

leave it up to the Provinces to set up the specific regulations by which licences are granted. This would allow for and take account of the vastly different attitudes of the public of the West and the Maritimes toward firearms compared with those of people from urban Central Canada. We would further prefer to see the major qualification for holding a licence to possess firearms or ammunition to be the taking of training and being certified in a proper hunter-training, firearms-safety course administered in each province.

We recognize the present program will largely be administered by the Provinces as this seems to be the major reason behind the objections to Bill C-83 being expressed by Alberta Solicitor-General Roy Farren. We also recognize that Bill C-83 does provide for the phasing-in and co-operation with provincial training programs in hunter and gun safety.

Before this Committee, however, we now believe that we should emphasize what is our major objection to Bill C-83 as now written. As can be seen from the policy statement of the Alberta Fish and Game Association, the gun owners of Alberta fear more than anything else about gun control legislation, any aspect of it that might require registration of sporting arms themselves as opposed to qualification of the owners and users. Mr. Scammell, during his time as chairman of the Gun Control Committee of the Canadian Wildlife Federation had the opportunity to speak with gun owners and users from coast to coast in Canada and finds that the same dislike and fear of the concept of gun registration prevails from coast to coast.