

Mr. Woolliams: We feel that we have taken a very responsible position. If the Prime Minister wants to misrepresent that fact, that is his privilege. When he made that statement he knew he was hiding the true facts. He will not get on with solving unemployment and all the other economic problems of the nation and he needs an excuse for his own and his government's inadequacies. I think it is time, on third reading, to point out where we stand as far as this debate is concerned.

I emphasize that none of us in this party likes this bill. Our amendments have been turned down. However, we are realistic enough to know that if we vote against the bill and it is defeated, we back to the War Measures Act which gives extraordinary powers in every field, without any remedies. Every Member of Parliament is in a dilemma when it comes to voting, and the responsibility for this is on the shoulders of the government.

In this House, during the question period and on other occasions, we have asked and asked and asked what the position is so far as prisoners are concerned and those who have been arrested under the War Measures Act. Today the mistreatment of those prisoners was exposed. Whatever their crimes may be, whatever they may have done—even those who have not yet been caught, like Rose and his cohorts—in a democratic state, under the rule of law, they are entitled to be treated with dignity and humanity. They have not been treated with dignity and humanity, and the government has refused to shoulder its responsibility.

We know the trick. When this bill supersedes the War Measures Act the government will say it is a provincial problem if prisoners are being mistreated. When I asked the question today I was glad to see that the Minister of Justice stood up and took his responsibility. I hope he will continue to answer questions in the House in reference to these matters.

As far as I am concerned, the mistreatment, the secrecy and the lack of responsibility of the government is something they will have to explain, not only to this chamber in the future but to the people of Canada and particularly to the people who have been arrested without charge and detained. If the amendments proposed to the bill had been accepted, there would have been a remedy for these abuses; they could have been brought to light; the parties in question would have received redress had they asked for it.

Tonight we are faced with voting to approve a bill we do not like. If we turn it down, we will get something worse. That is the dilemma facing the opposition, and the responsibility for the situation lies with the government. When the government moved to implement the War Measures Act, we asked for a bill with these remedies and they have been refused. This is the situation, Mr. Speaker. We in this party are prepared to vote and have been prepared to do so for days.

If the Minister of Justice wished, he could confirm that on behalf of this party I have asked and asked that the debate come to an end so we could get on with the other business of the country, particularly that aimed at solv-

ing our economic problems. The people of Canada know they are facing the toughest winter since the 1930s. The number of students who did not find employment last summer will be doubled by next spring when they get out of university and college.

An hon. Member: Two wrongs do not make a right.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I wish to explain a situation which should once again be made quite clear.

I understand the point of view of the previous speaker, but I am amazed that time should be so precious when we are discussing such an important matter.

We have taken a logical attitude, when we asked that the new legislation be given a country-wide scope. Has the War Measures Act, which is national in scope, not been put in effect at the request of the Quebec government?

In my opinion, when Bill C-181 becomes law, it should be applied at the request of any provincial government. We have sufficiently devilled on the matter, I believe, to be well understood.

Secondly, we are told that if the present bill is not passed by Parliament, the War Measures Act will be enforced until it is recalled.

Well, for honest people, for people who are at peace with their conscience, the War Measures Act is nothing to worry about as it is solely directed at those who are against common sense, who approve of disorder and terrorism. In fact, it only applies to a very small minority.

And I wish the ideas of our country were taken into consideration in this matter. We did not plan any filibuster in this regard, but through democratic means and according to parliamentary procedure we have tried to have the word "Québec" crossed out so that the act would apply to the whole of Canada rather than to one province in particular. In fact, I feel that the Minister of Justice (Mr. Turner) has a great enough sense of justice to have appreciated our point of view quite well, because we have had the opportunity to discuss this matter not only in the House, but also outside, and in a most private manner.

So, I would like us to be considered not as people trying to delay our proceedings but as members wishing to fulfill their obligation as objectively and as sincerely as possible.

• (9:50 p.m.)

[*English*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Is the House ready for the question?

Some hon. Members: Question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): The question is on third reading of the bill. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?