

The Cross and Laporte families can be sure of our deep-felt sympathy.

Such a chaos cannot last much longer in the province of Quebec. The authorities are responsible for restoring law and order. It is up to the municipal, provincial and federal authorities to enforce the law.

The Right Hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) told us that at the request of the authorities of the city of Montreal and of the province of Quebec, assistance had been given to remedy a situation which threatened the lives of the citizens.

Early Thursday morning if I remember correctly—

An hon. Member: Friday morning—

Mr. Ricard: —Friday, after consultations with his cabinet, the Prime Minister decided to apply the war measures. From his own admission, there are in these measures many more powers than needed by the government to deal with this situation.

We are asked to approve this measure and the government side blames us for not seeing things in exactly the same way as they do. It is the duty of the members of the opposition to find out what they are asked to do, in the best interest of the population of Canada and, in particular, of the province of Quebec and of Montreal.

Mr. Speaker, considering the position occupied in the House by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield). I would have thought that he could have been given additional information by the Prime Minister. However, I am inclined to think that whatever additional information the Leader of the Opposition may have received, it was of trifling importance as compared to what we have in our possession.

Apparently, the right hon. Prime Minister has decided that the Leader of the Opposition should get all the information he needs from the newspapers rather than to trust him with information which in circumstances as serious as the ones we are now living would have been useful not merely to the leader of the opposition himself but also to all the members of the opposition and hence to the entire nation.

Mr. Speaker, I said it was our privilege and our right to criticize the government and to see that the measures it proposes are the best. Then we are not the only ones to wonder about the "full power" which the liberal government is now asking.

I have in hand an editorial from Mr. Claude Ryan of *Le Devoir*, who surely may be considered as an unprejudiced man, as—

An hon. Member: You are saying it.

Mr. Ricard: The Minister of Regional Economic Expansion (Mr. Marchand) has always that benevolence of his. I think he admitted that while he was talking to union members in order to incite them to strike. I think that he is used to it and cannot change. He just told me that I did

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not know what I was saying. He once told me: You are not telling the truth and he has a peculiar way—

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): —to say stupidly stupid things.

Mr. Ricard: —of making himself known.

He misused his rights when he was making speeches to the workers to stir them against their bosses.

Mr. Boulanger: Those are Ricard-style lies. This is you to a T. You are preparing your election, the same as when you are doing door-to-door canvassing.

Mr. Ricard: Mr. Speaker, the interjection of the hon. member for Mercier gives us an idea of the kind of freedom and democracy these people want to give us. I listened to all the speeches made in this House and I did not interrupt anybody. I listened to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion (Mr. Marchand) as well as as to the hon. member for Saint-Jacques (Mr. Guilbault).

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): We listen to you too.

Mr. Ricard: In short, I have listened religiously to all those who spoke on this subject because it is only polite to do so. I shall ask for the same politeness. I know that it might be asking a lot from the hon. member for Mercier; I believe that courtesy is beyond his reach and that he would not even recognize it if he met it.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Order, please. I should like first to remind hon. members that the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe has the floor. As for him, I would remind him that he must address himself to the Chair.

Mr. Ricard: Mr. Speaker I am under the impression that this is what I was doing.

In any event, to return to Mr. Ryan's editorial, I should like to quote this passage:

Faced with an unprecedented situation that no similar government in the Atlantic world has had to face experienced yet, the government of Mr. Bourassa had to demonstrate that it has the highest respect for life. It had also to find a formula that would constitute a first step towards the rehabilitation in the democratic process of elements temporarily outside it where methods of action are concerned, but whose political and social convictions match those of thousands of their fellow-citizens.

This double challenge was very exacting. It forced the government not to yield to pressures requesting a more impressive deployment of strength. It forced it to put considerations of pride and power in second place. It forced it to give a beginning of recognition to a movement whose objectives one may dispute and of whose methods one may disapprove, but that exist nonetheless. It was a hard, difficult and thankless approach. It was nevertheless the most generous and, in the long term, the most positive.

We are not alone in questioning what is being asked of us. We are, I hope, all in favour of the return to order. We will certainly support any measure for the purpose of