

fundamental values of society being questioned. We are at the stage where a large and growing element in society, perhaps approaching a majority at least among the reasonably well-informed, are dissatisfied with what we have but as yet undecided about what kind of changes should be made, or how best to bring them about.

So as we feel our way toward a new contract between Government and people we necessarily find ourselves in a period of uncertainty. We have not come to terms with the new society brought about by the technological revolution. Very similar difficulties accompanied the industrial revolution in late 18th Century Britain. Looking back at those days it is easy for us to say that the modern age ushered in by that revolution brought to the common people a measure of freedom, prosperity and fulfillment they had not enjoyed before.

At the time, things looked very different. The Luddites, organized bands of English rioters, went about smashing the new machinery in the spinning and weaving mills of the North of England. They were protesting unemployment, and also the shoddy quality of many of the machine-made products. For my part, I believe that they were also protesting against the disruption of the society they had known. It is interesting, and perhaps instructive to note that the movement was brought to an end less by the harsh repressive measures applied by the Government than by the reviving prosperity that accompanied the adjustment of society to the changed situation.

It is reasonable to assume that in their day the Luddites represented the tip of the iceberg, the extreme element that always appears in times of uncertainty and disruption of accepted ideas. I suggest to you that much of the violence that so deeply troubles Western societies is caused by new bands of Luddites, again an extreme element that betrays a basic malaise in our society. Wise in their time, they realize that their ends will not be achieved by the destruction of plant and equipment, but rather by pressure upon the institutions of democracy. Repression which proved to be ineffective in England 150 years ago is no likelier to succeed now, and appeals for law and order may be ineffective. I believe it is up to all of us who hold responsible positions in the new, technological society to seek out the deep-seated concerns shared by so many of our people that sometimes result in violence among the more volatile fringes.

It is in this light that violence in Quebec over the last ten years can be viewed. Rather than the leading edge of Quebec separatism, it is an extremist distortion of a basic