

Criminal Code

Solicitor General to demonstrate statistically, or in any other way, how many of these people involved in family quarrels which sadly end in death are found sane and sound, and are sane and sound at the time they register for the right to purchase a rifle or shotgun. You can twist statistics anyway you like, Mr. Speaker. I am not directing this comment to anyone in this House, but I could quote the old saying that figures don't lie but liars can figure.

Earlier today I listened to the hon. member for Broadview suggesting there had been a remarkable increase in the number of guns purchased in the past year; I think he quoted the figure of approximately 260,000. The hon. member was astounded that 260,000 guns had been purchased in Canada last year. I ask, how many were hand guns? One hundred, 200? If the figure is above 1,000 I would be astounded. The hon. member for Broadview has not the foggiest notion because he lives in the city, and probably does not know one end of a duck from the other. He would not know that the average hunter may decide that for upland game his 20 gauge is fine but that he needs a 12 gauge for the geese. He may think that because he had an 8 per cent increase in his wages under the guidelines of the Anti-Inflation Board he might be able to afford a new 12 gauge shotgun. Or he might decide his old double barrelled shotgun is worn out. The hon. member for Broadview probably does not realize that guns do indeed wear out and new ones must be purchased. Neither does he realize that someone with a 30.06 or gun of similar calibre may get interested in target shooting and that instead of his 30.06 or his 7 mm. or his .308 he may decide to pick up a .22 rifle, which is quite satisfactory for target shooting.

I suggest that the increase in the number of guns purchased across Canada last year is really an innocuous and innocent circumstance. The manner in which the argument was presented by the hon. member for Broadview would give one the impression that all of a sudden 260,000 people were bent on murder and crime. That is unadulterated nonsense, Mr. Speaker.

● (2040)

I noticed there was reference made by the Solicitor General today to the careless handling and storage of guns. I hope we are not again going to be put through that exhaustive exercise in committee, asking for a definition of what is careless storage of guns.

An hon. Member: What is your definition?

Mr. Brisco: I could make some suggestions; first that the ammunition not be stored with the rifle; second, if the rifle is a type from which the bolt can be removed, that the bolt also be stored separately from the gun; and third, if you wish, that the gun itself be locked.

Incidentally, Mr. Speaker, I cannot help but remark on a response from the hon. member for Calgary North in case *Hansard* missed it, and *Hansard* does not miss very much. The hon. minister said that I was improving on my address of last year, and the hon. member for Calgary North has just

[Mr. Brisco.]

remarked, "And so has the legislation". I have to agree. I am glad to be able to put that on the record.

An hon. Member: But that is not enough.

Mr. Brisco: Let us give the member credit for his interjection. Which riding is that hon. member from? Would you help me on that point, Mr. Knowles?

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Order!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): The hon. member for Kootenay West (Mr. Brisco) should refer to another member of this House by his riding and not by his name.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Brisco: That intervention completely upsets my entire trend of thought, Mr. Speaker.

The hon. member for Broadview, who is replete with suggestions today, suggested that those who use rifles and shotguns should store them at the local club and not take them home, as they do in England. That sounds like a jolly good idea, Mr. Speaker. I can just see the local gun club being broken into and 50 or 60 rifles and shotguns disappearing in one fell swoop! I suppose the hon. member for Broadview did not think about that particular point.

What concerns me and what concerns people in the rural areas, who do not live in cities and do not live next to or close to crimes of violence, is what point is there in storing rifles and shotguns at some remote gun club when the next evening you have at your doorstep a cougar that is about to take away your pet dog or cat? I suppose the odd member will snicker and say, "What is the member talking about?" I would refer that sneering member to the town of Nakusp, British Columbia, which is a quiet little community of 4,000 or 5,000 souls.

If one were to drive through there, one would see water, trees, the forest, people, some industry—not enough—but you would not see a cougar. Yet this winter there have been three separate instances in that community where cougars have come to the doorsteps of houses and have seized a pet dog or cat and have run off with it. In terms of size, there is not much difference between a pet dog or cat and a small child. There are documented incidents of that as well. What use is a gun in that community if it is stored at a gun club?

I remember dealing with Bill C-83 in committee last year and remarking about bears walking the streets of Trail. I was somewhat oppressed because some hon. members thought it was all very funny and really did not think it was true. Yet, some ten years ago, within 100 yards of my house a neighbour killed a marauding grizzly bear. Surely in the city of Trail you are not going to come across a grizzly bear wandering the streets. That is true, but you must remember the outer fringe of some of these communities borders on mountains, trees, streams, bush and hillside, really all very innocent-looking. Within a block and a half or two blocks of my home, regularly every summer the British Columbia department of fish and game has to establish a bear trap because bears move down