

National Security Measures

now is the time we should together attempt to deal with this problem.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Allmand: I hope that the statements made by the hon. member for Calgary North and the leader of the New Democratic Party are not signs that they will not participate in seeking a solution.

Mr. Woolliams: What do you mean?

Mr. Allmand: I have the impression that the hon. member for Calgary North feels that the committee cannot accomplish anything because everything has been decided in advance. I tell him honestly that is not so. I suppose I could speak in this way for months and for years and never convince the official opposition and the NDP that there was a problem in Quebec. I suppose they might stick to their position forever and a day.

Mr. Bell: Why did you wait so long?

Mr. Woolliams: Why did you take seven years to do anything?

Mr. Allmand: This is the dilemma the opposition finds itself in. When the government does take action because the state is threatened or the threat becomes accelerated to a very high degree, members of the opposition criticize us. At the same time they ask us why we did not take action sooner. I assume they are asking why we did not take action in the way of introducing special measures as a result of bombings and other things. Do I understand from the position they take that they would have invoked the War Measures Act earlier, or adopted special legislation?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Allmand: It is difficult to understand the position of the opposition. I might be very happy if the hon. member for Calgary North, the hon. member for York South, the hon. member for Egmont and, in fact, all hon. members of the Conservative and New Democratic parties continue to make speeches of this type. I might hope that they will continue to do so until the next election. I might hope that they continue to press the points they are making today. I know they are sincere and will continue to do so.

I would invite the hon. member for Calgary North to an election meeting in my constituency. I hope he would then make the same type of speech he made in the House this afternoon. I am sure we will then find out who in Montreal and Quebec believe him when he tells them we do not need this type of legislation to deal with this sort of situation. We will discover those who believe him when he says there is nothing to be worried about in spite of the fact there were bombings on an average every ten days over a period of seven years, thefts of dynamite and the kidnapping of two men, one of whom was murdered. I might hope he would come and make this kind of speech, and I would hope that other members of the Conservative party would do likewise.

[Mr. Allmand.]

This is a serious issue. Not all of my colleagues are on the same side of the fence. This is a matter in which Parliament and the people of Canada should be involved. I hope there are enough people of good faith in the House who will look at this issue with a view to bringing forward the necessary legislation. After its meetings, the committee may come forth with the suggestion that our laws do not have to be changed. At least then we will have had a full examination and investigation of the problems and we will have had the opportunity of discussing the results of what happened last fall—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 40 deemed to have been moved.

AIR TRANSPORT—HIJACKING—PARLIAMENTARY RATIFICATION OF HAGUE CONVENTION—AMENDMENTS TO CRIMINAL CODE

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, many of us have had a long day today. I posed a question to the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) regarding the Hague convention which related to illegal interference with commercial aircraft. As I understand the situation, Canada and other nations signed that convention and agreed that some form of law based on that agreement would be adopted by various nations making it a crime to illegally interfere with the normal operation of aircraft.

I asked the Prime Minister why the government had not asked Parliament to approve the convention agreed to by Canada. This agreement has not been presented to nor approved by Parliament.

● (10:00 p.m.)

From time to time I have asked the Minister of Justice (Mr. Turner) when he intends to bring forward a bill in respect of hijacking. He has said, frankly, that there are legal difficulties. I ask the Minister of Justice, who is in the House, what are those legal difficulties? My information is that the Prime Minister has never forgotten that he was Minister of Justice, and now that he is Prime Minister he has directed the Department of Justice to do nothing at this time. All I want to find out is who is running the Department of Justice, the Prime Minister or the Minister of Justice.

After one hijacking and one attempted hijacking in Canada surely it is time the government had the Hague convention approved by Parliament. Perhaps a bill could be presented along the lines of my private bill. I should like to hear from the Minister of Justice tonight. I should like him to tell us why he has been vacillating so far as this legislation is concerned. Is he once again to be controlled by the Prime Minister so far as the Department of Justice is concerned?