

● (3:00 p.m.)

Mr. Coates: If anybody is deeply hurt, I can always change the word to "jackasses," "donkeys," "oxen," or something that is at least as appropriate and indicates the degree of esteem in which these members should be held by the Canadian people for the great contribution they have made up till now. We have heard members who support the government suggest that Canada is either in the throes of a civil war or on the verge of it. If that is the case, why have the people of Canada not been told, because I am sure one does not overnight get to the point of being involved in a civil war. Why has the government not taken action before now to prevent such a situation developing?

My hon. friends suggest that we are on the verge of a civil war. To my knowledge this situation has been in existence in this country since at least 1963. Until now people have not been kidnapped, but they have been killed and maimed, properties have been destroyed and threats have been made over and over again against the state, against the province of Quebec and against people. Nothing new has occurred, except that a British diplomat and a Quebec cabinet minister have been kidnapped. It is terrible to think that this has occurred, but it is just a continuation and an escalation of what has been going on since 1963, a period of seven years.

If during that period of time this government had thought we were approaching a civil war, should it not have taken steps to produce legislation that would have given it the power to stamp out once and for all insurrection in this country, instead of announcing at 4 a.m. that Canada is to have its liberty and freedom set aside? And our liberty and freedom is to be set aside not just for today or tomorrow, not just for this week or next week but for 6½ months at least while the government moves in whatever way it decides to move to eliminate the problem as it sees it.

An hon. Member: Brilliant!

Mr. Coates: We heard the Minister of Justice (Mr. Turner) speak yesterday. He made a brilliant speech, but he should have because no man in this country, including the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau), bears greater responsibility than the Minister of Justice. He is the guardian, not only of the law but of the liberty and freedom of the individual. If we as individuals in this nation cannot depend on him to jealously guard our freedom, we do not have much hope.

Let us go back, not to 1963 but to June of 1968 at which time I and all hon. members of the House were involved in an election campaign. At that time I was led to believe—I have read and listened to the Liberal propaganda—that the problems facing Canada between 1963 and 1968 would disappear immediately, overnight with the election of Pierre Elliot Trudeau as Prime Minister of Canada; that the just society would come into effect and that regional economic disparity would be eliminated immediately.

Mr. Cafik: How stupid can you get.

Invoking of War Measures Act

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Coates: The Canadian electorate were stupid to believe that Pierre Elliott Trudeau would produce that situation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I would ask the hon. gentleman to resume his seat. Is the hon. member for Ontario (Mr. Cafik) rising on a question of privilege?

Mr. Cafik: I was rising to ask if I could ask the hon. member a question.

Mr. Coates: If the hon. member wishes to ask a question, he can do so when I have finished my speech. We were told that with the election of a prime minister from the province of Quebec we would have no serious problems in the days ahead, because who better could talk to the people of Quebec than someone from their province, and who better could show them that federalism was the way of life for all Canadians to follow? What has happened? After less than 2½ years in office we have heard this Prime Minister say that he does not have the answers, there is no just society and he does not even want to use that slogan any more because the just society is not working out.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Coates: The jackasses are still braying in the background.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Coates: What we have now, rather than a just society, is an unjust society that infringes upon our liberty and freedom, liberty and freedom which we are told is being eliminated for a reason which a great many Canadians feel is proper. I do not say for one moment that the action taken by the Prime Minister is unpopular in the country. Indeed, last night I listened to Premiers from coast to coast saying that it was a reasonable action on the part of the government. They had not even had an opportunity to look at the regulations passed under the War Measures Act, yet they were saying they believed it was a reasonable action. When they look at the regulations and see that, among other things, they provide as follows, I wonder what their reaction will be:

8. In any prosecution for an offence under these Regulations, evidence that any person

(a) attended any meeting of the unlawful association,

(b) spoke publicly in advocacy for the unlawful association, or

(c) communicated statements of the unlawful association as a representative or professed representative of the unlawful association is, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, proof that he is a member of the unlawful association.

9. (1) a peace officer may arrest without warrant (a) a person who he has reason to suspect is a member of the unlawful association;

● (3:10 p.m.)

A police officer may, after arresting an individual, incarcerate him in jail for a period of 90 days. The hon.