

form of political repression and the action taken by the government in the last two weeks reveals that the political strategists of the Trudeau government chose to condition the Quebec people psychologically.

All in all, continued the FLQ's leader, it is an attempt at brainwashing designed to connect terrorism and violence with all those who, in our society, are opposed to the present status quo. It will be recalled that the leader in this field was Senator McCarthy who, in the United States, launched the widest witch hunt in modern times. It is unbelievable that after 15 years, McCarthy has still so many imitators among the politicians of this country.

The FTQ, recalled Fernand Daoust, was violently opposed to terrorism as a political means of action. The FTQ has repeatedly denounced the FLQ over the last few years; it cannot however yield to collective hysteria and operate with those who, in the name of the fight against terrorism, are prepared to trample the most sacred liberties of a community.

• (9:30 p.m.)

That is why our organization has deemed proper to make its voice heard and to caution the Quebec society against the dangers of any interference with the civil liberties in a society like ours.

That is a quite appropriate clarification, in my opinion, of the circumstances surrounding the violence unlaunched in Quebec in October. And when it is suggested—and I agree with that suggestion—that it is the lack of responsibility on the part of the leaders that is to be condemned, I would like once more to give as proof some facts which show beyond any doubt that the leaders—particularly those of Quebec—had every possibility to crush the FLQ at the very beginning, but that they failed to do so.

When one reads in the Friday November 20th issue of *Le Soleil* an article by Lionel Bernier dealing with the Maison du Pêcheur at Gaspé, it is obvious that the statements made in the past two years by the mayor of Percé and that nobody believed or pretended not to believe, marked the beginning of the ensuing crisis.

I would like to quote that article in order to make the situation quite clear.

About the people of Percé, it says:

Attacked in their own town by strangers who wanted to lay down the law, the people of Percé got their backs up. They already felt that the action of those young people who lived beyond the fringe and who had an obvious taste for destruction was a bad omen.

They appealed to the government for help. However, they were told that they were witch hunting in broad daylight. Annoyed, the people decided to take the law into their own hands. Then came the famous night of the water spraying.

Then events occurred in quick succession. The Maison du Pêcheur and its leaders made the headlines and posed as Robin Hoods in a latter-day Sherwood. Rose, Simard, Arène, Lortie, Beauchamp were in the limelight.

Last summer, a new start, a new Maison du Pêcheur... libre this time, and the citizens of Percé and Grande-Rivière were hit again. There was an uproar in the court-house, repeated insults against authority, and to top it off, during a Court of the Sessions of the Peace hearing, after the judge had had to put up with rude interruptions, someone wrote in a window-pane looking into the court-room, the word "merde". And in red paint, on the outside brick wall of the building, facing the road, the words, FLQ will overcome.

Public Order Act, 1970

Is this not clear enough? Was this not obvious enough? Perhaps some people thought that FLQ stood for *Fédération libérale du Québec*. And the story goes on as follows.

Officials of the town of Percé, after doing every effort to prevent the opening of the Maison du Pêcheur, after denouncing the promoters of the project repeatedly and warning government authorities against their negative action, had to put up with it after all.

Mr. Abnerd Biard whom we met at his home a few days ago, made this meaningful comment: "I had warned the government. They replied that these people were harmless,

—the Rose brothers, Simard "harmless" people—

that they were school kids. I was told not to attempt to use any violence to drive them out of Percé. Today, we see what is happening. Prevention is often better than cure."

When people go as far as threatening he who precisely wants to expose the real terrorists, we start wondering.

Mr. Biard squarely accuses the two successive Quebec governments with failing to assume their responsibilities when there was still time.

"Nobody ever believed me when I stated that La Maison du Pêcheur was a terrorists' retreat. Yet the FLQ sign was written out in full over all their walls. What is more, they painted it over our signs and our walls. Their whole behavior bore the impress of hatred and violence.

"They laughed at us when we told them that those fellows had no morals, that they indulged in drugs, that they lived as hogs".

"And again this year, when I requested police help, the Minister of Justice implied that I wanted to build a ghetto in Percé, that I was a fool. According to him, we were the ones causing all the trouble in our own community!

"I received threats by mail once during the summer. I heard people saying it was just a joke.

"The Maison du Pêcheur did publish and circulate two manifestos like the one that came out before the Labour Minister's murder. Violence was strongly advocated as the sole means of overthrowing the government. Slogans like this one appeared in writing: "People of Gaspé, let us unite and hit wherever it seems proper".

And where was the hon. member for that constituency at that time?

"In spite of all this, the authorities never did anything. They waited until the FLQ made its move.

"Instead of coming to my assistance, a policeman called during the summer and checked my rifles, warning me that if a shot was fired I would be first on the list of suspects, because of some old guns that were never used. That is the kind of protection I was offered.

"That is why, all summer, we settled for enduring the hippies, letting them insult us, threaten us and carry on their propaganda in favour of destruction and hatred. We were alone to defend ourselves, we had to make up our minds to that."

Mr. Biard goes on at length in this tone. He fails to understand why the Justice Department did not take action while it was still time. Or rather he explains it through infiltration of FLQ members within the government itself. According to him, the FLQ members in Percé enjoyed the protection of top men in the Quebec administration. He repeats that in the final analysis. The events simply confirmed his predictions over the past two years. He explains that violence was preached with the blessing of the authorities and of the police force. One day or another, according to him, it was bound to end like it did.

And he thinks that it is not over because too many influential people are involved. However, there will not be another Maison du Pêcheur at Percé. In addition, he states that there will be no more youth hostel, as he thinks both institutions are to be