

*Invoking of War Measures Act*

country, could profit from the fact that all the forces were busy in Quebec by taking violent action in some other part of the country?

**Mr. Thompson:** I respect the question and the questioner, who is a good friend of mine, but I do not accept the validity of his argument. If I were playing football today and I cracked my shinbone and drastic action had to be taken such as surgery to correct the injury, need I bind up my other leg and arms as well? I do not think so. There is such an accident or unfortunate situation in one part of the country, that requires this kind of action but people who live there because of a danger that does not exist?

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

• (12:50 p.m.)

*[Translation]*

**Mr. Ovide Laflamme (Monimorency):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to participate in this interesting debate which is drawing the attention of a great many Canadians, even though it is meant primarily to give members an opportunity to express their opinion on the measures adopted by the government to meet the present state of emergency in Quebec.

Mr. Speaker, when we listen to the speeches of opposition members, we wonder about the purpose of this debate. They say: The government could not act otherwise under the circumstances but assumed powers that are too extensive.

Mr. Speaker, when a state of emergency has to be dealt with, one is not justified in criticizing the government for taking too many precautions in order to regain control over a situation which is deteriorating from day to day.

But, as this debate permits the exchange of some views, I wish to call attention to the fact that the government's decision was made following a request from the Quebec provincial authorities, with the unanimous approval of the National Assembly, that of the executive Council of the City of Montreal, which represents close to one-third of the population of the province of Quebec, and that, I am sure, of almost the whole of the Quebec population. This was an urgent request and, in my view, the government acted wisely and speedily. The government acted so promptly that, in a few hours, throughout the province all those who advocate the use of subversive means to overthrow the established order were arrested and are now detained.

Mr. Speaker, who is responsible for such a situation? The matter can be discussed for hours and attempts made to find out causes, but this would only serve to provide us with guidelines for the future. But there is a point which it is important to consider for a few minutes and upon which many hon. members have insisted, that is the great influence of the mass media on the population.

[Mr. Prud'homme.]

The generation that is challenging the established order was born with the media, especially television. That generation has greatly abused freedom of speech and is guilty also of many other excesses. It is obvious that the great impact of the mass media has incited people unable to control themselves perhaps because they enjoy too much freedom to use subversive means.

Last Sunday, the premier of Quebec channelled the thoughts of all Canadians when he said that the responsibility for protecting order and justice rests with the competent authorities, even though the lives of two citizens—one British diplomat and the hon. Pierre Laporte, provincial member for Longueuil, a friend of mine who, I am sure, is mentally and morally fit to take it—are at stake. I hope, in the interest of the province of Quebec and of Canada, that they will be released safe and sound.

The Parti Québécois, as it was said earlier, is not directly concerned. One thing remains sure, however, and this is why some confusion may exist. The objectives sought by the FLQ and the Parti Québécois are identical; only the means to reach them differ. The FLQ wants to upset the established order, destroy the country through violence and force. As for the Parti Québécois, while challenging the minds and attempting to destroy the country in the minds of the people, especially, in the minds of the young people of Quebec, wants to subvert the established order by advocating the separation of Quebec through democratic means, but it does it through excesses of language and the "rape" of young people's minds, as it has already been said in the House.

And during the few years when we have witnessed the rise of separatism and heard these inflammatory flights of oratory, hot-headed young people were setting themselves a sort of aim which was not a real one, that is the establishment of a Quebec state that, alone, would be able to settle all problems. This theory has been idealized on the one hand and on the other hand subversive minds, people unable to bear the wealth of freedom which we enjoy both at the provincial level and at the national level, have swung into action. Now, we are witnessing a series of bombings. Time has passed and, for a while, the bombings in Quebec may have answered the purpose of certain people, because they contributed to the instability of the economy. While industries were being established outside the province, these people would say: "Bombings in Quebec are not such a bad thing after all as we can see industries being set up in other provinces".

The provincial elections held on April 29 had disappointing results for Mr. René Levesque, leader of the Parti Québécois. Last night on the publicly owned TV network, acting like the crow that dropped its prey, he tried to convince his viewers that this debate is tantamount to a federal-provincial crisis. He claimed that the government of the province of Quebec had ceased to exist. In my opinion, this is cheap politics on his part at a time when the National Assembly where some of his party members are sitting was unanimously begging the federal government to put into effect the measures which are now known to us, i.e. the intervention of the army to help out the police forces which for several months now have had more than they could handle in the way of