

*Invoking of War Measures Act*

democracy for the whole country and, hopefully, to save Quebec.

This morning's edition of the *Globe and Mail* carried an editorial which read in part as follows:

Mr. Trudeau has said that this is his intention, that he recognizes that 'the act is much broader than is required in the present situation', that he will be working to produce 'legislation of a less comprehensive nature'. He has asked the leaders of the opposition, and all members of the House, to make constructive suggestions for new legislation.

We make one now. Limit the legislation to what is needed, yes; but make it no easier for a government to impose or maintain. Keep it a shocking thing, which no government can impose without a drama that penetrates all and frightens all.

[Translation]

**Mr. André Ouellet (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I have listened with great interest to the words spoken by the hon. members from both sides of the House who since yesterday have addressed this House on the important motion submitted by the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) to invoke the War Measures Act.

In my capacity as member for one of our Montreal constituencies, in my own right as a Quebecer anxious to assure the security and welfare of the citizens of this province and as a Canadian proud of this country and wishing that it remain unified and flourishing, I want to thank all the members in this House who rose in favour of the prime minister's motion.

Those of us who live in the province of Quebec and who have lived through the events of these last few days, those of us who took trouble to enquire about the situation, know very well that the government's decision was neither untimely nor exaggerated.

Let us recall all the events. First there were the kidnappings, then the threats to life and private property. There were FLQ communiqués of an inflammatory and seditious nature. There was a systematic use of the communication media by these criminals. For a long period of time already there had been bombings, thefts of dynamite and acts of violence of every kind.

Was it necessary to wait for the heart of Montreal to blow up with dynamite? Was it necessary to wait for selective assassination before taking action? I think the government proceeded wisely and I am sure that most Canadians agree with this decision.

After listening to a large number of conservative members, I realize that, on final analysis, this party did not, still does not realize what is going on in Quebec. We are told about the activities of the Company of Young Canadians a few years ago. We are told about subversive elements in the CBC. We are told about some scholarships granted several months or even several years ago to individuals who have become revolutionaries.

I think that the important point now is not what has taken place a year or two ago, but the events of the last ten days. In this regard, I find that the Progressive Conservative party, through its spokesmen in the House, displaces in an odd way the subject of this debate.

[Mr. Hales.]

• (10:10 p.m.)

Many of those who spoke have indeed seemed to me to ignore the facts completely. They would have been better to ask their colleagues from Quebec, in particular the member for Charlevoix (Mr. Asselin), or again, the member for Joliette (Mr. La Salle), because really, with the attitude taken in the House by the Progressive Conservative party and its leader, I am certain that this party will never have more than three or four Quebec representatives in Ottawa.

I would have thought however, Mr. Speaker, that the honourable member for Saint-Hyacinthe (Mr. Ricard), who spoke to-night, would have shown himself up to the situation.

Not only did he deal a particularly dirty blow at the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion, but he did not even want to say whether or not he supported the war measures taken by the government to protect the population. His tirade against the minister was totally uncalled for, since the minister is one of the great champions of the citizens' rights in general, and especially of the workers and of underprivileged people in Canada. I think that the work he is doing within his department to eliminate regional disparities should cause admiration and should be commended by all members.

The member for Saint-Hyacinthe has left the House even though he said he would remain here to listen to all the speeches the members would make. Before leaving he had urged the Liberal members from Quebec to voice their opinion. His leaving the House rather gives me the impression that he was here not to hear members' speeches, but just to wait for an opportunity to take the floor. I deeply regret his absence, as I would have asked him some questions. I want to refer to the part of his speech where he spoke of the editorial published in this morning's Montreal paper *Le Devoir*, outlining certain views expressed by editorialist Claude Ryan.

I would specially refer to a paragraph of that editorial which the member for Saint-Hyacinthe carefully refrained from mentioning and which reads as follows:

Going back on former impulse, Mr. Bourassa, all things considered, chose to resort to the authority of Ottawa. By his voluntary request for implementation of the War Measures Act, the premier accepted the principle of subordinating his government to that of Mr. Trudeau. He thus sanctioned, in the eyes of the rest of the country, an old recollection according to which Ottawa is the seat of the true national government and Quebec, finally, a province a little more turbulent than the others.

I should like to know if the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe endorses those words. It is often said that words exceed one's thoughts. I am really wondering if Mr. Ryan, in his writings, has not exceeded not only his own thought, but what he really hopes for, what he has been concealing for a number of months, his real thought on Canadian politics and the true place that Quebec should have both in Canada and abroad.

When I hear an editorial writer from Montreal say such things, I find that he is going too far. We are living in a country called Canada, under a Canadian govern-