

Another point to consider is the difficulty that such uneven application of this law would cause Canada Customs. Importation and exportation are clearly and exclusively areas of federal law-making power. Under Bill C-68, a licence and a registration certificate is required to bring guns into the country, or to take them out. How could authorities possibly enforce different export rules among different provinces? What about foreign visitors or groups of hunters coming in? Would a licence certificate be issued for someone, for example, who arrives at the borders of an opt-in province but who intends to travel to an opt-out province? Should customs officers be trained differently according to where they will be stationed? How will the public perceive these differences? We cannot pass a bill that provides for differences in the application of the law according to province and territory. It seems to me that this is clearly bad law.

I might add that there are immense cost implications as well. Application of the bill as it stands was intended to be a cost neutral system, but this was predicated upon revenues received from registration across Canada, of gun owners who become licensed across Canada; not on some unknown fraction of that amount.

To sum up, the opting-in amendment would make this legislation so confusing, not to mention vague, that it would become unenforceable and unworkable. As I said before, it is simply bad law.

The bill will not prevent every crime under every circumstance, and I do not think anyone has ever claimed that it will. One can argue for or against any specific amendment, but I urge my colleagues not to lose sight of the forest through gazing at the trees. This bill will help in the continuing struggle to prevent Canada from becoming another gun culture.

A group of people was here from Montreal whose relatives had been slaughtered six years ago, and I wish to quote from one of them. Catherine Bergeron, whose sister was slain by Marc Lépine, urged this house, if I may paraphrase her, to go beyond partisanship; to go deep within ourselves to adopt the bill just as it is.

I urge honourable senators to join with me in defeating the amendments contained in this committee report, and sending Bill C-68 back to the other place in unamended form so that the process may begin.

Honourable senators, if I could ask your indulgence, this has been sort of an unusual maiden speech. Perhaps I will have the opportunity at some future time to give a more proper kind of maiden speech. This has been a little bedraggled, perhaps, and belated, but I should like to extol the many virtues of the place where I live. It is a wonderful place, a cosmopolitan place, and I

should like to leave you with that thought rather than remind you of the traumatic and tragic incident that took place there 20 years ago.

The Hon. the Speaker *pro tempore*: Honourable senators, it being 5:15 p.m., and a vote having been ordered by the Senate for 5:30 p.m., pursuant to rule 67(3), I must interrupt the proceedings so that the Senate may proceed to the deferred division on the motion respecting the committee report on Bill C-69.

Hon. Herbert O. Sparrow: Your Honour, considering the lateness of the day, would it still be possible to make an amendment tomorrow, or is there a time restraint of a day's notice before an amendment can be made? I have been waiting to speak.

The Hon. the Speaker *pro tempore*: There is no requirement for a day's notice to make an amendment.

Senator Sparrow: Then it can be made tomorrow. Thank you.
Debate suspended.

ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES READJUSTMENT BILL, 1995

MOTION TO INSTRUCT LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE TO TABLE FINAL REPORT NEGATIVED ON DIVISION

On the Order:

On the motion of the Honourable Senator Fairbairn, P.C.,
seconded by the Honourable Senator Stewart,

That it be an instruction of this House to the Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs that no later than Wednesday, November 22, 1995, it present its final report to the Senate on the Message from the House of Commons, dated June 20, 1995, and on the motion of the Honourable Senator Graham dated June 28, 1995, regarding Bill C-69, An Act to provide for the establishment of electoral boundaries commissions and the readjustment of electoral boundaries.

The Hon. the Speaker *pro tempore*: Honourable senators, the practice would be to ring the bells. Strictly speaking, the bells are supposed to ring for 15 minutes.

• (1730)

Call in the senators.