

The second misapprehension is that Canadians, for a time at least, lived under martial law. I think that what I have already said gives the lie to this idea. Martial law involves abrogating the constitution even if only for a time, putting the whole apparatus of democracy into escrow and ruling by fiat, the use of summary courts-martial and other like measures, none of which Canadians would have stood for.

The third misapprehension, one of special interest to this audience, was that there was some form of press censorship. No one who lived through those days in Canada could support such a proposition. The F.L.Q. itself was able to use the media for its propaganda purposes and did so with a modicum of skill compounded into a great success by the gullibility and predilection for sensationalism of the media itself. Their every word was amplified on the air and blazoned in the press. Attacks upon the Government and its policy were given the widest publicity and a few leading editorial writers, who disagreed with the Government's policy, wrote their views freely and forcefully. The Government was aware that publicity was one of the F.L.Q.'s main objectives and aware that the press, knowingly or not, was giving them the greatest assistance.

The Attorney-General of Quebec publicly called upon the media to exercise more responsibility in their coverage of the crisis. As he might have foreseen, this resulted in loud complaints about censorship and absolutely no increase in responsibility. You will understand that I am referring only to certain elements of the media. In general, the press in Canada acted responsibly. The fact that reporting events in a crisis like this in accordance with normal editorial judgement tends to play into the hands of the terrorists is something that should, I believe, concern us all, the press, Government and citizens alike.

How does the future look for Canada? I don't think anyone is naive enough to imagine that we have heard the last of the F.L.Q., or that violence, that is a growing threat to society everywhere, will leave Canada unscathed. I think we have given notice to the F.L.Q., and any other groups of like mind, that the Government of Canada is not an easy mark, and that the Governments and people of Canada will act together swiftly and firmly to deal with terror wherever it appears, without at the same time allowing our democratic system to become warped in the process. We have been reminded in a tragic but unforgettable way that freedom is written in the blood of those that down the centuries have resisted terror, that freedom does not issue from the muzzle of an assassin's gun.

Terrorism in society is akin to a virus in the bloodstream. The virus must be identified and neutralized. At the same time, the weakness in the body that permitted the