

Richard Cross free, does it mean that these failures are due to our legislation? I do not think so. They are instead the result of the state of panic created by the governments who, by their inaction and their weakness, allowed our radio stations to alarm the people at any time, and thus to give the FLQ all the publicity it could need to keep this tension alive.

These failures and this weakness of the government are also due to our lack of experience in this new type of warfare, namely, the use of violence and force to overthrow the established government.

I believe that, in these circumstances, the police and armed forces, in spite of the difficulty of their task, are doing a good job. Of course, some problems have come up and there has been abuse of power in some cases, but I think that the police are not to be blamed for that but rather the legislation under which they acted, the War Measures Act. And the experience of the first three weeks made the people realize how far such abuse might go, abuse due to poorly adapted legislation, imprecise, provoking and even in some regards, certainly disrespectful of the basic rights of the human being. Therefore, we are in great need of new legislation on emergency powers, a permanent statute not intended solely to save face as it is the case with Bill C-181.

This new legislation on emergency powers which I call for like many other hon. members, should allow the cabinet to order emergency measures when, for example, transport and public services are disorganized, when the supply of commodities is endangered, when strikes jeopardize the national economy of a province or the efficiency of public services or when the lawful authority is seriously threatened by movements or associations advocating violence or force as a tool.

It is abnormal that unlike many other countries Canada should be without permanent legislation. Here we wait for blows to fall before taking action, instead of anticipating them. Is not leadership far sightedness?

Permanent legislation is and will always be a superficial solution to a crisis. Legislation can only control a situation on the outside but inwardly anger may continue to increase to the point of degenerating into terrorism.

Therefore, we must try mainly to restore order in our society, not only by voting a modern and permanent public order act but also by tackling fundamental problems which cause, have caused or will cause in future such outbursts of violence and terrorism.

When considering the continuing downgrading of the economic situation in Quebec, one can realize that it is but the beginning of our troubles unless we tackle the problems of poverty, social injustice, unemployment, slums, employment of our youth and the many questions arising from the basic problem: the economic situation.

Mr. Speaker, the leaders of Social Credit and their followers have been saying, for decades now, that all problems of a social or human nature had often one common origin, the economic problem.

Public Order Act, 1970

Without trying to sound ominous, the Cr ditistes had foreseen the crisis which recently jolted not only Quebec but the whole of Canada.

How many times did we say that some day passions would grow so exasperated that the situation would become explosive unless we tried forthwith to put some order in our economic system. When so speaking, the Ralliement cr ditiste members were right once again and we hope that today, the government will hear our voice, the voice of the people who are fed up with promises of a "just society" and of "100,000 jobs" and who have lost any hope to see these promises ever materialize.

The economic situation in Quebec is far from satisfying and the Canadians, particularly the Quebecers, are desperate at the incompetence and inaction of this government. In view of the importance of this matter, let me describe for a few seconds the economic situation of both the Quebecers and the Canadians in general.

This winter, a 14 per cent unemployment rate is forecast in the Maritimes, a 13 per cent unemployment rate in Quebec while, for Ontario, this rate will reach only 7 per cent. For the last 15 years, the Quebec unemployment rate has always been from 20 to 40 per cent higher than the average unemployment rate in the whole country.

But what is most alarming, Mr. Speaker, is that in 1969 out of the 158,000 unemployed in Quebec, 65,000 or 42 per cent were under 25. Those young people who had been promised since 1960 a society of happiness, security and freedom through stable employment studied long and hard so as to be prepared for the task the society was offering them. But it turns out that these were nothing but empty promises by small-time politicians and even with their diplomas, the young despair of ever being able to do something with their hands and their education, and of ever being able to get a job.

Those young people—and I want to be their spokesman—are bitterly disappointed and most of them do not believe any more in Santa Claus Trudeau or Santa Claus Bourassa. The "just society" and the "100,000 jobs" are neither for today nor for tomorrow.

It is a shame to see that 42 per cent of the unemployed in Quebec are less than 25 and feel useless and rejected by society and it is easy to understand that their frustration could easily turn into revolt.

I therefore ask myself who is responsible, in the end, for the troubles which have shaken Canada, if it is not society itself, and particularly its leaders who have tolerated and created that situation in its entirety, through their inaction. That is fundamental and deep cause, and whatever the content of the emergency legislation may be, it will solve the problem only temporarily and very superficially. The time has come for an economic reform in depth.

It might be said that people who live off governments, who wait for whatever is given to them, are bound in greater number in Quebec, especially if one takes into