

*Invoking of War Measures Act*

East. These are not the methods of democratic men or even of men who are prepared to fight openly in the streets. These are the methods of hidden violence. I am astonished that the hon. member for York South did not make a distinction between limited and unlimited violence. In Quebec we have seen murder and the threat of murder. We have seen kidnapping and the threat of kidnapping. We have heard of threats to destroy the communication and transportation system of Canada. I am above all astonished that the hon. member for York South did not make a distinction between violence which is proportionate to social ills and violence such as this which is completely out of proportion to any social ills.

Does any hon. member of this House sincerely believe, even if we accept the fancy hypothesis about the Lapalme workers, that if those workers were given back their jobs the FLQ would disappear and violence cease in Quebec? Does anyone think that if there should be no unemployment in Quebec this would solve the problem? This violence is not proportionate to the social ills which exist in Quebec. It is violence of a kind which, as I said, is hidden, is unlimited and is totally out of proportion to the social ills which exist in the society.

• (2:50 p.m.)

I have spent many years fighting for civil liberties in Canada. I have been a director of the Civil Liberties Association and its chairman. It is precisely because I believe I understand what civil liberties are all about that I support the government's action.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

**Mr. MacGuigan:** It is an action which is directed toward preserving civil liberties and freedom generally in this country. There is no freedom in anarchy; there is no freedom in violence. There is no freedom in terror. There is freedom only in law. Let us have that law so that we may have our freedom.

**Mr. Robert C. Coates (Cumberland-Colchester North):** Mr. Speaker, we have just heard the words of a man who is supposedly learned in the law, a former dean of law and a young man supposedly of some ability. If I were that man with the background I would anticipate I should have and should be displaying to the people of Canada I would think that the words spoken should stick in my throat, because what he said was that whenever freedom is threatened you give the government the power of dictatorship so that it can protect your freedom.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

**Mr. Coates:** I am against government by dictatorship. That is what the War Measures Act is. I am opposed to it. Somebody said, how did we get elected. Mr. Speaker, members of this House were elected by the democratic process which is not in effect in Canada today.

An hon. Member: Nonsense.

An hon. Member: Why are we wasting our time listening to you?

[Mr. MacGuigan.]

**Mr. Coates:** Whether you do or do not listen to me, my friend, does not really make any difference, because if your Prime Minister decides that I should be incarcerated for the next 90 days then I can be in that jail for 90 days whether I am a member of the FLQ or anything else. That is what the War Measures Act and the regulations associated with it provide. It is just as simple as that.

The members in this House are very touchy, Mr. Speaker, and well they should be. It is not just the 30 or so men sitting on the treasury benches but all 158 members of the Liberal party who have decided, and will decide just as long as the Prime Minister wants them to, that this government will have the power of a dictatorship, an oligarchy, the power to take away their freedom and liberty. So, they may well be touchy.

Yesterday and today, members of this chamber have been provided with a rare display, a display the equal of which I have not seen since June 1968, a display in which cabinet ministers, including the Prime Minister, stand up in this chamber in an effort to defend themselves. We have not been treated this way before, and there is a very good reason. The Prime Minister and his cabinet ministers know just how extreme the measures that have been taken are. They know how far they have gone and they are endeavouring to justify action that is far in excess of anything that has ever been done in this country in its 103-year history, except in time of war, and to do what?

An hon. Member: To save Canada.

**Mr. Coates:** Somebody says "To save Canada". Are we in Canada at the present time in a state of civil war?

An hon. Member: Almost.

**Mr. Coates:** The gentleman says "almost".

An hon. Member: Like the Tory party.

**Mr. Coates:** Now, the gentleman becomes facetious.

An hon. Member: Tell us about the leadership convention.

**Mr. Coates:** Well, my friend, it is indeed a very high level of intellect that is evidenced by the remarks of some of the backbenchers of the Liberal party. It is no wonder we in the opposition must speak out for freedom in this country when there is a bunch of asses like those speaking out from the back benches of the Liberal party at the present time.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel):** Order. The Chair would like to bring to the attention of hon. members that the hon. member for Cumberland-Colchester North (Mr. Coates) has the floor. At the same time, I wish to remind the hon. member that the language used in this House should be on the highest level.

**Mr. Nowlan:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I do not think that your ruling was quite correct, with all respect. Asses do not speak out. Asses just bray, as we have seen.