

experienced members who have had the responsibility of power and have not in the past abused that power to any great extent. These men can be trusted by every Canadian. These men could sit with the government, behind closed doors if necessary, and give the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) the benefit of the experience and wisdom they have gained over the years.

I suggest that a committee of this House be struck, composed of all Privy Councillors. That committee should sit as the custodian of our freedom and should ensure that the War Measures Act is used effectively, without abuse in fact or in spirit. It is not good enough that justice be done. The people of Canada should, and have the right to know that it is being done, how it is being done and when it is being done, so long as this knowledge does not prejudice the security of Canada. I am prepared to support the appointment of such a committee for this limited purpose. This is not a partisan problem. I do not intend moving a motion, but I should like every member of the House to think about my suggestion. Perhaps we should extend to Mr. Caouette the right to sit on that committee because he is the leader of a very large section of the population although his party does not have many members in this House. We would then have Mr. Flemming, a former Premier of New Brunswick—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I hesitate to interrupt the hon. member when he is making such an interesting speech, but I am wondering whether he might not identify members by their constituencies. I think this is a very valuable practice, and I would not think it is in order to make exceptions even for the commendable valid purpose the hon. member has in mind.

**Mr. Bigg:** I thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am sorry that my memory is not good enough to remember all the members by their constituencies. I will leave it at that: the members of the privy council are well known to the House and hon. members will realize who I mean. If this suggestion is adopted there will be no difficulty in identifying those persons whom I suggest be appointed to such a committee of the House.

My second suggestion is perhaps minor if the first one is adopted. The War Measures Act has been put into effect until the end of April, 1971. Perhaps it should be reconsidered by the government and by this House month by month so that the people of Canada would know whether we, their elected representatives, are in favour of everything that is being done. I am sure the government will have the unanimous support of the House as long as the committee I suggested is operating as a committee of surveillance in respect of our rights and freedoms.

My third suggestion is that instead of just talking, we should take active steps to see that the security of Canada is enhanced internationally, nationally and locally. By that I mean we should take a very good look at our foreign policy and our immigration policy. We should also take a good look at our commitments to NATO.

#### *Invoking of War Measures Act*

These three matters are tied in with external security, without which internal security is a joke.

We should as soon as possible call upon all the young men in Canada, and in some cases anyone under the age of 70 who is physically fit and wants to serve the country in whatever way he is needed. They might be invited to volunteer for service during emergencies such as the one which now exists. Members like myself who are veterans of the mounted police could make themselves available on very short notice for point duty. If they are too old to go out on the beat, ride a motorcycle or bear arms, they could relieve the more active young members for that kind of work while they handle the keys to the cells and perform administrative functions of one sort or another. We should also take a good look at the manpower situation in our armed forces. It has taken a shock like this—a kind of baby Pearl Harbour, if you like—to remind us that we are probably incapable of defending Anticosti Island, let alone the largest coastline in the world and about 3,500 miles of border.

If we are to accomplish these things there must be no talk of partisanship. We must accept the responsibility of dealing with this little spot-fire in Quebec and seeing that it is put out. Anyone who has ever fought a fire, particularly in dry bush, knows how dangerous a spot-fire can be. Only by putting out little spot-fires can you avoid losing a whole territory. We can act firmly now. Nothing will frighten the enemies of Canada more than the knowledge that 265 members of this House put their lives, property and loyalty 100 per cent behind the government.

If the government want this kind of co-operation and loyalty—and I am sure they do—they too must drop any suggestion of partisanship. If we call this non-partisan committee together, it will be seized with the responsibility of securing our borders and securing peace and good will within the country. It will be responsible for making sure the people of Canada not only have this security but know that they have it, how they get it and why they are getting it.

This motion is not spelled out in black and white. I wish I could vote for it in its entirety, but I have reservations. I should like the government to at least consider these three suggestions. If they undertook to consider them, I could perhaps in some way accept the War Measures Act. When there are loopholes in respect of these very great and unnatural powers in peacetime, it is our duty to adopt whatever safeguards we can.

• (9:30 p.m.)

It is not in the nature of politics to pat your political opponents on the back. It is our job to criticize. In spite of the fact that tempers perhaps have flared a little, I think this debate so far has been mostly constructive. Members in this House with whom I have not agreed on other matters throughout the years have stood up and, I am proud to say, have put to one side their personal views concerning how Canada can best be run within our democratic framework. I detect a great unanimity about the fact that we want to restore law and order in our