

member mentioned earlier, that the FLQ crisis somewhat scared Quebec authorities and led them to amend the Explosives Act.

● (2110)

I believe that, for a good control, first if you want—It is not enough to say that you pass a legislation, it has to be respected, and I say “well respected”. A reform has been initiated in my area. I think it had been realized that the regulations imposed had been disregarded and there is little care, I believe, about those things now. I do not know if it is because the act is not stringent enough, but it is probably for that reason that this bill is being introduced to make it even more stringent. If you do not have competent men to implement that legislation, it will be more or less void.

I am thinking of those who are responsible for explosives. The minister is talking about the premises in which the explosives will be stored, that is magazines. In our area we already started to establish a magazine according to government standards and under the supervision of the federal police, and I think the commerce of dynamite and all explosives throughout Canada should be kept out of stores, and each region should have its magazine and the owner of that magazine, the manager should have a degree in explosives. That is most important.

If you let anyone have a magazine, anyone who knows nothing about explosives, if you let him have a magazine just because he has enough money to build it, to establish it, you will miss the target. We have people throughout Canada with degrees in explosives. They are the people who should be responsible for those magazines. They may not often have the funds to establish those magazines. It is the government's duty to help those people who are ready to co-operate, but let them not be asked to assume everything, to assume establishment costs, because the government requires 100 per cent protection. I am glad that we are dealing with this bill so that the attention of the minister can be drawn to that question. Magazine managers are required to do a lot of things, but the government never takes a step, never lends one dollar to try and help them have 100 per cent safe premises, for we know that magazine owners have to deliver dynamite to working sites, and should never leave near the building sites the remaining explosives, but should bring back to protected magazines the unused explosives every night. And I believe it is only at that condition that no dynamite stick, no explosive will be left astray, and that they will all be stored in safe places, that we will have people respect that bill which we will pass in a few days.

If we do not take the means to make people respect the legislation, we shall pass a law which will have no result. And I believe that we must first of all pay attention to marketing and transport because today, for someone who owns a powder magazine and wants to transport dynamite, the requirements are very strict. I know something about this, because I worked with those responsible for the powder magazine in our area. The authorities are very strict, and rightly so, but when the man responsible for the powder magazine has cancelled—if I may use this word—has cancelled boxes of dynamite, these authorities should not allow these boxes to be placed on the black market when the man qualified to do so has decided that they

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were unusable, that they must be burned and rejected, when they can be sold in little political side-jobs.

This is not the way to make people respect the law. I believe that when a group or a man is given some responsibilities, it is the duty of the department to help him because the department is the supreme authority in this matter and it must help him when things like this happen. I remember that letters were written on the subject to two or three places, but the real culprit was not found; everything was hidden.

As concerns explosives, we must act directly and in full daylight to put a stop to little political games and plots with such dangerous arms. I believe that it is only if we do this, if we take all necessary safety measures concerning storage, transport and sales of explosives, that we shall start to live a bit more safely, and I believe that everyone will be glad about it.

Once again, I congratulate the sponsor of this bill and give him my assurance that we support the bill and are happy that it was introduced.

● (2120)

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Madam Speaker, I would like to add just a few relevant considerations to what my colleague for Roberval has just said.

During my life, I had to use explosives very often. At that time, they were called “dynamiters”—I do not know if it is still the word used today. I was then a professional dynamiter for a big mining company, and I had the responsibility of the use of explosives and also the 24 hour control over the explosives used. The existing law was not as strict as the present one. It requested mostly from the dynamiter a much greater responsibility than today. And fortunately I never had to deplore any accident, because we had a sense of responsibilities at that time, unlike the time we live in now. We knew how to use dangerous things with discrimination, and we could accept with great caution all the responsibilities that were given us. We knew that these things were dangerous but also very useful. Recently in 1975, Madam Speaker, I went to my son's farm. While I was there, there came a time when a few sticks of dynamite would have been very useful to destroy a piece of rock and increase the effectiveness of the drain system on part of the land. This task could have been carried out within minutes with dynamite, but I was amazed to learn that one could under no circumstances obtain anywhere in the whole area the few sticks of dynamite and detonators necessary for this job.

Some people got scared all of sudden when were discovered in a number of Canadian centres a few sticks of dynamite which could have been used for all sorts of unfortunate and unsavory jobs, and under the guise of protecting the public, private property and society, much too stringent rules and regulations were established, without considering that in private undertakings, on farms, explosives are often needed for improvements.

I would like to suggest to the parliamentary secretary who introduced this legislation earlier to pay attention to the drafting of the regulations which will follow enactment. In fact, I often said in the House, Madam Speaker, that legislation is voted by parliamentarians, but that regulations are made by technocrats, and that such regula-