

types of crimes. It deals specifically with firearms, electronic surveillance, parole and reformatories.

Since many members have already spoken on the subject, I will deal with only two aspects of the bill which I find extremely important since they concern particularly civil rights, the possession of firearms and electronic surveillance.

Bill C-83 provides that any citizen who wants to own a firearm should obtain a licence. Consequently, the owners of the 10 million or so guns or shotguns that exist throughout the country will be asked to give them to the police if they do not need them. Furthermore, firearm dealers and suppliers will have to keep accurate registers of all weapon sales. Moreover, any weapon owner or dealer could be charged and convicted if a murder is committed with a gun which belongs to him because he does not keep all his weapons in a safe place. Mr. Speaker, obviously, pressure groups of all types are protesting against the government proposal requiring that every gun owner have a licence.

I sincerely believe that this bill will not reduce the crime rate since most crimes committed in Quebec of other parts of the country are committed with weapons such as revolvers and machine guns which are now extremely difficult to obtain because of the rigidity of the present legislation.

Will the legislation proposed by this government give the anticipated results? To tell the truth, I am concerned about this. Indeed, we only have to note that the legislation of the State of Massachusetts in the United States, which is the strictest law ever applied in that country as concerns gun control and provides for an automatic sentence of imprisonment for one year for anyone who transports a weapon without a permit, has brought about very little changes in Boston during the first six months after its implementation. According to the statistics of the Boston police, the number of armed crimes such as murders, thefts, rapes and assaults committed during the first six months after the implementation of this legislation is about equal to the number registered for the same period in the previous year, before this strict legislation was implemented.

One thing is certain, Mr. Speaker, even the extremely severe penalties imposed by the law in the State of Massachusetts do not seem to have the desired dissuasive effect. Consider that in the case of revolvers, Canada established controls before the last World War, that these same controls became more severe during the sixties, to the extent that possession became so difficult as to be practically impossible, and yet these controls did not succeed in curbing the use of firearms for criminal purposes.

I sincerely believe, Mr. Speaker, that the government wants to establish at any price both strict and efficient controls on firearms. To do so, it must consider also some other appropriate sectors, for instance, the use of drugs which is steadily rising. In schools, CEGEPs and even in several universities, the use of drugs is widespread.

I am astonished to note that policemen seem to tolerate those kinds of things and to find them normal. The use of drugs is constantly increasing and requires huge sums of money. We know how much money drug users need to get them.

### *Measures Against Crime*

To that can be added the startling conditions arising from the parole system in Canada. In my opinion, Mr. Speaker, too many criminals are paroled without taking into account the possibility that they can become a threat to society. Giving further thought to the matter, I note that as the result of the disintegration of discipline and morality in an increasingly permissive society, we have lost all objectivity and every concept of values.

We must admit that problems raised about firearms and their violent use are very complex and often ambiguous. In addition, the relation existing between firearms and violence tends to conceal other much important related facts. Indeed, one only has to realize that the majority of offensive weapon owners want to use their weapons in an appropriate way. Now, if one looks at the statistics, one realizes that most of the time it is law-abiding sportsmen, honest and model citizens who deplore the use of firearms for criminal purposes.

So would it not be preferable to solve the problem giving reasonable consideration to their needs? Furthermore, it should never be forgotten that violence results from causes a lot deeper than the simple proliferation of firearms. Indeed, the gun is not dangerous by itself, the car is not dangerous by itself, nor is the gas that must be used. It all depends on the individual using it. It must be admitted that if firearms do make it easier to express violence they certainly do not provoke it. Also, if one makes a retrospective of events one realizes that all social perturbations in fact have their origin in the current economic system. To illustrate that one only has to think about someone coming out of jail. To survive, he must find a job. But unfortunately he will be refused employment because he has a criminal record that follows him everywhere.

Yet, he is a human being with physical needs who has to eat and dress, like everyone else. If he does not find work to meet those needs, he has but one alternative: go back to the vice for which he was condemned in the first place.

Undeniably, the proposal whereby bureaucrats would be empowered to determine who can have a firearm and who cannot is an alarming example of the philosophy according to which all that is not mandatory must be forbidden. May I also add that, if this bill becomes law, we can expect anything. And especially this: firearms will be restricted to an elite, and also those weapons will be registered by serial number.

That way, it will be easy for a government that suffers from delusions of grandeur to confiscate all firearms under the pretext of emergency measures, apprehended insurrection, and thus ensure the docility of the population.

In my modest opinion, the registration of firearms surely does not prevent criminals from getting them and, moreover, it will not save the lives of citizens who could be killed by people who never showed a propensity to crime in the past. I sincerely believe that the government is making a big mistake by proposing the adoption of this bill, because its purpose is to impose unnecessary measures to law-abiding citizens. There is for that matter no evidence at all that firearms control can effectively reduce the rate of crime, except in totalitarian states.

In addition, this bill will only create a number of annoyances for sportsmen and honest citizens in general. The