

● (6:30 p.m.)

The moment we put this authority into the Criminal Code, it becomes part of the criminal law. We have enough trouble in this nation with blanket search warrants—they are not called search but writs of assistance—which the police forces are entitled to use in certain circumstances. I do not know what those circumstances are, but I think they include smuggling, customs infractions and narcotics offences, among others. Even those blanket powers of search and arrest give us quite enough concern, without giving the police forces the right to invade privacy and restrict the liberty of people. My concern arises simply as a result of the distorted attitude that a policeman may have toward whether or not a certain thing is happening in a certain house.

When the vote comes on Monday, I am not sure as of this moment whether I shall vote for or against the motion. It is a matter that requires a great deal of reflection. The first reason for invoking the War Measures Act has come and gone—the element of surprise. Surprise is not needed any longer because everybody knows what has happened. If that were the only question, we could revoke the War Measures Act right now.

Authority to search, arrest and detain may still be required. There are two factors involved here. One of the most important from the humanitarian point of view is the lives of Mr. Cross and Mr. Laporte. Those two individuals are vitally important in the scheme of things. If some time before the expiration of ten days when, under the Bill of Rights, ten members can put down a motion to revoke the measure taken, these two gentlemen are found alive—I hope that is the case—that need for the War Measures Act also disappears. Indeed, if they are found dead—and that would be sad and regrettable—the need disappears. However, let us not speculate about that; it is a matter in the minds of everyone.

If we are able to locate the two tons or 20 tons, whichever it is of dynamite that is being driven around in a truck somewhere, plus all the other dynamite and guns that the former Minister of National Defence, Paul Hellyer, permitted to be stolen from his armouries a few years ago without showing any great concern—incidentally, I did not notice any French Canadian members getting very excited about that at the time—then once more the need for certain measures taken under the act disappears. I submit that in asking that the measure be in effect from now until the end of April the Prime Minister either has no faith, or very little, in the army, the RCMP and our police forces and their ability to tackle the problem during that time, or he wants this extended power because it is nice to have it.

There are a number of questions that must be answered and which in my own mind I have not answered. Some of them I have, but on balance a number of things have to be answered by each individual member. It is not a question whether or not I support what the government has done or whether I trust the Prime Minister. I have my own view about his capabilities and his concern for the well-being of individuals and

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humanitarian concepts in Canada. We are dealing with the much broader question that I described earlier, namely, to what extent we are going to participate in adding to, if nothing else, pockets of civil war in Canada.

The Minister of Justice has an intimate knowledge of just what is happening, but this knowledge has not been transmitted beyond the cabinet. I think that at least in a selective sense in terms of secrecy, the opposition should know what is going on in general. Because there is a distinct possibility of further outbreaks taking place here and there, the Minister of Justice knows that he cannot handle the problem by authoritarianism alone.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The hon. member's time has expired, but he can continue with the consent of the House. Does the House give unanimous consent to letting the hon. member continue?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Howard (Skeena):** For a moment or two, Mr. Speaker, I want to list some of the thoughts I have. The Prime Minister is asking, for a period beyond the ten days permitted under the Bill of Rights, for absolute dictatorial, authoritarian power to do whatever the government pleases without any check or balance against it. The government says there is a check and balance at election time, but that is two years away. People have short memories, and in addition the Liberal party has a great propaganda machine. I am talking about granting authoritarian, dictatorial powers at this time. The government wants Parliament to trust it on the basis that it knows what it is doing, that it knows the situation. On the other hand, the government is not willing to take Parliament into its confidence, to trust Parliament. As I have said, no one has any edge on concern over anybody else in the matter of rights, freedoms and the well-being of Canadians.

The government wants to bring in a new law. As I have said, I am not disposed to let individual rights and freedoms rest in the hands of any police force in this nation. The place for protecting such rights and freedoms is Parliament, because Parliament consists of people who have some sense of responsibility. Police forces do not have the feeling for rights and freedoms that we have, because they are not trained to have that feeling.

The other consideration is this. The government knew that this insurrectionist movement in Quebec was being developed, and knew for many years. For at least four or five years the government knew it was growing, that training camps were being set up to turn people into experts on demolition, army activities and guerrilla warfare of the sort that takes place in other countries but never here. The government had available to it certain criminal procedures in this regard, but they either failed to follow them or ignored them.

The Prime Minister of Canada—admittedly, this is a political consideration—was elected a couple of years ago, as he said and as we thought, to bring unity to