

National Securities Measures

widespread, situations could arise in which the normal rules with respect to arraignment might have to be modified and the period allowed for preparation of prosecutions extended. One might have to consider whether the law with respect to search and arrest ought to be changed. I make no judgment at this point, however. This is a matter which should be considered by the committee. We should talk to the police forces, the bar associations and everybody concerned—

Mr. Woolliams: Call the Prime Minister.

Mr. Allmand: As for declaring the FLQ illegal, I personally do not see how it can be done effectively. It could be done last fall because there was a group in existence then who called itself the FLQ and had done so for a long period; its members had committed criminal acts, including murder and bombing, and I think it was appropriate under the appropriate regulations to declare it illegal. As I say, I do not see how we can do it when bringing in new legislation but that, too is open to discussion.

The hon. member for Calgary North (Mr. Woolliams) presented an amendment which in my opinion is nothing more than an attempt to use the select committee as a tribunal to judge what Parliament decided last fall.

Mr. Woolliams: Nonsense.

Mr. Allmand: It would be a tribunal to judge whether the action taken by the government in introducing the regulations under the War Measures Act and the public order legislation was right or wrong. This is another attempt by the opposition to make political, partisan capital if they can out of a most serious issue. This type of re-examination of what Parliament did last fall is pointless. I suppose one could argue about it for months or years.

● (9:40 p.m.)

There had been an escalating situation. If the government had not taken the measures it did under the War Measures Act and then replaced the act with the public order act, no one can speculate what would have happened. Consequently, we have to look to the future and not to the past. I do not think anything can be gained by using the proposed committee as a tribunal. All it would end up as would be a lot of political partisanship and an attempt to rejudge what has already been done.

In his speech the hon. member for York South spoke as if the situation in Quebec last fall had been caused by the introduction of the War Measures Act.

Mr. Woolliams: He did not say that at all.

Mr. Allmand: Well, he seemed to say that. But many of us in Quebec had the impression that the FLQ had kidnapped two men, that they had threatened the government of Quebec and all Canada by asking for the release of certain prisoners, by demanding \$500,000 and other things. We had the impression that these things happened first and that the government, which had been very patient for a long time, was concerned with civil

[Mr. Allmand.]

liberties and with trying to solve the problems under the ordinary provisions of the Criminal Code, acted with great hesitancy when it introduced the regulations made pursuant to the War Measures Act. The government acted after the threat to life and liberty issued by the FLQ.

In his remarks the hon. member for York South continually spoke as if all the problems in Quebec were caused by the government bringing forth the War Measures Act. He said he had spoken to people in Quebec who said that the situation got worse because the government did what it did, and so on. The problems in Quebec were not caused by the government taking measures to protect the population. These problems have been created over a period of seven years by a group called the FLQ, which has attempted to disrupt, and has disrupted, society by many forms of violence.

The hon. member for Egmont (Mr. MacDonald), the hon. member for York South and the hon. member for Calgary North, indeed all members of the Conservative and New Democratic parties, continually ask: Where was the need for bringing forward the laws the government brought forward last fall—as if nothing had happened. I should like to quote an article written by James Stewart of the *Montreal Star* in which he wrote the following:

Hardly anyone was prepared for the quantum jump in terrorism that electrified Quebec and all Canada in October 1970. Perhaps we should have been prepared. If you write down, one after another, all the deeds and declarations of the Front de Libération du Québec over the past seven years, you compile a catalogue of violence that recognizes no conventional limits.

But it would be no more than a catalogue, a selection of half-forgotten products of seven years of blasting, robbing, and raiding by the FLQ in the name of Quebec independence and the global socialist revolution: seven people dead, many injured: a bomb planted, on the average, every ten days.

Imagine, Mr. Speaker, a bomb planted on the average every ten days over a period of seven years! I wonder how long the hon. member of Egmont would have tolerated bombs being planted every ten days by a group that put forward the idea that they were going to change the political system by violence in his province? It seems to me that in that province, the entire population of which is about the same as my constituency, the usual level of violence is a bit of drunkenness on a Saturday night. I wonder how long the hon. member would have tolerated a bombing every ten days over a period of seven years. Would he still have taken the position he has taken in this House today and over the past several months? These were not random bombings. These were bombings with a message. There were bombings with communication. These were bombings by people who said that they were out to change the social and political systems by violence.

Some hon. members have contended that research and investigation have revealed that only a few men were involved, a few guns, a few knives, a few cases of dynamite, and so on. That might be true. But I submit, Mr. Speaker, that you do not need too many men who are seriously committed to violence, who are seriously committed to the type of urban guerrilla warfare that we are seeing now around the world, to upset society com-