National Security Measures

Criminal Reports, 1970, page 24, that I cited to the Court of Appeal. There was an acquittal in that particular case. I point out that 497 were arrested, 62 were charged and some have been released. The police could have picked them up on the night of the sixteenth, or even a few days after. I wish the right hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker) were here, because these matters formed the subject of one of his speeches. He has already dealt with the situation of people who were not involved in the organization of separatist groups but who had friends who were involved in those organizations. That subject I do not want to deal with at this time.

Let me say this, however. This government knew of and had been advised of the terrorism and the activities of the FLQ in Quebec since June, 1969. What did the government do about this? Nothing, Mr. Speaker. They knew that there had been bombings; they knew that there had been murders and they knew that there was violence even before the unfortunate events that overtook Mr. Laporte. Questions were asked about these matters in the House of Commons. The government knew that for some time ammunition, guns and dynamite had been stolen not only from the Armed Forces of Canada but from other sources where supplies of this nature were kept available and handy. They knew that communist activists were being trained in Cuba for Canada. We had the report of the Royal Commission on Security and we knew where these people were being trained. Yet the government preferred to ignore the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Security and the general buildup of lawlessness. The Prime Minister and the Minister of Justice said, subsequent to the implementation of the War Measures Act, that the Criminal Code of Canada contained all the necessary law needed to bring these lawbreakers to justice and to conviction. Why was no royal commission set up to examine crime and criminal separatists—I am not referring to political separatists—so that we could get the cards out on the table? We had asked for this for years.

If the objectives of the FLQ were as the government suggested, that organization would have been guilty of seditious conspiracy. I see the minister from Manitoba nodding in agreement with me. I have the best possible witness for that statement.

An hon. Member: He is a peaceful separatist.

Mr. Woolliams: Certainly, the Prime Minister suggested that. What was needed was the tough administration of law, and action; we did not need acquiescence before violence got out of hand, before Mr. Cross was kidnapped and before Mr. Laporte was kidnapped and murdered later. The calling in of members of the armed forces and the militia was not the result of the War Measures Act. That right, as hon. members know, flows from the powers under the Defence Act and regulations thereto, and this step was taken at the time the government implemented the War Measures Act. My friends in Calgary think, as I assume the people in other cities think, that the armed forces were called in because the government threw the lever, so to speak, and implemented the War Measures Act. The Prime Minister made clear what

happened on the Webster show We are on all fours in that regard.

The Minister of Justice said that the War Measures Act was implemented because the Mayor of Montreal and the Premier of Quebec had asked for it. That this conspiracy existed was well known to members of cabinet. The government's action was linked with the kidnappings and activities of the FLQ, which were described as seditious conspiracy, violent and inflammatory. The Prime Minister said that the Mayor of Montreal and Premier of Quebec asked for this action to be taken and that all the facts relating to the situation were out on the table. They knew the facts. And what did the Minister of Justice say? Sometimes government members are very busy and cannot always compare notes. Truth will slip out. After all, even cabinet ministers are subject to the laws of human behaviour.

Mr. Stanfield: Some.

Mr. Woolliams: What did the Minister of Justice say? He said, as reported at page 215 of Hansard:

It is my hope that some day the full details of the intelligence upon which the government acted can be made public, because until that day comes the people of Canada will not be able fully to appraise the course of action which has been taken by the government.

What does the Minister of Justice know that he has not told Parliament? The Prime Minister has said that the government has disclosed everything, yet the Minister of Justice suggested otherwise. Perhaps the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Sharp) who is listening to me can shed some light on this matter. I hope that he takes part in the debate. Why, when the Prime Minister said that the government had disclosed everything, did the Minister of Justice say something else? Just what did the Minister of Justice mean and why was he contradicting the Prime Minister? On this point I prefer to believe the Minister of Justice. He said that the government did hide the facts, that information was withheld and that there was fear on the part of the Quebec government that they might be overthrown or replaced by an alternative government, possibly by democratic means. We do not know the answers.

Let me put these questions. What details of intelligence were withheld by the Minister of Justice and the Prime Minister? What secret information did the government have that they failed to disclose to Parliament and the people of Canada and that they ought to have disclosed? How can we enact legislation until we know these facts and until competent witnesses are willing to come forward? Third, what information did the government have that there was in Canada an organization dedicated to the terroristic overthrow of the Quebec government? What are the answers to these questions?

The Minister of Justice said that some day we shall know the facts. Perhaps he will write a book. I can already imagine him in his den—but what will he write? Will he say, "I will tell the Canadian people and the Parliament of Canada that what the Prime Minister said was nonsense." The government has said that it implemented the War Measures Act because it feared an