

The comfort of the well-to-do is known to the poor; the sufferings of the poor are seen by the rich. I do not raise these matters to offer easy solutions but to remind you of the social background against which urban violence in all our societies should be seen.

In Canada, the problems are compounded by two factors:

- (1) the strain imposed upon national unity by separatist sentiment in Quebec in particular and regional disparity of opportunity in general;
- (2) the current high rate of unemployment, particularly among the urban young.

The Canadian Government is fighting these problems with determination and a sense of very real urgency. Quebec's "quiet revolution", which began in the Sixties, has brought dynamic and far-reaching changes in Quebec society. The French language has gained equal recognition with English. Only last week a federal-provincial constitutional conference of prime ministers and premiers achieved a breakthrough that can lead to a renewal of our constitution to bring it into line with the reality of modern Canada. The Government is determined to achieve a Canada in which every Canadian -- English, French or of other origin -- can feel at home and make a decent life without feeling limited to one geographical area or one ethnic group. Canadian foreign policy is now a true expression of a bilingual and multicultural Canada.

The present high level of unemployment will diminish, but a sustained effort has to be made to ensure that the unemployed young and new arrivals on the labour market see ready opportunities for leading useful and fulfilling lives. None of this is easy, but all of it will have to be done, done quickly and done effectively. One thing we do not have is time.

This is the background against which the cruel and criminal acts took place. But it is not the cause. The FLQ have no cause. Canada is an open society; any individual or group can work openly and freely in pursuit of any political purpose. The FLQ have chosen another route. They walk that route alone, despised equally by all Canadians. They have found that it leads only to darkness and death. For their sake, and for the sake of us all, I hope they have learned their lesson well.

S/A