

We are experiencing in this Province an increasing problem arising from the practice of individuals carrying firearms in their motor vehicles. The farming community have been in the habit for years of carrying rifles in their trucks, and during the past two or three years there has been a noticeable increase in the number of people within the urban areas carrying firearms in their vehicles. In the past year there has been a number of occasions where individuals have become involved in an argument in licensed premises following which they have gone to their vehicles parked nearby and returned with a rifle. I am not aware if this is a problem encountered by other provinces, but it is one of considerable concern to the police in this Province at the present time. I am wondering if you have given consideration to a general prohibition in respect to carrying firearms in a vehicle except when in possession of a hunting licence or special permit to carry a firearm in a motor vehicle. I recognize this could probably be covered by provincial game legislation, but I would think it may be a problem to other provinces and, in my view, it would be preferable to have uniform legislation nationally.

I have left the most controversial provision to the last and that is the licensing of owners of rifles and shot guns. There is no doubt that the licensing of owners of firearms would be exceptionally time-consuming and tremendously costly. When commenting on this latter aspect in Edmonton, you indicated the administrative cost of licensing could be recovered from the licensee. While it is extremely difficult to put a dollar value on the cost of licensing, it is apparent that under the licensing proposal there is going to be a requirement to look into the background of the licensee as well as the guarantor. This necessarily involves enquiries by the police and it has been suggested to me that the total time involved in the licensing of one owner could vary from two to four hours at a minimum. We are therefore looking at a cost ranging in the area of \$25 to \$50 per licence. I am certain that we could not impose such a fee on a licensee.

The Chief of Police for the city of Saskatoon informs me he estimates there are approximately 25,000 owners of rifles and shot guns in that city. The cost to licence owners in that city alone would be in the area of three-quarters of a million dollars. More important is the time that would be consumed by police personnel to conduct enquiries and complete the administrative aspects of licensing. The demands on police personnel at the present time are heavy and I do not see how