

The lives of these hostages require that our governments take all the necessary measures to avoid the worst but any settlement that would guarantee the liberation of Messrs. Cross and Laporte while permitting these people to proceed with their subversive action, would certainly entail disastrous consequences for the Quebec economy.

The statement by Ontario Premier Robarts, which has been termed inflammatory in the circumstances, is none the less very realistic, because I believe that Mr. Robarts considered it was impossible to yield to the terrorists' demands.

The FLQ has granted several extensions of time, but our governments will have to set a final deadline in this matter. It is urgent therefore that our governments devise some machinery such as legislation carrying very severe penalties for any extremist movement; they must not hesitate to bring in troops as soon as an insurrection is in the offing. I was saying those very words last Thursday night, Mr. Speaker.

To conclude, I shall say that people are extremely concerned about the establishment of a police state whose prime duty would be to restore order in Quebec.

To those who are concerned about the presence of policemen in the province of Quebec, I say that I would rather be near a police officer than near two terrorists. I think there is no need to remind the people that it has cost daily, for these past few days, approximately \$500,000 for the protection of our institutions.

I know it is high time for our governments to act in order to restore a climate of trust which will ensure the political and economic stability in the province of Quebec.

We can and we wish to continue discussing that measure. The government could also be blamed on many other counts. I do not say that the measure under study is perfect but considering the situation we are facing and the concern among the people in Quebec, the government must without hesitation assume its responsibilities.

The possible independence of the province has been discussed, but I feel Quebec is still part of Canada. Most Quebecers want to remain within Canada.

According to the arguments of some of our colleagues, we should withdraw from the scene and leave Quebec the full responsibility for the situation. The members from the province of Quebec did not hesitate to support any government when serious problems cropped up in other parts of the country. Must I promise to support the members from the other provinces if a problem arose there? I feel that the members from Quebec will not hesitate to support their federal colleagues to solve, partly or completely, a problem that may exist outside Quebec.

This allows me to appeal to the openmindedness and good will of all members, to help the province of Quebec to get rid of a minority that worries its people and can spread the problem elsewhere in Canada.

According to the speeches of some members, the rest of the country is being penalized because of the problem

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in Quebec. Nothing proves that the movement does not exist elsewhere in Canada. If you refer to the document Mr. Saulnier presented last year, you will see that the movement was not necessarily limited to the province of Quebec. This is one reason why all the members should be responsive to the problem, and should work in order that this measure might allow us to get rid of this radical and harmful movement whose object is the destruction of our democratic institutions.

I would not say that this measure penalizes the rest of the country. I doubt that the Canadians who are not aware of the problem, who are not disturbed by the FLQ, are inconvenienced by the presence of policemen or soldiers.

• (5:40 p.m.)

I do not believe that anybody in my parish is or has been annoyed by police, even though the War Measures Act has been in force since four o'clock on Friday morning.

I have the clear impression that those who feel uneasy because of the presence of a policeman have something on their conscience.

The job of the police is not to bother innocent people. We try to adopt a measure and I intend to support it, because I believe it is necessary under present circumstances.

I say it once again, it has not been established that this measure will still be necessary six months from now. It is quite clear that the House will be able to propose new measures when the one now in force will no longer be necessary. We will then be able to ask and even force the government to revoke it.

I do not believe that the government will refuse to revoke this measure if it is proven that it is no longer necessary.

I do not believe either that a government would be ingenuous enough to assure itself all the protection it is presently granted, if this should not prove necessary.

And, for this reason, I will continue to believe not only that this measure is necessary, but that it will result in the annihilation of a movement which is obviously not wanted either in Quebec or in other parts of Canada.

There has been a tendency to accuse the government too easily of having been too slow in acting and I think this is true. The necessary measures probably were not taken. The lesson may be a tough one but its effects will prompt us to quicker action in the future.

On the other hand, and in all objectiveness, I must say that members of the New Democratic party have blamed the government for going too fast. I wonder exactly what they want. The government goes too fast or it is too slow in taking action. I am still convinced that conclusive evidence was needed. It was uncovered a few days ago and on its strength the government had to do something.