

Adjournment Debate

It is important to note that in 1970 we did not need a war to have wholesale imprisonments. The provisions of this act, which are an addendum to the War Measures Act, are supposedly to be enforced in case of war. However, the Prime Minister has already proved to us that we do not need a war to invoke those provisions.

What will trigger the use of those powers to bring about the civilian internment camp? Why did the Solicitor General when I asked this on October 29 lie to me when I first presented that matter to him?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: With all due respect to the hon. member, it is unparliamentary to say that another member has lied. I wonder if the hon. member would reconsider his words on that point.

Mr. Friesen: I respectfully suggest, Mr. Speaker, that the rules of the adjournment debate do not permit that kind of interruption.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The language that the hon. member used is not acceptable at any time in the parliamentary proceedings. I invite the hon. member to rephrase his remarks.

Mr. Friesen: I will rephrase it and ask why does it appear that the minister lied to me when he said "there are no such orders in council"? Either he seemed to be misleading the House or he does not know what is going on in cabinet and does not deserve to be a minister of the Crown.

When I asked the minister in the House why he did that, the Solicitor General replied "the presence of illegals or foreign agents of that foreign power in Canada." Is the Immigration Act not adequate to deal with that? Is the Criminal Code not adequate to deal with that? Is the court system not adequate to deal with that?

● (2215)

The provision in this order in council is for civilian internment camps. That refers to citizens and to landed immigrants who have been denied due process of law and habeas corpus. In the short history of the tenure of the Prime Minister we have had one example where 450 citizens of the province of Quebec were imprisoned without due process of law and without habeas corpus. The present Speaker in the other place said that it was silly to imprison those people because logically they were not harming our country.

I have asked serious questions and I should like to have an answer tonight.

[*Translation*]

Mrs. Céline Hervieux-Payette (Parliamentary Secretary to Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I shall be happy to answer the question put by the hon. member for Surrey-White Rock-North Delta (Mr. Friesen). I might add that this will also be an opportunity for me to explain what the situation is in cases where the order in council on contingency plans is to be implemented. The first circumstance would be in case of war.

The second would be in case of a breakdown in public order preceding the outbreak of a war or in case of terrorist acts. The third circumstance would be an emergency following a disaster resulting from natural causes.

As Parliamentary Secretary to the Solicitor General of Canada, I can say that we would be in charge of the two first situations only, because they come under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Solicitor General. The purpose of this order in council will, in fact, be to prevent occurrences such as those that took place during the last World War, which were mainly due to a lack of staff and of regulations such as the one we would like to have adopted. Mechanisms for enabling the government to meet its responsibilities still have to be worked out; they will be made known shortly and will be the subject of the customary debate.

Mr. Speaker, once more I would like to say that the new measures are primarily aimed at striking a balance between the rights of the individual and national security, and they will become effective only after proclamation before the House. For the information of the House, I would like to add that an additional margin of safety will be provided so that citizens can protect themselves against any abuse of human rights, since this House will soon be asked to pass a motion to entrench a charter of rights in the Constitution of Canada. The individual will therefore have the protection of the charter of rights, and finally, the government's action will be structured as described in the order in council.

[*English*]

THE ENVIRONMENT—INCREASED GRANTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF MUNICIPAL SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEMS

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoa): On October 27 the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Roberts) announced a program called "Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement" which will provide some \$65 million for municipal infrastructure for sewage treatment plants and associated facilities over the next three years. I want to indicate my appreciation and good feelings toward the minister for announcing this program. It will be of great benefit in my constituency where some \$5.6 million will be expended by this program during the next two or three years. The Great Lakes Quality Agreement approved the expenditure to Elliot Lake of some \$2.8 million, to the town of Spanish of \$1.45 million, to Little Current of \$1,263,000 and to Blind River of \$42,000. These were new commitments in the case of Spanish and Blind River. In Little Current and Elliot Lake it involved funds that were replacing those provided by the community services contribution program that was terminated at the end of last year. The funding under the program is very much appreciated. However, in the circumstances in the town of Elliott Lake which is rapidly expanding, where they are into a multimillion dollar sewer and water development program, not only to serve the existing town but to serve a new town undergoing construction right now, the amount of funding provided under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement does not totally cover the commit-