

*Gun Control*

There are matters where other changes in this House have been seriously inflationary. For example, when the Liberals made the conversion to the metric system of measurement, Conservatives howled about this. Many Canadians were under the whip of the oil companies when that industry converted from gallons to litres, which caused a substantial increase in the price of fuel at that time.

I hope that when this Bill goes to committee there will be a discussion of the inflationary effect of the loonie.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

Motion agreed, Bill read the second time and referred to a legislative committee.

**Mr. Hovdebo:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Could we call it five o'clock and proceed to Private Members' hour?

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Is there unanimous consent to proceed with the introduction of the next Bill and then call it five o'clock?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

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## CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT

### MEASURE TO ENACT

**Hon. Elmer MacKay (for the Minister of the Environment)** moved that Bill C-74, an Act respecting the protection of the environment and of human life and health, be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** The Hon. Member for Scarborough Centre (Mrs. Browes) will be recognized.

It being five o'clock, the House will now proceed to the consideration of Private Members' Business, as listed on today's Order Paper.

## PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS—PUBLIC BILLS

[English]

### CRIMINAL CODE

#### MEASURE TO AMEND

**Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby)** moved that Bill C-207, an Act to amend the Criminal Code (gun control) be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of my Private Members' Bill, Bill C-207, which is an Act to amend the Criminal Code with respect to the sensitive and important issue of gun control. I want to emphasize, because I think it is

particularly important in the discussion of this legislation, that this is a Private Members' Bill. This Bill is one which I am putting forward not on behalf of the New Democratic Party, not on behalf of the federal caucus of the New Democratic Party, but which I am putting forward as a private Member of this House. Each and every Member of this House is entitled to bring to the attention of the House issues which are of concern to that Member. I emphasize that because I know there are very strong feelings in different parts of the country respecting gun control.

My colleague, the Hon. Member for Skeena (Mr. Fulton), has himself introduced legislation on gun control, but his Bill would move in exactly the opposite direction from mine. I am attempting to tighten gun control in Canada to make gun control more effective. My colleague from Skeena has decided in his Private Member's Bill that he wants to eliminate entirely the requirement for firearms acquisition certificates for residents in northern Canada. I know that my colleague from Skeena will explain to this House and to the people of Canada why he believes that in northern Canada there should not even be the most minimal restriction to ensure that those who have a history of previous involvement with violent crime, those who have a history of being involved in serious indictable offences, those who have a history of psychiatric imbalance, and those who to happen to be living in a Schedule III riding should not be required to obtain a firearms acquisition certificate.

● (1700)

A few minutes ago, we were talking about loonies. I would not characterize this particular proposition as a loony proposition, but I certainly believe that the suggestion that we eliminate entirely in northern Canada the requirement for even the minimal safeguard of a firearms acquisition certificate is not one that I could possibly support. Rather, I believe the time has come to recognize that we should tighten up and make more effective gun control legislation. We should recognize that there are a number of provisions in the present gun control law which should be made more effective. The purpose of my Bill is to do precisely that.

The purpose of my Bill is to heed the call of coroners' juries across the land who time after time have drawn to the attention of Parliament the existing weaknesses and shortcomings of gun control legislation. It is to heed the call as well of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police. That association has proposed to Parliament on a number of occasions that we make more effective Canadian gun-control legislation. For example, it adopted the following resolution at a recent annual conference:

Therefore be it resolved that the Solicitor General of Canada now address these concerns in conjunction with his provincial counterparts and take the steps necessary to end this increase in available weapons.