

*Invoking of War Measures Act*

headlines? I do not know. Owing to the lack of objective press coverage the people of Quebec were kept too long in the dark about the work of their representatives in the House of Commons. This is why extremists use these pretexts to rouse the population by saying: Why continue to be loyal and faithful to a central government that is not interested in our problems? They are right in reacting this way, considering the lack of information. The correspondents are not telling our people of Quebec what their members of Parliament are doing in the House of Commons. I would like them to report not only on those members who do address the House. We all know that our work day begins at 9 o'clock in the morning and ends at 11 o'clock at night, four or five days a week. When has a correspondent told the population what the job of a member of Parliament actually consists of? Parliamentary correspondents have written only about the pay increase the members will eventually get and sure enough this topic did make the headlines!

It was a sensational topic for newspapermen. But when a member stands up and tells the government: be cautious, pass legislation to avoid tragedy, find solutions to economic problems, to disparities, bring in legislation to remedy the situation, reporters do not even mention it.

We have sat on committees, we have worked 12 to 15 hours a day in certain cases. Occasionally, there was one newspaperman, but most of the time there was none.

It is not surprising that we see a clash in Quebec and I am not in any way condoning the extremists for having taken advantage of the situation. But if we have this explosive situation today, someone is responsible. The responsibilities should not only be laid at the door of governments and members, of provincial and federal politicians, of city councillors, but also at the door of the press, radio and television as well as of every Canadian citizen.

If we have come to the point where a member must return home accompanied by a soldier, it is that we are leaning over the abyss and that we must take the necessary action to protect the lives of the citizens, the lives of those who are respectful of law and democracy.

Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister said yesterday, and I quote:

● (4:10 p.m.)

[English]

Those people of the FLQ have utter contempt for the rights of others.

[Translation]

I agree with the Prime Minister in that regard. However, I ask the Secretary of State the following question: Is it true that those people refuse to respect the citizens' rights? Why, in the last few years has the Secretary of State let the state radio and television systems be systematically invaded, to be used for revolutionary purposes in Quebec?

We have often urged the minister to appeal to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation so that Algerian, German or Cuban revolutionaries would stop corrupting

[Mr. Valade.]

the minds of our young people and inciting distressed workers to revolt and protest. At that time, he gave us the stock answer: As a minister, I am only the CBC's spokesman. If that is so, then let us make the necessary amendments. After all, it is certainly not an unassailable fortress, unless it is the headquarters of the FLQ.

Something must be done. We must stop burying our heads in sand and ignoring the existence of corruption and attacks on public figures, governments and traditions, the instigator of which is the CBC for which the Canadian people pay millions of dollars each year.

Here is something worse still: Recently, a CBC commentator, who had been sent to the Press Gallery, was airing his views on the hon. members. According to him, all hon. members—apparently he did not want to spare any—especially the French-speaking members from Quebec, are not worth much. He told someone: no hon. member from Quebec has any ability. I shall not name him because I would not want to put him in a position where the authorities would consider that he is being persecuted by politicians.

It rests upon the CBC to see that its employees are objective and do not show partiality, depending on circumstances, their whims and their moods.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to give proof of what I state because it is well known that I always say what I think, in spite of the dissatisfaction that it might cause in news circles.

In August last, some politicians criticized the travels of the Prime Minister abroad, the country being in a difficult economic situation, and the CBC broadcast these charges. It was a newscast and not a public affairs or information program since it began with these words: "You will be hearing now a commentary from our correspondent in Ottawa". The correspondent in Ottawa said on the air that the Conservative opposition, for want of serious arguments, had criticized the Prime Minister for his travels abroad, and he added that he knew that the Prime Minister, when travelling, took a lot of paperwork with him, because he was a glutton for work. I do not intend to discuss the working habits of the Prime Minister, because when he is on a business trip, he has work to do surely. But that a newsman should take advantage of a news bulletin to make a personal remark with a political impact, that is altering the news. It is an abuse of his position, since this position comes under governmental authority.

Mr. Speaker, I felt it was my duty to make these remarks, since a Liberal member has made similar ones before I did. There is at this time in the province of Quebec a dangerous situation because the life of two men hangs on the emergency measures proposed by the government, as well as on the investigations and searches that are being conducted.

But it is our duty, as public men, to eliminate some situations, otherwise Quebec will cease to be a part of Canada.

Last year I attempted to bring some problems to the attention of the authorities. The government did not heed my warnings. Today I have an opportunity to submit to