

that meeting, anyway. Maybe there should be a law against it. If you attend any type of meeting on the way back, you have broken the law because you are carrying a gun with you. You must then justify to the police officer or to the court that you were justified in having that firearm with you. It creates the opportunity for many of those people to become criminals under the existing legislation.

When you talk about the north country — and these gentlemen here will talk about that tomorrow — we are in that fringe area from where I live. A gun or a rifle is a tool of the trade for them. When they go out, must all those family members have a license to own that gun? Each time they borrow that rifle from someone else, must they have written permission to do so? This is an unreasonable approach.

If I was convinced that the act of registration itself would save lives, then I might take another look at that and say, “Yes, it might very well save lives.” However, the fact that a gun is registered has literally nothing to do with saving a life. If a person is intending to draw a gun on someone, they do not check first to see if it is registered. Obviously, they do not do that.

The police departments in Western Canada are basically not for this legislation because they are working with such people. If the police out there have access to what would be a gun registry on a computer, and if violence in a home is reported, the police can check that registry and say “Yes, there are guns in that home”; or, “There are no guns in that home.” If there were guns in that home, they would go out and surround the house, take out their loudspeakers and say, “Throw out your registered guns.” They would not ask for the guns that are not registered. Why would any policeman in his right mind go to any home where there is violence and assume that there are no guns there? The answer is “Absolutely not.” That would not occur.

**Senator Gustafson:** They all say that.

**Senator Sparrow:** Yes, they all say that it is not a protective tool for them in those particular circumstances.

When we talk about the native community, when they go out — which might very well be to visit in a one-room shack — how are they to register a gun if there are six people there? If any one of the farmers in my community has a criminal record for impaired driving, or whatever it may be considered, he cannot get a licence for that gun. It might be extremely difficult for him. His whole family and the whole operation suffers because he has a criminal record for something else. The whole community in which he lives will also suffer.

This is also true for the native community. We often hear that 80 per cent of the people in jails are native people with records. Upon release from jail, they cannot get a licence to own a gun in order to support themselves. That is what Bill C-68 will do to them.

I will put forward an amendment to this report to take away the need for registration of those tools. They are tools, not

weapons. That would satisfy, in most instances, the people who feel that, primarily, not only their lives but also their livelihood is threatened by this particular aspect.

It is easy to say: What is the big deal about licensing? The Prime Minister and Mr. Rock have said that we license our bicycles, our cars, our dogs and our cats. We do not! There is not a farmer in Saskatchewan who has to license his bicycle, his dog, his cat, his tractor or his all-terrain vehicle.

One senator said to me, “We used to license our radios.” Perhaps we did. Do we want to go to that extent? Would they be happy in the city of Toronto, for example, to register their televisions? There is so much violence on television nowadays that it might very well be worthwhile controlling what is watched on TV. We are talking about getting at crime; corruption and crime by violence, yet we allow these things to happen.

• (2030)

It is said that deaths are caused by guns in the case of those who commit suicide or murder. There are far more suicides in the Province of Saskatchewan caused by agricultural crises than there are for any other reason, and they are usually not carried out with guns. Far more people are killed by tractors on the farm, by being bucked off a horse, or by being kicked by a cow. Some would take away those tools and say, “It is no big deal.” It is a big deal.

#### MOTION IN AMENDMENT—VOTE DEFERRED

**Hon. Herbert O. Sparrow:** Honourable senators, I wish to move, seconded by Senator Lawson:

That the report be not now adopted but that it be amended

(a) by adding, on the first page, immediately before amendment number 1, the following:

“1. Page 15, clause 15.1: add, after line 4, on page 15, the following new Clause:

“15.1. (1) A registration certificate is not required for any purpose under this Act or any other enactment for a firearm that is reasonable for use in Canada for hunting or sporting purposes.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1), a registration certificate may be issued for a firearm that is reasonable for use in Canada for hunting or sporting purposes.

(3) For the purposes of this section, a firearm shall be deemed to be reasonable for use in Canada for hunting or sporting purposes if

(a) it is a rifle or shotgun designed or intended to be used for hunting or sporting purposes; and