

type of statute which may be required in these circumstances, it is my firm intention to discuss with the leaders of the opposition parties the desirability of introducing legislation of a less comprehensive nature.

He solicited from the leaders in the other place their views, as I now do from the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate and from any other honourable senator, with possible constructive suggestions regarding further legislations. These suggestions will be given careful consideration for possible inclusion in any new statute.

The Prime Minister went on to say that he did not feel it necessary to add that the Government and the people of Canada are aware of the seriousness of the situation. The Government also appreciates that the measures it has assumed are extraordinary.

I quote further from the statement he made to the House of Commons:

I recognize, as I hope do others, that this extreme position into which governments have been forced is in some respects a trap. It is a well-known technique of revolutionary groups who attempt to destroy society by unjustified violence to goad the authorities into inflexible attitudes. The revolutionaries then employ this evidence of alleged authoritarianism as justification for the need to use violence in their renewed attacks on the social structure. I appeal to all Canadians not to become so obsessed by what the Government has done today in response to terrorism that they forget the opening play in this vicious game. That play was taken by the revolutionaries; they chose to use bombing, murder and kidnapping.

To those who will voice concern at the extent of the powers assumed by the Government under this procedure, I can only say that I sympathize with their attitude and applaud them for speaking out. I hasten to suggest, however, that the legislative record of this Parliament in the field of individual liberties contributes unequivocally to its credibility and good faith.

The Prime Minister indicated his intention to discuss with the leaders of the opposition parties the desirability, as I said, of introducing legislation of a less comprehensive nature. He has invited suggestions and, as I have indicated, these will be welcomed from whatever source they come.

The Minister of Justice has been working with his officials on a bill to which the Prime Minister referred in his statement. The Minister of Justice now reports that it will be possible to have such a bill prepared, and it is the Government's intention to present it for first reading within a month. Of course the present proclamation cannot be revoked until the new legislation is passed by Parliament. The time required for revocation will depend on Parliament in its two houses.

I am sure this action taken by the Government meets with the concurrence of the senators in this chamber, as it met with support in the other place. I have no doubt

that the action taken by the Government in these very extraordinary circumstances will commend itself to the vast majority of the people of Canada.

Hon. Jacques Flynn: Honourable senators, although we had reason to believe from the moment of his kidnapping that there was a significant possibility that Mr. Laporte might be executed by his abductors, the news of his assassination struck such a painful blow that we were for a while stunned, hardly capable of believing it had happened. That such a dastardly act, such an unjustifiable and heinous crime, should have been committed in a country that has for so long been looked upon as a model of peaceful democracy, the prototype of freedom, explains why we are as puzzled as we are grieved.

A profound sorrow permeates our every thought in these tragic hours. I feel sorry for Canada, and I feel especially sorry for my fellow Quebeckers. However, I am convinced that the rest of Canada will react with patient understanding. I would rather think that these events of the past two weeks, as has been mentioned by the Leader of the Government, will bring us all closer together in a common effort against anarchy.

[Translation]

The Quebec people, I might say the Canadian people, have lost in Pierre Laporte a man of remarkable intelligence, well gifted for action and fully dedicated. He was the well balanced politician, anxious to serve his people to the limit of his ability but tackling the tasks entrusted to him with deep common sense and no illusions.

Mr. Laporte was a well informed man of indomitable determination and outstanding efficiency as a newspaperman and as a politician, as a minister of the Crown as well as an opposition member, and he never spared himself. He displayed much steadfastness and energy in trying to reach the worthy objectives he had set for himself early in his career.

Pierre Laporte was devoted body and soul to the welfare of Quebec and Canada, as few men have ever been on the personal level. I had occasion to meet him frequently and even though I cannot claim to have known him intimately, I had for him a very friendly feeling of admiration.

On behalf of the official opposition and on my behalf, I extend to his brave wife, his children and his mother who, in exceptionally dramatic circumstances has just lost her third son, our most sincere sympathy. They may rest assured that their ordeal and their grief are shared by all the Canadian people.

[English]

The Leader of the Government has tabled the order in council proclaiming the coming into force of the War Measures Act. He has also given us in a general way the reasons for this far-reaching decision. When it was first learned that the Government had proclaimed the War Measures Act in an effort to control the revolutionary and revolting situation in Quebec, our party was frankly worried. Personally, I could hardly believe that this act had been resorted to because it is such a powerful measure to use, one that is not really designed for situations like the present one.