

National Security Measures

apprehended insurrection. In connection with that very serious matter compare the statements of the Minister of Justice and the Prime Minister. Answering the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) on October 23, 1970, as reported at page 511 of *Hansard*, the Prime Minister said:

Mr. Speaker, what I said was that the facts that I have recited—

He meant the facts respecting the two letters.

—and which are known to the House were sufficient for us to take the steps we did. I am not saying that beyond that there are not other facts which may or may not be known to the public. It is a matter that will be left to the police, as far as I am concerned. I say that the facts that are known to the House are the facts on which we acted, and it is on that that we stand.

How can we reconcile what those two witnesses, the Minister of Justice and the Prime Minister, have said before this distinguished and illustrious committee. How can their statements stand? One man says that there is nothing more to be known, and the other one has said or suggested that something has been concealed. I will tell you what the government has been doing. It has been sweeping the whole subject under the rug and trying to get out of political danger at the same time. They were sweeping the whole situation under the carpet and trying to keep their political favour at the same time. In answer to a question by the hon. member for York South (Mr. Lewis) on October 26, 1970, the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) said, as recorded at page 547 of *Hansard*:

● (4:20 p.m.)

First, we had from the authorities of the province of Quebec and of the city of Montreal a clear statement that they apprehended insurrection. Second, there had been the abduction of two very important citizens in the province of Quebec, with an intention to murder them if the government did not give in to ransom. The third fact was circumstantial, if you wish, that approximately two tons of dynamite had been stolen in the province of Quebec this year, as well as a sizeable number of small arms and other ammunition. Also, there was a state of confusion and threats of violence in the province of Quebec. We decided to act on these facts as we interpreted them, and on this the government will stand or fall.

As recorded at page 547 of *Hansard*, the Prime Minister said the government would stand or fall on those facts. Everything was confined to one package. However, the Minister of Justice said there was something which the people would not be told. Unless that "something" is made known to the committee, we may be wasting our time. What the Prime Minister said must be compared with what was said by the Minister of Justice.

The Minister of Justice, waxing eloquent as usual, said in a confessional way "Some day we will tell the Canadian people the real truth and they will have to judge accordingly, but I will have left this office by this time". No wonder the Minister of Justice wanted to resign at one point. We need the truth now to make decisions for the future.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Woolliams: How can we move into the future without knowing what kind of a house we are going to build or what kind of a foundation we will have? The Prime Minister denied over and over again, as found

[Mr. Woolliams.]

on pages 591 to 654 of *Hansard*, that the War Measures Act was implemented because there was a suggestion that a group of people were prepared to set up an alternative government to that which existed in Quebec. He has now changed his tune and verse. If you can do that, you are a good musician and politician.

When pressed by the leader of the New Democratic Party, as recorded at page 654 of *Hansard*, the Prime Minister was asked:

Mr. Speaker, I wish to address this question to the right hon. Prime Minister. I appreciate that the War Measures Act is worded in such a way that the mere declaration by the government that there is an apprehended insurrection makes it so, but I want to ask the Prime Minister whether the information he has given us is all the information on which he acted or did he act on any other information which he has not disclosed to us?

The Prime Minister answered in his usual contemptible way. He said:

Mr. Speaker, I acted on the information that I have been accumulating since I was three years old.

That was the answer of the Prime Minister. Did that mean he knew something about all this? I do not know what it means. Compare the following statements with those of the Prime Minister and the Minister of Justice. The Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Chrétien), speaking in the city of Montreal on October 28 last, said, and I quote from page 685 of *Hansard*:

A lot of information we have on hand comes from informants, some of them highly placed. It would endanger their situation as well.

We have good and sufficient reasons for invoking the War Measures Act. There are other reasons as well, and we will probably never be able to make them public.

The Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development gave a new answer. Unlike the Minister of Justice, he is going to keep his reasons secret. The Prime Minister said that all the information was laid before the House. Is the Prime Minister asking us to believe that his Minister of Justice and Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development have secret information which he does not have? Of course not. What are the reasons? As recorded at page 212 of *Hansard*, the Minister of Justice said and I quote:

As I said earlier, this has to be a question of judgment based on the information available to members of the cabinet. Needless to say, some of that information, because of the current state of affairs, is not information that necessarily can be made public.

As recorded at page 215, the Minister of Justice said:

It is my hope that some day the full details of the intelligence upon which the government acted can be made public,—

What is this information? We can only get this information by calling witnesses. That is the only way. We want the Prime Minister, the Minister of Justice, the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Mr. Saulnier and, above all, we want the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion (Mr. Marchand) because he shed new light on the subject. He said there were 3,000 known FLQ members in Quebec.