

very serious, they feel this type of action is warranted. I understand their reaction.

Having said that, I am convinced that Canada will rue the day which is marked on our calendars as October 16, 1967. I say that not because I do not want action taken against the FLQ. I have many times pleaded for action. In fact, it is very interesting to note as far as history is concerned that on October 17, 1967, just three years ago today almost to the hour, I asked in this House the following question of the Solicitor General:

Is the hon. gentleman aware that Radio Havana is broadcasting a daily half hour program on the 49 metre band in French, beamed directly at Quebec listeners and giving instructions in subversive activity and guerilla warfare—

They laughed at me that day. The Solicitor General would not give an answer. Many members then accused me of radicalism and extremism. I have in my hand a montage of clippings taken from various newspapers dated July, April and May, 1967. These are clippings from our own Canadian newspapers telling about the subversive activity that was already taking place in Canada.

On October 30, 1967, having been unable even to get an answer to a question in the House, let alone being given any credit for raising a pertinent question of some importance, I wrote an open letter to the Secretary of State for External Affairs listing the various activities which had come to my attention and were taking place. I was not conducting some witch hunt. I had picked this information out of the papers that were circulating in this country including the newspaper *Granma*, which is the official organ of the communist organization in Cuba. It was circulated in mass quantity in this country all during Expo right out of the Cuban pavillion at Expo. It was brought then to the public's attention, although there was no public admission by the police and certainly no admission or recognition given by the frontbenchers of the government at that time, that there were actual training camps in the Laurentians teaching subversive activity, guerilla warfare and terrorism. They laughed at that time. The people of Canada have been subjected to this kind of thing for too long. They are getting fed up and tired so today they have reacted in favour of extremism against something that should have been handled in the normal way a long time ago.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Thompson:** I am convinced the police knew all about this. These things were not done in secret. It was open so far as those people who wanted to acknowledge and see that it was taking place are concerned.

Just last Tuesday, October 13, when I spoke in the House, I outlined a four point program I thought the government might accept. It is very interesting to note that the government has acted on all these points except one. They could have taken a much less severe and less dangerous step than the implementation of the War Measures Act which would have done for the FLQ crises exactly what has been done under the War Measures

### *Invoking of War Measures Act*

Act. The people of Canada have hoped and prayed that the government would take this action. I called then upon the Prime Minister to make a nationwide address to the Canadian people and to assert the primary rule of law and to assure the people of Canada that the government was resolved to take measures of appropriate severity.

I asked the Prime Minister then to declare, under the provisions of Section 91(1) of the British North America Act, that the terrible kidnappings in the city of Montreal were matters affecting the peace, order and good government of Canada and henceforth would be treated as a federal responsibility in close co-operation with provincial and municipal authorities. Had the government followed and strengthened the law it would have meant bringing a bill into the House of Commons, if that was necessary, to amend the Criminal Code. I also asked that he announce a substantial reward to anyone who could provide authoritative information leading to the apprehension of criminals, for that is what these FLQ people are.

I found it very interesting to hear the Minister of Labour talking about the difference between the Parti Quebecois and the FLQ, and then suddenly announcing to the House that he knew what that difference was. He then went so far as to say these were international revolutionaries. Anyone who knows the situation and has been following it at all knows that is what has been happening. I agree entirely that the Parti Quebecois has endeavoured to do something I cannot agree with but through legitimate, political means. It is an altogether different thing than revolutionary terrorism and no one on this side of the House has intimated they were the same. It is an altogether different thing when people are plotting revolution and terror and overthrow not only of the government but a system of government.

I am convinced that these people are part of a Communist organization which is working in the north and south of the western hemisphere to do that very thing. They would like to do the same thing in Canada as well and life means nothing to them. Violence and terror mean nothing at all to them except that they are a means to an end. So when the Minister of Labour acknowledges that here in this Chamber, let him not accuse anyone on this side of the House of not knowing that difference.

This whole exercise is an attempt to obscure and cover over the fact that action should have been taken several years ago, six months ago or a week ago but was not taken. The Minister of Labour, the Prime Minister, the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion and the Minister of Justice have all mentioned in their remarks in this debate that they found it necessary to move with severity under the provisions of the War Measures Act because of the critical situation the country faced 36 hours ago. The Minister of Labour this afternoon has quoted from yesterday's *Hansard* the comments of the mayor of Montreal and the chairman of the executive committee, Lucien Saulnier, contained in a letter addressed to the Prime Minister. By coincidence, Mr. Speaker, these two gentlemen said the same thing last November. They pleaded for action and they were laughed at then.