

*Oral Questions***GUN CONTROL**

**Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby—Kingsway):** Mr. Speaker, over three years ago the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police unanimously passed a resolution noting that there is presently a world-wide surplus of automatic and semi-automatic weapons, primarily designed for purposes of warfare, now finding their way into the Canadian marketplace.

Over three years ago, the then Conservative Minister of Justice promised to act soon to bring forward legislation to deal with this serious problem.

I want to ask the Minister of Justice today, as all Canadians are asking, how much longer must we wait before this Conservative government finally acts, not to ban all semi-automatic weapons as the Liberal Party has proposed, but to ensure that we finally have in this country, much tougher, more effective gun control legislation? Specifically, will the minister agree to table a bill on this important subject before the House rises at Christmas?

**Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, as I indicated earlier in the House, we have been consulting with the chiefs of police organization, the firearms protection officers from Canada, the Wildlife Federation, the Shooters Association, in an effort to come up with not only tougher firearms control legislation but firearms control legislation that works better for both the user and the enforcement officers.

I am not going to say yes, I am going to rush it in today, because it is not exactly where I want it in terms of being finalized. But I can say to my hon. friend, that it is very close to being finalized. When it is properly there, we will bring it into the House.

**Mr. Robinson:** Mr. Speaker, we have been waiting three years for this legislation. It is long overdue.

I have an ad for a Mini-14 rifle which speaks of the rifle as one that: "speaks with real authority", and it talks about the possibility of having a 30-shot clip with the rifle, a 30-shot clip, Mr. Speaker.

• (1150)

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask the Minister of Justice a supplementary question. Would he be prepared to table

amendments here in the House to restrict the number of bullets that semi-automatic weapons can contain? Would the Minister be prepared, for example, to introduce a waiting period between the time a weapon is acquired and the time a permit is issued to the new owner? Would the Minister be prepared, for example, to finally proclaim the Criminal Code provisions which require firearms courses but have never been proclaimed since 1978?

When will this Conservative government finally act by bringing in new stricter weapons control legislation?

[*English*]

**Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, this is not something we started yesterday. It is something that was started in March, on my initiative, on the automatic weapon banning and looking at the FAC certificate fees and a series of amendments.

This law has been around for 10 years. Obviously any law that has been around for 10 years can be improved. We all realize that. We are moving to take out the irritants and to increase protection for the public.

My friend makes a good suggestion, a suggestion that I think is well worth looking at in committee where members from all sides can bring in experts, many of whom have been before my officials already, where we can try to improve it further. I welcome his participation.

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**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**Mr. David Kilgour (Edmonton Southeast):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. The minister is aware that approximately 100 Canadian leaders of Vietnam origin are here today and, in fact, most of them are in the gallery, from as far west as Vancouver to Quebec City, for the founding of the international branch of the International Committee for a Free Vietnam.

The minister will know, too, that untold numbers of priests, religious leaders, teachers, poets, trade union leaders, former businessmen, public servants, and soldiers are in custody in so-called re-education camps in Vietnam.