

Public Order Act, 1970

the symptoms. I am proud, as a member of this House, that the expressions of steadfastness, of sadness and of questioning which have been heard in this chamber during the past two weeks have largely reflected the attitude of most Canadians. The vote recorded on October 19 makes it clear how responsive and basically reflective of public opinion is Parliament—as it should be.

But, Mr. Speaker, there have been a few other voices as well. Not confident voices. Not sad voices—hysterical voices, shrieking voices. We have heard them in this House, we heard them from Winnipeg, we heard them from Toronto. They said that the government acted out of emotion. They said this, and they shouted it emotionally. They said that the government acted for base political purposes. That is what they said, and they shouted that, again, emotionally. These voices, I submit to Your Honour, are yelling for their political lives.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): I say to Your Honour that this shrillness is a hollow shrillness and that their thesis is preposterous. They say the government of Canada was wrong, the government of Quebec was wrong, the government of Montreal was wrong, that 190 members of this House were wrong and that every member of this House, of whatever party, elected from a Quebec constituency was wrong. They say we all overreacted.

Mr. Peters: Is this not possible?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): I leave it to Your Honour and to this House to decide which party overreacted and which parties have been acting responsibly.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Fortunately, the hysteria, the forgetfulness—the forgetfulness of the facts that brought the train of events into motion—and the attribution of base political motives by these persons are not widespread nor have they the agreement of two many people. They did not even convince the Premier of Manitoba on Sunday and they certainly will not convince the millions of Canadians and people everywhere who have applauded Canada for standing up against terrorism and making terror a less credible device in this country.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, to say, as these gentlemen have done, that the proclamation of the War Measures Act amounted to a suspension of all civil liberties in this country, as the leader of the NDP (Mr. Douglas) has said, is just not true. He talked of censorship, he talked of deportation, he talked of the wide powers of expropriation, he recited all the potential powers in the War Measures Act as if they had all been brought into force. Yet he ignored the fact that only the regulations have the force of law. He and the hon. member for York South (Mr. Lewis) talked of the totalitarian powers invoked by the government. By describing the potential in the War Measures Act instead of directing criticism, which might have been construc-

[Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton).]

tive, to the regulations that alone have the force of law, they were misleading the Canadian people and I suggest to Your Honour they were being intellectually dishonest.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): We have all read the reports of what went on in Winnipeg. The leader of the NDP drew a parallel between the implementation of the War Measures Act in Canada and the rise of the Nazis in Germany.

Some hon. Members: Shame!

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): I do not know what interpretation to place on that parallel. I shall place as charitable an interpretation as I can on it. Perhaps he was comparing the terrorist tactics of the FLQ with the terrorist tactics of the Nazis in the thirties. But one thing is sure—history has recorded what happened to the Weimar republic. That republic, that democracy, did not know how to protect itself. I suggest that the Canadian government does know how to protect the people of Canada and we do know how to protect democracy in Canada.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): The people of Canada understand and the people of Canada will remember.

Mr. Peters: Oh, shut up.

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): This government, Mr. Speaker, accepts responsibility for what it has done. I submit to the House that to have refused a request from the government of Quebec, in the terms in which it was made and under the circumstances in which it was made, would have been gross irresponsibility. The action of the federal government was in response to written requests from the government of Quebec and the administration in Montreal. The army is deployed in Quebec because Quebec called for the army. Increased powers of apprehension and investigation are operating in Quebec because Quebec called on the federal government to equip it with these extra powers to deal with the FLQ. The three governments, federal, provincial and municipal, were acting in concert, acting within the respective mandates given to them under the Constitution by the people who elected them, and acting properly within the contours of a federal state.

This government has the confidence, and I believe in the last two weeks has enhanced the confidence it enjoys, of the Canadian people. The Premier of Quebec and his government recently received an overwhelming mandate from the people of Quebec. The mayor of Montreal won an overwhelming victory at the polls a week or so ago. To say, as the hon. member for York South has said, that this government acted for political motives is an insult not only to the members of this House but to the people of Montreal, the people of Quebec and the people of Canada.

Some hon. members may feel that the circumstances did not warrant that request from Quebec or that