

they could have acted differently. They could have assisted the various law enforcement agencies in Quebec in a different way, by increasing the police forces, by amending the laws in the way I suggested, by insisting that those agencies do their job, by getting rid of any corruption there may be in some of the police forces involved—I do not refer here to the RCMP; by insisting that some of the police forces be freed of people who may have infiltrated those forces, making the work of the forces in seeking to find FLQ members difficult if not impossible.

It is not the law that has stood in the way. The Minister of Justice referred to the provisions regarding subversion, sedition and treason contained in the Criminal Code. We have referred to the section dealing with offensive weapons. There were powers in the Criminal Code that could have been used had the law enforcement agencies done their job and put their finger on the people against whom those powers could have been used. For ten years they have looked for them and have failed. No Order in Council will change that situation.

The government is able to imprison 200 or 250 or 154 people, whatever the number is. Is anyone on that side of the House sanguine enough to think that this will end that particular organization or another organization like it? Is anyone here sanguine about the possibility of this sort of thing reoccurring? I say to the members of this House that therein lies the great danger behind the kind of measure we are asked to support.

What will be the long-run effect on Canada-Quebec relations of this kind of behaviour? What will be the result on the separatists who are distinct from the FLQ? Will Mr. Levesque and the others now be able to point to Ottawa descending upon Quebec in a way that it did not descend on other parts of the country where violence has occurred, if not of the same sort as in Quebec, nevertheless violence of a sort? I am very worried about the effect of this measure on the young of Quebec, the students and the young professionals. I am worried whether this will not alienate them still further from the federal government, from federalism and from Ottawa. I am worried whether all the ills against which they have shouted for years will not now boil up in them in resentment and frustration against Ottawa and Canada as a whole.

It seems to me that every time the leader of a government or of a country takes unto himself this kind of allegedly tough line, he satisfies the ego of those in authority a great deal more than he satisfies the objectives of social needs and social conditions. That is happening in this case. I think this is a case of overreacting. It is hysteria that I think is unnecessary. Even if it were necessary to act in the middle of the night—and I do not admit that—it is not necessary beyond the next 48 hours. The government will stand tested on whether this evil and vicious measure is by Monday still on the statute books of Canada. We will then know whether the government has the sincerity, the democratic feeling and sensitivity to get rid of the measure and produce democratically laid-on-the-table legislation for this House of Commons to consider.

Invoking of War Measures Act

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order to discuss proceedings for later this day. As the House knows, the Minister of Justice (Mr. Turner) suggested that we continue to sit until we complete debate on this resolution; and that, of course, is the view of the government. The leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Douglas) suggested that the House leaders consider the matter. The best agreement we could reach was that we continue until five o'clock and resume our sitting at 7.30. At that time we will be in a better position to determine how long we shall sit this evening. I could have moved, under the rules, a motion if I had the floor in the regular way. But I am not moving that motion because I realize that if ten members want to stop me, they can. I am hopeful that by using this method we can reach agreement without a motion; I hope we can come to a mutually satisfactory arrangement.

Mr. Baldwin: Mr. Speaker, on the point of order, first may I say that undoubtedly the serious nature of this particular motion and of the action taken by the government warrants as full and exhaustive a study by the House as can be achieved, and as soon as possible. We are not unwilling to come back at 7.30. I would also confirm what the minister said, that if at that time it does appear there are a number of hon. members of the House who feel that their views on this matter should be expressed and want the opportunity to express them, obviously it would not be wise to try to sit through until the early hours of the morning or till late at night to complete the debate.

An hon. Member: Why not?

Mr. Baldwin: The government has done what it wanted. The procedures taken by the government in the form of the proclamation and the Orders in Council are before the House. No matter what this House does, the measures taken will continue in existence. If it is found possible, through an examination of hon. members who wish to participate, that the proceedings could be concluded and all questions taken dealt with, I would be happy to see this achieved. If it does not appear, because of the number of members who want to participate, that this can be done, under the circumstances we will have to review our position at 7.30. As the minister said, we can discuss it at that time.

● (4:10 p.m.)

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, as the President of the Privy Council (Mr. MacEachen) says, there were certain discussions among us as House leaders. However, the proposition he has now indicated varies slightly from what I thought was agreed to. We are willing that the House rise at five o'clock and come back at 7.30, but we thought it was on the understanding that we would finish this matter tonight.

We are not suggesting any cut-off or that it be concluded by nine, ten or what have you; but it does not seem to make sense for us to come back tonight if we are not