

*Measures Against Crime*

**Mr. Cafik:** As the hon. member mentions, there is also the liability involved. Does the liability revolve upon the guarantor? This is a question we must deal with in the law and not in the regulations so that the people concerned about this will be able to know what we are dealing with in parliament and will have an opportunity to express themselves against or in favour of the law we are proposing.

The last point I want to make is in respect of the old question of how deeply government should become involved in our personal lives. I think this is an old question and one which gives us all difficulty.

I am inclined to believe that the government should make as few laws as possible and should always have a clear and demonstrable reason for imposing itself on the social system through law. When abuses occur there is a public interest at stake, but clearly we must accept our responsibility when we deal with the question of passing laws and regulations. In respect of gun control, I believe this is an area to which we must address ourselves and where we must intervene to some extent, but I would hope that our intervention would be to the minimum so that we would maximize the guarantees and minimize the bureaucracy and disruption that such regulations and laws will impose on society.

**Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** And they should be related to the prevention of crime.

**Mr. Cafik:** Clearly no one likes government involvement, but the government does have a responsibility in this area to ensure that those who are mentally disturbed and incapable of adequately using firearms, those who have been guilty of violent offences in the past and also those who have been guilty of criminal offences including the use of firearms, should not be allowed a licence. That is

understandable. Clearly we must also ensure that firearms are properly and adequately stored and that there is some responsibility on the owner for doing so.

In pursuing these legitimate objectives let us not become lost in this whole bureaucratic entanglement. Let us carefully, as a committee, look at this whole question. Let us look at some of the points I have raised, and at some I have not raised because of the limitation of time. We must genuinely address ourselves to these concerns. I think the most damaging thing that could happen to us as members of parliament and to the committee would be to approach Bill C-83 at the committee stage with a presumption that all those who oppose this legislation are inherently wrong. That would be a denial of their right to involve themselves in this area. I think all of us, even those who oppose this, would agree that we have a right to move in this direction. We want to ensure that what we do is productive and not counter-productive.

I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that this committee will have a very important responsibility. It must have the time to deliberate carefully. It must listen to representations from all sides. It must presume good will on the part of those who appear before the committee. By doing that and by listening as well as speaking, I think we will end up with very good progressive gun control legislation of which we can be proud, and by which those who have rights and who want to be respected as citizens of Canada will not feel aggrieved. In this way we will not create additional alienation within our society.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. McCleave):** Order, please. The hon. member for Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton (Mr. Dick) will be recognized when the debate resumes. It being six o'clock this House stands adjourned until 2 p.m. tomorrow.

At six o'clock the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.