

Invoking of War Measures Act

have been an engineer there. The politician said, "Where do you think the chaos came from?"

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Whicher: It has come in the last few days from the opposition parties in this chamber.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Whicher: The deputy leader of the New Democratic Party appeared to have little regard for Liberal backbenchers. It was all right for us, he said; we would have to support the government whatever the circumstances. Mr. Speaker, what is wrong with being a backbencher in the Liberal party? Anybody could be a frontbencher in the NDP because there are so few of them. I would much prefer to be a backbencher in the Liberal party in a situation such as this, than be a frontbencher in some of the other parties.

The government has acted with a great deal of responsibility. Perhaps some hon. members do not agree with me. The strongest Tory in Canada today is Premier John Robarts of Ontario. Let members of the official opposition ask him what he thinks about it. The strongest member of the New Democratic Party today is Ed Schreyer, Premier of Manitoba. I invite members of the NDP to ask him what he thinks about it. And he was a colleague of hon. members sitting to my left not so many months ago.

The duty of governing makes people responsible. It is all very well to be petty; it is especially easy if one comes from out west or from Nova Scotia, knowing nothing of what goes on in Quebec. I like to think I know what is going on there because I have been a close friend of many in my party who live in the province of Quebec. They let us know what is going on in that province. It is too bad that some of my Conservative friends have apparently not listened as closely to some of their colleagues from the province of Quebec. Sound advice would be given to them by some of these fellows who know very well what is going on.

They should read the speech delivered only a few moments ago by a Conservative member from Quebec. It was a fine speech. Conservative members who had the opportunity to hear it should put a copy of it on the desks of the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) and the right hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker) first thing tomorrow morning. They should pay attention to the spirit of the speech, not just to the words. Let them read the speech delivered by the hon. member for Sainte-Marie (Mr. Valade). Let them listen to the speech which will be delivered in a few minutes by my good friends who sits only two seats from me. It will be a good speech because he is putting Canada ahead of politics.

Mr. Ricard: Not like you.

• (5:10 p.m.)

Mr. Whicher: A lot has been said in the past few days about the terrible things that have happened in the prov-

[Mr. Whicher.]

ince of Quebec. There have been bombings and kidnappings, and people are asking whether the next thing will be shootings. My friends in the New Democratic Party have said that the action taken by the government is going too far; that we should have introduced legislation. I ask rhetorically: What would have happened had we brought in legislation and discussed it for five or six days? Where would the 254 people who are traitors to Canada, members of the FLQ now in jail, be had we wasted five or six days before we passed legislation? They would be scattered underground across the country, disseminating their poison either through their pen or voice.

We are facing a serious situation. We believe in Canada, and Quebec is part of Canada. We cannot get along without Quebec. The boys in Quebec are not only fighting for their rights; they are fighting for ours. Thank heaven we have a Prime Minister who appreciates what is going on in that great province. Somehow or other he will bring things together. When the crisis is over we can carry on as a peace-loving nation, as we have for many years past, and go on to that greatness that is bound to be Canada's.

I listened to the deputy leader of the New Democratic Party the other day criticize those of us who are proud to call ourselves Liberal Backbenchers. In this regard I bring the hon. member for Egmont (Mr. MacDonald) into the discussion, since he chastised the government this morning. I remember a year ago when these people said we were not doing our duty as far as Biafra was concerned. We were told that millions of people would be killed; that genocide would be committed; that the whole of Biafra was starving to death. Certain people in that country were trying to divide the country of Nigeria, in the same way as politically certain people are trying to divide Canada today; and we are not going to stand for it.

The deputy leader of the New Democratic Party, who I am sorry is not here today, is a brilliant man and has been well trained. Yesterday he said that the Spiro Agnews of the United States were throwing their poison around. I most humbly inform him that many members of this chamber are not nearly as afraid of the Spiro Agnews of the United States as they are of the David Lewises of Canada. I remember the hon. member proudly stating, "I will put my reputation on the table above that of anyone in this chamber. I have been fighting communism for years and years". That may well be true, but many of us who occupy the backbenches of the Liberal party have been doing exactly the same thing.

I remember that a great American, Joseph Kennedy, who had a wonderful family, said it was not the \$400 million that he had made that was important; it was his family. As far as fighting communism is concerned, the bogey that the hon. member raised, I am willing to put my reputation on the table along with his, and dozens of others in the House would do exactly the same. How would you like it, Mr. Speaker, if the leader of the Conservative party were Prime Minister of Canada today? How long do you think Canada would last? Or if