

Government Orders

behind lawyers and line up behind judges. The significant bond that exists must line up. As a legislator I think that is wrong.

I looked at the bill and said that it could well push a veritable army of bureaucrats and people who are not concerned about the child into the background and bring grandparents to where they rightfully belong in the foreground for the best wishes of the child.

• (1200)

This is the opportunity in my view. A non-partisan private member's bill is available for an open, free vote in the House of Commons. It is not a good enough bill, I have heard a couple of people say it could be improved. Let us go to committee with this bill. Let us improve it, let us pass it and let us bring the grandparents to where they belong, in line with their grandchildren.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. member for Macleod will have three minutes if he wishes the next time the matter comes up for debate.

The time provided for the consideration of Private Members' Business has now expired. Pursuant to Standing Order 96, the item is dropped to the bottom of the order of precedence on the Order Paper.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

FIREARMS ACT

The House resumed from February 27 consideration of the motion that Bill C-68, an act respecting firearms and other weapons, be read the second time and referred to a committee.

SPEAKER'S RULING

The Deputy Speaker: Colleagues, on February 27 the hon. member for Yorkton—Melville sought to move an amendment to the motion for second reading of Bill C-68, an act respecting firearms and other weapons.

A question was raised regarding the procedural acceptability of the proposed amendment. The Chair heard arguments from the hon. member for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell, who is the government whip, and the hon. House leader for the Reform Party before reserving his decision. The Chair wishes to thank those hon. members for their helpful comments.

[Translation]

The proposed amendment, is asking the House not to proceed with the second reading of Bill C-68 on the grounds that its provisions link the licensing and registration of firearms with the creation of offences relating to firearms. This kind of amendment is known as a reasoned amendment.

The honourable Chief Government Whip argued that this motion was out of order as a reasoned amendment because it was not opposed to the principles of the Bill. However, Speaker Lamoureux, in a ruling on August 30, 1966, noted that opposition to the principles of a bill is, and I quote:

only one of the several possible forms of a reasoned amendment.

[English]

Speaker Lamoureux pointed out that several forms of reasoned amendment were listed in May's *Parliamentary Practice*, 17th edition, at page 527 and that May indicated only that a reasoned amendment "may be declaratory of some principle adverse to, or differing from, the principles, policy or provisions of a bill".

Indeed, one of the other forms of reasoned amendment listed is that it "may express opinions as to any circumstances connected with the introduction or prosecution of the bill, or otherwise opposed to its progress".

Finally, Speaker Lamoureux cited Abraham and Hawtrey's *Parliamentary Dictionary*, which states in very clear terms what a reasoned amendment is. It reads at page 162 as follows:

This form of amendment seeks—either to give reasons why the house declines to give a second or third reading to the bill, or to express an opinion with regard to its subject matter or to the policy which the bill is intended to fulfil.

The Chair finds, after careful consideration, that the proposed amendment respects the definition offered in Abraham and Hawtrey and one of the forms listed in May, and further that it follows a long line of similar amendments presented in this House which have expressed an opinion regarding the policy or the provisions contained in a bill. Consequently, the Chair rules the amendment in order.

MOTION IN AMENDMENT

Mr. Garry Breitkreuz (Yorkton—Melville, Ref.) moved:

That the motion be amended by deleting all the words after the word "that" and substituting the following therefor:

This House declines to give second reading to Bill C-68, an act respecting firearms and other weapons, because the principle of establishing a system for licensing and registration of all firearms and the principle of creating a variety of offences are two unrelated issues that should be addressed separately.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Maheu): When Bill C-68 was last before the House the hon. member for Jonquière had 17 minutes remaining.

[Translation]

Mr. André Caron (Jonquière, BQ): Madam Speaker, I am pleased to continue my remarks on Bill C-68.

• (1205)

When I spoke on this bill previously, I said straight away that I agree with the principle of gun control and that, on the whole, I support the justice minister's bill. Later, I will raise specific