

*Public Order Act, 1970*

legislation now before us. This article also bears repeating because Mr. Bourassa said:

"The Conservatives and NDP know that this is a matter in Quebec's jurisdiction, yet they keep debating it. Are they pseudo-federalists, or are they federalists?"

If Mr. Bourassa wants that type of legislation, Mr. Speaker, it should be enacted by the province of Quebec. I see no good reason why we should be debating this legislation if the province of Quebec does not want it debated in this chamber. Why should we debate legislation that is not wanted by Mr. Bourassa? Why is it being forced down his throat by some members of this House?

• (9:20 p.m.)

I should like to refer briefly to an article written by Dr. Norman Alcock, head of the Canadian Peace Research Institute, under the heading, "The future: Simmering resentment, increasing polarization." One paragraph reads:

As things stand, Canada faces a future not unlike Northern Ireland today; a smouldering resentment and increasing polarization since the basic issue has not been resolved. The recent chain of events has increased, not decreased, the likelihood of our country hanging together, that is, the implementation of the War Measures Act has increased the probability of Quebec seceding from Canada.

I believe members of this House should pay considerable attention to the words of Dr. Alcock; they should mean something to the Minister of Justice (Mr. Turner) and to others in this chamber who are really concerned about civil liberties.

If legislation is needed to meet an unknown situation, let proposals go to a committee where they can be discussed in a calm and unemotional atmosphere. It has been amply shown that the War Measures Act was not necessary. It has been amply proven that the legislation before us now is not in the interest of the civil liberties of the people of this country. I am sure that if the RCMP were given the authority to go into Quebec or any other place in this country and use the Criminal Code as they know how to use it, we would not be faced with the situation which prevails in Quebec and there would be no need for the War Measures Act or for this legislation which is intended to take its place. If the Quebec government had given the RCMP authority to do something about this situation in 1963, we would not be facing this problem today.

It seems incredible that 7,000 police officers in Quebec cannot allay the anxiety that is evident in the province. It also seems incredible that those police officers should not be able to discover and put behind bars anyone who is involved in arson or sedition. This can lead only to one conclusion, that the police are not competent in the situation which faces them. It leads one to the conclusion that the desired effect has to be brought about by other means, because the police are not really in touch with the authorities in the province. It appears the elected representatives are not especially interested in social and economic affairs, in consequence of which the police are not particularly concerned with trying to catch those supposedly responsible.

[Mr. Skoberg.]

There is no question that 98 per cent of the people of this country supported the invocation of the War Measures Act. Encouraged by this, the government has been as arrogant as could be in bringing in this type of bill. They have refused to accept any amendments designed to protect individuals who have been subjected to the kind of discrimination and recrimination which has been reported in the papers recently.

In Malawi recently, the president, Dr. Banda, said that idealism and realism could not ride in the same compartment: they might be in the same carriage, but they could not be in the same compartment. I suggest the government is being neither idealistic nor realistic enough to realize that we must do everything possible to preserve a democratic society in our country. Not many years ago a situation arose in British Columbia involving people who were known as the Sons of Freedom, composed of men and women who were against the authority of the government and critical of Canada as a nation. The province of British Columbia was quite able to deal with that situation with the help of the RCMP. There was no question of calling in the military to help handle the situation, though the numbers involved were far greater than those connected with what is happening in Montreal, where it seems that about 100 people are attempting to blackmail the government of Canada through terrorist action. I suggest hon. members should consider carefully what we are being asked to do in this House. If they feel obliged to accept legislation of the type the minister has put forward, they will be responsible for the consequences.

A vote against this bill, Mr. Speaker, is a vote for the return of sanity in Canada, a vote in support of a democratic society in Canada. If we want to return to law and order, we can do it under the existing legislation, the Criminal Code. We certainly do not need the type of legislation which the Minister of Justice has presented to us.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Henry Latulippe (Compton):** Mr. Speaker, we will find it rather difficult to support the Public Order (Temporary Measures) Act, 1970, because it does not contain all we would like to see embodied in it, because it is restricted to Quebec instead of applying to all Canada.

I believe the social injustice we experience has generated the climate of barbarism we are facing. We are now seeking means to subdue rebellion in Quebec and in Canada.

The government has already admitted that the War Measures Act is too radical an instrument to be used against internal rebellions. It has therefore sought to use a more flexible, more precise, more adequate instrument, directed specifically against the F.L.Q., which has been declared an "unlawful association". We oppose barbarous acts, but we approve logical and just measures aimed at preventing that barbarity from spreading.

Shame and disgust felt by Canadians with regard to the acts of the FLQ followed a period of deep reflection shared by millions of citizens. We noticed then the deep