(b) it is not a firearm described in

(i) paragraph (b) or (c) of the definition of "prohibited firearm" in section 84 of the Criminal Code, or

(ii) paragraph (b) or (c) of the definition of "restricted firearm" in section 84 of the Criminal Code.

(4) Notwithstanding any other provision, no person who possesses a firearm that is reasonable for use in Canada for hunting or sporting purposes commits an offence under this Act or any other enactment by reason only that the person is not the holder of a registration certificate for the firearm.""; and

(*b*) by renumbering the subsequent amendments accordingly.

The Hon. the Speaker: Is it your pleasure, honourable senators, to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Senators: Yes.

Some Hon. Senators: No.

Hon. Eric Arthur Berntson (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): I rise on a point of order, honourable senators. I believe that the house order is such that the debate should continue concurrently on the amendments and the main motion; and that all votes should take place tomorrow.

[*Translation*]

Hon. Marcel Prud'homme: Honourable senators, I believe that Senator Berntson is right in saying that all the Speaker has to decide now is whether the amendment is acceptable or not. If you decide the amendment is acceptable, discussion on the amendment will continue, keeping the general debate in mind of course. I do not think we are required to dispose of it at this point.

[*English*]

The Hon. the Speaker: Unless I misunderstand the house order, honourable senators, my understanding is that, provided this motion is in order, and I believe it is, then we must proceed to debate this motion. If there is no further debate, I will call a vote on it, but there will be no standing vote on it until tomorrow. The standing vote will be deferred until tomorrow.

The debate will now proceed on this amendment. If there are no honourable senators who wish to speak on the amendment, then I will call the vote.

Hon. Sharon Carstairs: Honourable senators, I wish to ask a few questions of Senator Sparrow, if he is prepared to accept some.

Senator Sparrow: Certainly.

Senator Carstairs: My first question is a practical one. Would the senator tell me exactly where in the legislation he is prohibited from taking a weapon to one of his cabins?

Senator Sparrow: First, I should like to quote from the bill in regard to carrying a weapon from one place to another if I am stopping at a meeting.

Clause 89 states:

(1) Every person commits an offence who, without lawful excuse, carries a weapon, a prohibited device or any ammunition or prohibited ammunition while the person is attending or is on the way to attend a public meeting.

(2) Every person who commits an offence under subsection (1) is guilty of an offence punishable on summary conviction.

That means that I cannot carry a weapon from one place to another if I am to stop at a meeting.

Senator Carstairs: It means that you have to have a lawful excuse.

Senator Sparrow: That is right. I have to justify to a police officer or to a court why I had it with me there, that is correct. I said that.

Senator Lewis: Are you not talking about leaving it in your car or truck?

Senator Sparrow: Yes, I am.

Senator Lewis: That is not taking it from place to place.

Senator Sparrow: Yes, it is. It is interpreted that way.

With respect to the other issue of taking a gun from one farm to the other, if you overnight on that farm in a one-room bunk house, under existing law you have to have that gun in safe storage in a separate room. I do not have separate rooms.

I cannot then have any member of my family take that gun, unless they have a permit to own guns. I cannot give it to any man who may work as a rancher or a farm hand unless he, in turn, has a licence to own a gun. He also has to prove that he obtained permission from me to have that gun.

Surely, under the law, there will not be a blanket permission as such for every man who comes to work for me on a part-time basis, or whatever the case may be.

Yes, there are restrictions every step along the way, and I could be breaking the law at each of those steps.