

can go to bed at night, wake up in the morning and find that his constitutional rights as a Canadian have gone and that he has been subjected to a new act. This worries me, although I realize that in certain circumstances legislation of this type must be on the statute books. I believe, however, that additional powers could and would have been granted by this House to meet the crisis in Quebec without the need in peacetime to take the unprecedented step of invoking the War Measures Act and depriving every Canadian of his or her rights and privileges under the constitution.

● (8:20 p.m.)

The question I want to put here is—and it has worried me considerably since I first heard of the action which the government had taken and which I think is an indication of the lack of leadership in this nation—is what do we do when a crisis dealing with the very existence of government in Canada hits this nation or this Parliament. I will tell you what is happening here. The Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) and his cabinet devised a policy. On several occasions, I believe, they called the leaders of various parties into the office and indicated to them what they were doing, but they did not seek the advice of the opposition parties in this House. I say that in a national crisis of this nature there should be no party politics in Canada. We should have a national policy and a program laid down, not by one party but by all parties collectively. What worries me is that if this crisis is as serious as the members on the Treasury bench tell us it is, and the government has indicated that this is so by taking the unprecedented step in peacetime of invoking the War Measures Act, then the leaders of the opposition parties should have been brought into the picture to help advise on a policy that would be accepted from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

I am apprehensive that if a major international crisis took place tomorrow that the same type of treatment might be accorded the opposition parties by the government. If it did, I would say that this is not the sign of good leadership and it is not the sign that we have a statesman in control of the government of Canada. This is where I fault the government.

We are not given all the facts. Cabinet ministers have hinted that there is other evidence which members of this House have not received. I want to tell them that it is about time they learned to give to all members in the House, including the members of the opposition, all the facts, regardless of the consequences. We too should sit down and assess the picture with all the facts at our command and, I hope, in an impartial manner. It has been this aspect that has worried me more than anything as I heard the speeches from members on the government benches and on the opposition side. If there is a crisis—as I believe there is although I do not know whether it is national in scope—then surely we are part of the democratic process and just as proud to uphold democracy in this country as are the members of any other party.

I would like to say just a few words more. We have had lots of material written in the newspapers about the

Invoking of War Measures Act

FLQ which has been outlawed. A number of members of that organization were rounded up in a surprise move which started early yesterday. I have here a report from the *Ottawa Journal* which, I believe, must have been a reprint from the *Montreal Gazette*. It is rather surprising to find that a confidential RCMP report which the *Gazette* apparently obtained this past Thursday says there are 22 active cells of the terrorist Front de Libération du Québec in the province, with a total membership of 130 persons. The newspaper says that the report estimates the FLQ has another 2,000 members not actively engaged in the work being carried out by the cells. Then, the story goes on to say that there are 130 activists in Montreal or in Quebec, and this covers the whole of the province. We are told that ostensibly the War Measures Act is needed to corral 130 active members of the FLQ who are known to the RCMP.

I realize the need for giving additional powers to the police to deal with the bombings and the blastings which must be stopped. We must give them the power to curb these terrorists. But if this is the extent of the activists in the cities of Montreal and in Quebec, it seems to me that perhaps clamping the War Measures Act on the whole of Canada was a move that might well have received second thought from the government. I am not trying to underestimate the damage that these people can do. I am not for one second trying to tell anyone that there is not a real problem in the province of Quebec, because there is. Whether it is the municipal, provincial or the federal government that is threatened, we must move and not hesitate to move quickly to make certain that democracy remains alive in this nation.

The thing that worries me is that I see several other groups mentioned in this report, and this is information which I do not have. In this apparently confidential RCMP report there is mention of the members of the Jewish Defence League, and a group known as the Student Anti-Pollutionists. I do not have information on these groups. I think the government should level with the members of the House of Commons. Are the members of these other organizations also classed as terrorists in this crisis? I think all members of the House would like to have an answer to this, and frankly I feel that we have a right to know.

I am not going to say much more but there are one or two more points I would like to make. I have watched and read in the last two days the results of the moves which the government has made. I have been astonished and upset to see that perhaps we made the wrong move; perhaps we should have taken a little more time to assess the results of what might have come out of the invocation of the War Measures Act.

When I see headlines in the paper to the effect that the statement of the FLQ aims is being cheered by 3,000 students, and I hear reports on the radio of rallies in many parts of Quebec and other provinces of students and others who are protesting, not only the move against the FLQ but the invocation of the War Measures Act; it upsets me immensely. I am led to wonder how wise has been the advice to the politicians who drafted the moves