

EMERGENCY RESOLUTION ARISING FROM THE INVOCATION
OF THE WAR MEASURES ACT

WHEREAS the federal government has introduced the Public Order (Temporary Measures) Acts 1970 to replace the invocation by It of the War Measures Act and the regulations enacted thereunder; and

WHEREAS the more specific legislation contemplated under the new Act, while still arbitrary, is confined to dealing with the destructive and terroristic activities of the Front de Liberation du Quebec and is effective for only a temporary period of time; and

WHEREAS members of the OFL recognize that the genuine grievances of the working people of the Province of Quebec are rooted in the social and economic exploitation of its people; and

WHEREAS this convention conveys its solidarity with the workers of Quebec, as expressed by the Quebec Federation of Labour, the Confederation of National Trade Unions and the Teachers' Corporation of Quebec in their concerns with the application of the War Measures Act and regulations; and

WHEREAS the invocation of the War Measures Act, and particularly abuses under the regulations both in Quebec and other parts of Canada, violated the cherished principles of Canadians in their concerns for the rights and liberties of free men and women in a democratic society;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Fourteenth convention of the OFL:

- 1) Supports the intent of the specific legislation under the Public Order (Temporary Measures) Act 1970 to frustrate the terroristic methods used by the FLQ on the pretense that they were seeking social change
- 2) Stresses the need for close scrutiny of the terms of the Act to ensure that the rights and liberties of Canadians are preserved and protected

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- 3) Commends those in Parliament, and out - such as church groups and The Canadian Civil Liberties Association - who raised the voices of conscience in questioning the invocation of the War Measures Act and whose stand has been vindicated by events and by the action of the federal government in bringing forward the Public Order (Temporary Measures) Act 1970
- 4) Believes that the Canadian people are entitled to a clear, full and unequivocal explanation by the federal government of its invocation on October 16, 1970 of the War Measures Act
- 5) Urges the labour movement and legislators at all levels to work unceasingly for an end to the economic and social inequities in Quebec, and in all parts of Canada, which create conditions in which political terrorism can develop and
- 6) Demands that any permanent legislation introduced to deal with anticipated insurrection be referred to the Commons' Justice and Legal Affairs Committee; that public representations be sought on such legislation and also that the Commons' Committee consider whether arbitrary powers under such legislation - or under the War Measures Act - are essential to public order.