader of the New Democratic Party, we find that he did not behave today as a statesman but as a politician or rather a “petty politician”. He was even bold enough to talk about ownership and, in my opinion, the leader of this party and his group do not show too much respect for private ownership. He contradicted himself.

You should not condemn a man for his ideas, he said. This is a truism because a man's ideas are intangible. If somebody voices seditious ideas on television, I do not know what they are if they are not acts.

He went so far as claiming that had he been in the shoes of the FLQ leaders, and should that organization take office, he would have first gotten rid of the elected representative he referred to this afternoon.

What is his approach to freedom? The fight against air, water and land pollution are among today's topics. One of my friends talked recently about the pollution of brains and minds.

As we often forget the true sciences of man in all our activities, it would be perhaps advisable to speak here of pollution of the mind, and, from what we have noted today, if there is a nucleus of mind polluters here in Canada, I think that it is to be found among the members of the New Democratic Party which has changed its name several times since its foundation.

As far as the Leader of the Official Opposition is concerned, he too has been disappointing. His colleagues from Quebec have been somewhat saddened by his attitude, because we know that, whatever decision is taken, the Quebecers who are concerned for their freedom wish to see a statesman such as the Leader of the Official Opposition take a clear-cut position.

His speech today was vague. He has referred to several things without taking any stand.

I think that my friends from the constituency of Rimouski who had placed their confidence in the hon. leader of the opposition a couple of years ago would be disappointed to see his comportment today. Electors from the riding of Rimouski and Quebecers in general want the government to take a positive and concrete view in these painful hours. They know that some Quebecers have tried to turn to their advantage the problems of the unemployed, of other workers and of low-wage earners. We are aware of those problems and so is the government, but we all want, with the government to work honestly and actively at their solution without destroying anything. They note that some of these revolutionists, these adventurers, who have nothing to lose because they were never able to earn anything, endeavoured to corrupt our youth before they could satisfy their thirst for power only. They made false representations to our workers, making them believe that the government would give them everything, all cooked on a silver platter.

Same thing for our farmers: their leaders delude them in the same manner as union leaders delude workers and