

Private Members' Business

am referring to some research performed by Franklin Zimring and Gordon Hawkins who wrote *The Citizen's Guide to Gun Control*. This is what they found in the United States. In Detroit, which has experienced a substantial build-up of guns from 1965 to 1968, the number of gun permits issued increased tenfold. During the same period, robberies committed with guns increased at twice the rate of non-gun robberies.

When they examined the issue between regions, they reported that gun homicides and gun assaults parallel gun ownership. Crimes are higher in regions that have higher gun ownership. Between cities, the same analysis proved to be correct. They compared Houston, St. Louis, Atlanta, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Pittsburgh, Boston, and New York.

They also examined the question that, if guns were scarce and would-be killers had to find other weapons, that there would be as many deaths. In fact this proved not to be the case. They discovered that gun wounds were over five times more likely to cause death than stab wounds. Guns have greater range, are less easily warded off, and require less physical and psychological strength than other weapons.

Similar research findings exist in Australia. The New South Wales Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research bears this out.

Needless to say, England is an example where it is very difficult to obtain firearms and in fact even police in the United Kingdom do not bear fire arms in the ordinary course. The crime statistics bear out the fact that this kind of control results in fewer crimes.

This is all in the context of what is easily discoverable by looking at our newspapers. I have pulled some clippings, all of which are from since first reading of this bill. "Woman shot in hand while deer hunting". "Car gets hit by stray bullet". "Deer decoy sets bait for illegal hunters". "Hunter killed in Dunedin". "Hunter fined in shooting death in Walkerton". A reward is offered in Cambridge, Ontario, by a farmer who is trying to track down those responsible for blasting two of his horses with a shotgun.

And it goes on: "Vancouver mayor and police target guns". "Boys with handgun try to hold up store". "Bus boy captures suspect after shoot-out"—this is in Ottawa. "Man charged in shooting in North York". "Rifle is stolen in break-in in Huron Township". "Richmond Hill man shot while hunting". "Gun fires accidentally in gas bar robbery in Scarborough". "Thief on probation", in Chatham, Ontario, where a 19-year old man robbed a firearm store at gunpoint less than three weeks after being placed on probation. And on it goes, Mr. Speaker, on and on. These examples of criminal activity occurring in Canada with firearms.

What I would like to bring forward to your attention, Mr. Speaker, are the simple elements that I have suggested in Bill C-273. I do not suggest for a moment that this is all that needs to be done to amend the gun control provisions of our country. There are many elements of Bill C-80, the government's bill, that I think are good. I do not think it goes far enough in other ways. We are not debating Bill C-80 here today. But I have suggested just a few changes to the firearms acquisition certificate system in Bill C-273 that I think will make an improvement to the system we have got.

First, I suggested that the age for obtaining a firearms acquisition certificate be increased to the age of majority in Canada, 18 years of age.

Do you know what happened, Mr. Speaker, in this city, in Ottawa? A mother was contacted by city police after her 16-year old had applied, without her knowledge, for a firearms acquisition certificate. The police contacted her as a matter of courtesy to let her know that her son had applied for this certificate. It was not necessary for the police to do so, and under the existing law it is possible for a 16-year-old, without parental knowledge or consent, for the payment of a \$10 fee, to obtain a firearms acquisition certificate that would enable him or her to go into a Canadian Tire store or other gun seller and purchase a firearm in Canada. Essentially, it is the same way Mark Lepine did, although he at least was over the age of 18.

• (1710)

Second, I propose when an applicant wishes to obtain a firearms acquisition certificate, in addition to the other requirements of the law, that he be able to prove in a satisfactory way to the police that he is able to provide secure storage facilities for the firearm. The reality is that many, many firearms offences occur in Canada with stolen firearms. I realize there will be some enforcement