

*Invoking of War Measures Act*

I suggest one of the reasons a minority of young people is disturbed is that there is just no challenge today for our young people—no challenge in our schools, no challenge in our universities, no jobs to give them in the summertime. I am not saying that this is a cause of the situation we have today, but it is a cause of unrest. It is something that has to be tackled. We have allowed situations to develop, which I shall not deal with, in the province of Quebec and elsewhere and now we are in a state of civil war or at least on the verge of it, we are told. This scares me. I am relatively young, but it scares me to see soldiers and these measures being used. I know they are probably necessary, but it scares me to see people being arrested without bail. It scares me to think that if one belongs to an association, one can be arrested by the police. It scares me that it is not what you do but what you think that makes you liable to punishment.

I know very well that tonight, and since four o'clock yesterday morning, the Prime Minister has the support of 99.9 per cent of Canadians for what he has done. I know it, but I say we can still have our objections. I hate members of the government criticizing us because we raise questions. Surely we can raise questions, we can have doubts. We are not bound to accept everything per se. Even knowing that 99.9 per cent of Canadians accept what the Prime Minister has done, we can still raise questions.

What really scares me about this situation, what really makes me think about what is going on in Canada today, is that if in this passage in the *Canada Gazette* the words "Parti Québécois" had appeared in place of "Front de Libération du Québec", 99 per cent of Canadians would still support the measure. I say, also, that if the Prime Minister had stated at this moment in time, "Let Quebec separate", 99 per cent of the people of the nine other provinces would still approve.

**An hon. Member:** That is right.

**Mr. Comeau:** That scares me because, by God, if that is the case, what is Canada coming to? It is not only against the FLQ that the people of Canada are supporting the Prime Minister today; it is not only what happened yesterday...

**Mr. Corbin:** Explain.

**Mr. Paproski:** Be quiet.

**Mr. Comeau:** I have explained. If words other than "Front de Libération du Québec" has been inserted, the rest of the people of Canada would still support this measure. Maybe they would not support it to the same extent because there are some in the nine other provinces who still believe in Canada and in the province of Quebec. But there are very many people who are completely fed up with what is going on. It scares me that if the Parti Québécois had been named in that document, the people would still support the Prime Minister. There is nothing wrong in belonging to a political party, no matter what it is. I am not a friend of the separatist movement but there is nothing wrong in a country like

[Mr. Comeau.]

Canada, where we have free speech, in belonging to that party. Members of the FLQ are probably members of the Parti Québécois, but members of the Parti Québécois are not automatically members of the FLQ.

[Translation]

This is what embarrasses me a bit and I will repeat it in French. If the Parti Québécois were subjected to the war measures, most of the Canadians would still support the enforcement of those measures. I do not like that.

● (10:30 p.m.)

[English]

I represent a constituency that is 30 per cent French-speaking and about 60 per cent English-speaking. It was the English-speaking people who elected me here. The people in my riding do not care whether one is a Catholic or a Frenchman; they know you for what you are, Mr. Speaker.

I support what the Prime Minister did on Friday morning, but I do not support his action on a continuing basis. I plead with the government to revoke the War Measures Act and to bring in legislation to deal with the situation. The word "War" in "War Measures Act" scares people. An incident was referred to this afternoon concerning what happened to a 20-year old girl at the hands of the FLQ, or someone, in Hull. It would probably not have happened if the War Measures Act had not been invoked. Although it appears to have the support of the Canadian people, this does not make the measure any more justifiable.

As an opposition member my job is to ask questions to make sure that things are done correctly. I listened to the hon. member for Bruce (Mr. Whicher) this afternoon criticizing us for being against this act, criticizing us because we had a different opinion. He gave my leader hell for having a different opinion from his own. Six months ago when my leader supported the B and B Commission, the hon. member praised him. Today, because he does not agree with him, in his book my leader is no good. I say, let us revoke this measure soon. I hope hon. members will accept the amendment moved by the hon. member for Cumberland-Colchester North (Mr. Coates).

**Mr. Guay (St. Boniface):** How will you vote?

**Mr. Comeau:** I will support the amendment. Hon. members opposite accuse us of playing politics, yet I cannot find one of the 155 members opposite who is not going to support the Prime Minister. They are not going to question this measure. What kind of country is this?

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel):** Order. I ask the hon. member—

**Mr. Woolliams:** Just a bunch of sheep.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel):** Order. We should have order in the House. The hon. member for South