

*Invoking of War Measures Act*

cocktail and a bullet was put through the front window of my living room. That occurred during the last provincial election in Quebec. It does not give me any satisfaction or make me feel any braver to stand here in the chamber knowing that my family is in Montreal; but I leave them there because I believe in democracy. I believe in the intelligence, the wisdom and the really deep feeling that French Canadians have for this country.

When the so-called three wise men, the present Minister of Regional Economic Expansion, the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State, came to this Parliament in the sixties, their motivation was to stand up for what they believed to be federalism. They stood for the best interests both of Canada and of Quebec. They sacrificed what they were doing then, as have all other members from the province of Quebec, be they from this party or other parties. The members of the Creditiste party have stood up in their province and spoken up for Canada, and they are not ashamed or afraid to do so.

I do not want to appear smug when I say that we know what the events are in Quebec. We know them because we come from that province. If the New Democratic Party were able to elect a few members from that province, then they might be somewhat more enlightened about what are the real causes of the situation and what is the basis for the FLQ's existence. The NDP can claim that the 25 per cent of the vote given to the Parti Quebecois resulted from social unrest. I would say that the majority of the votes came from an abnormally high number of unemployed, and this is a real indication to all parties, including our own, that these people are fed up with the type of society which in their opinion, makes them second-class citizens in their own province. These people have shown an indication of that in the traditional democratic manner with which French Canadians are synonymous—through the ballot box, and have established a legitimate political party known as the Parti Quebecois, a party that has rejected the violence of the FLQ.

Sometimes unintentionally we blur the lines. I have heard more than one member say that the CNTU is part of the FLQ. The CNTU is not part of the FLQ. Some do not know who is the successor in the CNTU to Jean Marchand. They think it is that big mouth Michel Chartrand, but he is not. It is a gentleman called Pepin who has rejected and deplored the bombings, the kidnappings and the violence of the FLQ movement. This is also true of the Quebec Federation of Labour and Mr. Laberge, and it is true of the overwhelming majority of the Lapalme workers.

When we say that the discontent of the Lapalme workers is one of the contributing factors to the growth of the FLQ movement, let me point out that the plight of the Lapalme workers today is due to the unwillingness, rightly or wrongly, of a lot of people to examine the philosophy behind Bill C-186. If when the LaPalme workers had been offered integration into the Public Service they had been permitted under the laws of the land to bring their bargaining unit with them, or to apply in the

normal manner through the Industrial Relations and Disputes Investigation Act for certification on a regional basis, then they would be working in the Public Service today.

Let us all understand that when that legislation came before the House it may not have been the best type and it may not have been the worst. But it never had the opportunity to be fully examined because it was rapidly made the subject of hysteria between employers and employees and all the vested interests in the country who felt that national bargaining units were best for Canada. And they may be. But that more than any other fundamental reason is the reason those men are out marching. They have refused to give up their bargaining unit, their union, which under the law we could not give to them.

In conclusion, when the Prime Minister says he will introduce a bill to provide all of the powers that the authorities need, and no more, to fight these terrorists, bandits and revolutionaries, then I believe him. Knowing the Prime Minister and knowing the agony he went through before putting the powers under the War Measures Act into force, before concluding he had no alternative but to move in the way he did—surprise was of the essence in the particular situation we faced—I am sure the Prime Minister will not wait one day longer than he thinks necessary before repealing those powers.

This country is going to remain united, and no bandits, terrorists or revolutionaries known as the FLQ are going to destroy it as long as we can combat them by democratic means. The War Measures Act is a democratic means. It is part of the laws of the land. The government came to the House of Commons at the earliest opportunity to explain as fully as it could the reasons behind its action.

• (12:20 p.m.)

**Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer):** Mr. Speaker, I have listened with great interest to the remarks by the hon. Minister of Labour (Mr. Mackasey). We have also listened to several other ministers of the Crown who were involved in the decision to invoke the War Measures Act early yesterday morning, and I mention particularly the Minister of Justice (Mr. Turner) and the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion (Mr. Marchand). I wish I could accept with confidence the remarks of these and other members on the government side who have spoken in this debate because it would be much easier for me to agree than disagree.

I believe that the vast majority of people across Canada and the vast majority of the press yesterday and today are giving support to the government for having done the right thing.

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

**Mr. Thompson:** They are so fed up with the activities of the FLQ terrorists in the province of Quebec and have pleaded for and expected action for so long to meet this problem that in the present emergency, about which we have not been given all the details yet except that it is

[Mr. Mackasey.]