

shops of that kind. They do not like the RCMP, and that applies especially to two of the ministers; each of them is showing an interest in something else at the moment.

● (1540)

I have nothing more to add. I have tried to show that this legislation is wrong in its present form. I have not dealt with wire tapping. What happened there is that they smuggled in this wiretapping section. I could not find it in my search at first. Everything else has a heading. That wire-tapping thing was turned down in 1974. We said it was wrong. The then minister of justice, now Minister of Transport, fought bitterly to have it included. He did not get away with it, so they brought it in along with the other stuff.

An hon. Member: Under the table.

Mr. Diefenbaker: From under the table, where it was hidden away, they produced this. As long as that provision is there, you have the danger of a police state.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Diefenbaker: The point was well covered by my hon. friend from Calgary North who I understand has an amendment he intends to bring forward to make the proposal acceptable. But, on the face of it, what colossal impertinence on the part of a government to put all this stuff together with no relationship between one thing and another, and to say to us, "You must vote for it because you believe in certain parts of it." Not at all. This should have been divided up.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Diefenbaker: I will say no more other than that I fear for my country when you have a government which so cavalierly tries to restrict the rights and freedoms of individuals. They will not put the noose around the neck of a criminal who is guilty of premeditated murder, but they are putting the noose around freedom whenever they have an opportunity.

[Translation]

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, today is the last day under the provisions of Standing Order 75C allocated to the discussion of Bill C-83, for the better protection of Canadian society against perpetrators of violent and other crime. This legislation deals of course with the registration of firearms. Similar legislation has been enacted in several countries throughout the world, yet without bringing about any real change in the situation regarding crime. In North America, for example, one could read the following not so long ago, and I quote:

[English]

"The new Boston gun control law has little effect".

[Translation]

I think, Mr. Speaker, that the purpose of Bill C-83 is to have us swallow the next bill, Bill C-84. It is an attempt to convince the people that gun control will prevent or stop crime which is becoming more and more serious in Canada. If they can get enough citizens and members to agree on gun control, then they will have them swallow the aboli-

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tion of capital punishment through the adoption of Bill C-84.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill C-83 does not surprise me. Two ministers are needed to support this bill, the Minister of Justice (Mr. Basford) and the Solicitor General (Mr. Allmand). They act in collusion to have us believe that crime will be reduced if revolvers, guns, ".22's" and ".303's" are registered. It may be. However, Mr. Speaker, are we to believe that thieves and criminals will register their weapons before committing their crimes?

Recently, when the Brink's truck was attacked in Montreal by gangsters armed with a machine-gun, do you think they informed Brink's of the licence number of the machine-gun before stealing \$2,800,000? As late as last night, murders were committed in Montreal. Are we to believe that bandits will register their weapons to put an end to crime? Those who will laugh at the government measures and the ministers involved in this bill are the bandits who do not care the least about the government and the ministers. For instance, if an honest man keeps a shot-gun in his car trunk, whether it be a ".22" a ".300", a ".303" or a ".410", a bandit will not go and get a licence before stealing it. He steals the gun and then uses it against honest people or to commit a crime, perhaps a murder.

We all have received numerous letters from the province of Quebec and from all the provinces that strongly oppose the passage of Bill C-83. I received letters from British Columbia, from the constituency of my good friend from—

An hon. Member: Kenora.

Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue): Kenora, that is in Ontario; I have also received some from there. I also received several from the Windsor and St. Catherine areas and from the Quebec City area. I should like to quote a few of the letters I received, including one from the Quebec Wildlife Federation, Quebec region, as well as a copy of a letter sent to the Prime Minister, copy of which has been sent to every party leader in this House. The leader of the official opposition, the two ministers concerned, the Solicitor General, the Minister of Justice, the leader of the New Democratic Party, the leader of the Progressive Conservative Party and myself also received this letter. It is signed by Raymond Pelletier, the acting secretary of this association, the Quebec Wildlife Federation.

● (1550)

During the regular meeting, the executive of the Quebec Wildlife Federation (Quebec area) which represents 26 associations with a membership of about 25,000 unanimously adopted the following resolution:

Considering that the amazing increase in crime in the country is due more to a bad administration of the law than to a lack of legislation;

Considering that a forty year old legislation requiring the registration of handguns (pistols and revolvers) is not implemented, Mr. Allmand having stated a year ago that 40 per cent of these guns were not registered in the country;

Considering that it would be better to amend the act in order to remove criminals from society instead of worrying a whole group of sportsmen;

It seems to me that this makes a lot of sense. Criminals should be removed from society, but not by registering guns, revolvers, pistols and so on. Come on! The Solicitor