

"We need emergency powers in order to bring this movement to heel".

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

• (4:20 p.m.)

**Mr. Marchand (Langelier):** Some people say we have not done anything. They insist on using global expressions to impress I don't know who. But at the present time, the kidnapers demand the release of 25 members of the FLQ now in prison following their appearance before the courts. We have been told: Mr. Vallières is free and Mr. Gagnon who was refused bail for a long time by the Attorney General has been let out on bail under the laws of this country. This government is no doubt responsible for that. We have done what we could. The police have acted well. It is quite unfair to blame the government today for not doing what it should have done, considering the FLQ activities.

Before dealing with the situation proper, allow me for a few moments to analyse the causes. Why are there FLQ members in Montreal or in the province of Quebec? True enough, our friend from York South (Mr. Lewis) has readily found why: the stupidity of the government, the postal strike, a few other deficiencies in the economic area, and above all, unemployment. Those are the causes of this discontent and, obviously, we are blamed, we who came to Ottawa in good faith, and did our best to represent the citizens of Quebec, for not having succeeded in solving the problem, separatism having increased—and it may be true—from what it was when we took office.

On the other hand, the hon. member has not cared to prove that separatists would not have been still more numerous, had it not been for a group of French Canadians who came to Ottawa and pressed for recognition of the French fact all across Canada, despite antagonism, not from the hon. member for York South—I would not even want to suggest it—but despite the most tenacious opposition which was experienced from the other side of the House. And we have tried to do what we could, even for Quebec, in spite of the protests that we were acting only for Quebec, because we are in the situation we know of. People say: "You know in Quebec, it is only an economic issue. Solve the unemployment problem and the French Canadians will be satisfied!" If we take special steps to boost the Quebec economy, people say: "These people are only interested in Quebec, and they want to give Quebec privileged treatment." This is the situation in which we place ourselves—

**Mr. Lewis:** This is not the opinion of the New Democratic Party—

**Mr. Marchand (Langelier):** I did not understand, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Lewis:** This is not the situation of the New Democratic Party.

**Mr. Marchand (Langelier):** Maybe I spoke too fast, but I definitely excluded the New Democratic Party from this matter, and therefore, it cannot be involved.

#### Invoking of War Measures Act

Anyway, the NDP becomes involved when it says that "the arrogance of the Prime Minister" is responsible for the birth and growth of the FLQ.

If the actual reasons for this unrest are solely those mentioned by the NDP members, namely, unemployment, slow economic growth, etc., there is no doubt the NDP should be occupying the FLQ's place in Quebec. In fact, these are goals they have long been trying to achieve honestly in Canada. It is known that the NDP is not their representative. If this is what they want, if this is where the problem lies, it is because the trouble goes deeper. And I do not understand why the hon. member for York South, who is intelligent and educated, does not see in the FLQ the expression narrow-minded and racist nationalism, and that this is the main reason for the problem. He did not mention it, merely to annoy the government a little more, no doubt. That is how the FLQ was born. It is the result of a certain form of narrow-minded racism or nationalism. Nobody is talking about that. Who is responsible for that? Is it the Prime Minister or is it the lack of understanding of some colleagues of the hon. member for York South or of some of his compatriots?

Mr. Speaker, I do not want to pursue the subject, because this would tend to shift the problem. I do not like the attempts that were made to exploit every sore spot in our society to embarrass the government at a time when it is trying to save not its own life but the Canadian state.

In my opinion, that is the only problem that remains. Everything else may be part of the normal political game and I think this is not the right time to play it. In some people, that attitude is so deep-rooted that they cannot act otherwise, and I can understand that.

The problem is whether the situation in Montreal justified drastic measures and, in the affirmative, whether the emergency was so great so as to require us to act as fast as we did.

That is the problem that came up. Mr. Speaker, I understand that those who are safe behind the Rockies or the heart of the city of Toronto have no idea of what is going on in Montreal and in the province of Quebec at the present time. Of course some people know it theoretically. Some may make sociological analyses of what goes on in Quebec. But there are other developments and hon. members should perhaps be aware of them.

At the present time in the province of Quebec the freedom is dead, people are afraid to go out, and this does apply to me, as I am no better than anyone else, nor do I have more courage. Let us put the question to all hon. members from Quebec, red or blue, and if there were NDP members they would be in the same situation too.

The members from Quebec are afraid, very often not for themselves, but for their children and for their wives. Some businessmen are in the same boat: I have met some here in Ottawa today who had run away from Montreal.

There have always been people who are threatened day in and day out in public life, that is true. I, myself, have been the object of threats. One does not die because of a threat.