

It was only normal for those who were not as conversant with the facts of the situation as were the members of the Government to react negatively, and to oppose at that time the conferring by the Government upon itself of dictatorial powers, suspending not only the Bill of Rights but, in effect, abolishing, at least in principle, all civil liberties throughout the country.

It has been mentioned that this is the first time the War Measures Act has been invoked in peacetime. Again, I repeat that this is not a measure designed for circumstances other than all-out war. Definitely, it was imperative that the Government move vigorously to stamp out the bombings, terrorism, kidnappings and murder by which a small minority was threatening our society, but it appeared to us that another instrument should have been used.

However, it is clear now, in retrospect, that the Government had to act expeditiously and that it would not have had the time properly to devise a new act specially designed to cope with the problem at hand. There was nothing else on our statute books to which the Government could have had recourse in an effort to help our police forces but the War Measures Act.

We therefore consider that the decision of the Government was a necessary evil. The need for drastic action became more obvious with the assassination of Mr. Laporte.

It is clear from what the Prime Minister has said and also from what the Leader of the Government here has said tonight, that what happened to Mr. Laporte and to Mr. Cross should not be looked upon as isolated tragedies. We are doubtlessly faced with an organization strong enough to disrupt the normal course of our society and possibly bring about a situation which could entirely destroy that society and replace it with one which would completely eradicate the freedoms which we have traditionally guaranteed the individual.

The Government, having accepted the suggestion made by the official opposition in the other place, has assured us that it will bring in, within a month, legislation to replace the War Measures Act. In the circumstances with which we are faced, this legislation we have been promised will not be so dangerously wide in scope and will be specially designed to cope with terrorism and anarchy. In view of this commitment, we have no further hesitation in lending our firm support to the Government's decision. We do so especially to make it very clear that Canadians are united in their determination to rid our country of these detestable ideological thugs who are prepared to murder innocent individuals to advance their morally bankrupt cause.

This, of course, should not be taken as meaning that we will not closely scrutinize the actions of the Government under the powers that it has assumed. Its duty not to abuse these powers will not be an easy one to live up to. Consequently, we feel it is the duty of Parliament to be vigilant and not hesitate to point out any excessive use the Government may make of the far-reaching powers it has ascribed to itself.

We fully appreciate that the Government's primary and indeed its sole aim is to frustrate anarchic behaviour

[Hon. Mr. Flynn.]

and to restore peace, order and tranquility to a troubled province and country.

May they be assured of our concurrence in these objectives.

#### STATISTICS BILL

##### FIRST READING

Hon. Paul Martin presented Bill S-2, respecting statistics of Canada.

Bill read first time.

Hon. Mr. Martin moved, with leave of the Senate, that the bill be placed on the Orders of the Day for second reading at the next sitting.

Motion agreed to.

#### GOVERNMENT PROPERTY TRAFFIC ACT

##### BILL TO AMEND—FIRST READING

Hon. Paul Martin presented Bill S-3, to amend the Government Property Traffic Act.

Bill read first time.

Hon. Mr. Martin moved that the bill be placed on the Orders of the Day for second reading on Thursday next.

Motion agreed to.

#### CANADA—NEW ZEALAND TRADE AGREEMENT BILL

##### FIRST READING

Hon. Paul Martin presented Bill S-4, to implement an agreement amending the Trade Agreement between Canada and New Zealand.

Bill read first time.

Hon. Mr. Martin moved that the bill be placed on the Orders of the Day for second reading on Thursday next.

Motion agreed to.

#### WEIGHTS AND MEASURES BILL

##### FIRST READING

Hon. Paul Martin presented Bill S-5, respecting weights and measures.

Bill read first time.

Hon. Mr. Martin moved that the bill be placed on the Orders of the Day for second reading on Thursday next.

Motion agreed to.

#### ANTI-DUMPING ACT

##### BILL TO AMEND—FIRST READING

Hon. Paul Martin presented Bill S-6, to amend the Anti-dumping Act.

Bill read first time.