

*Criminal Code*

Another point is that in our area the shooting of partridge, pheasants, ducks and geese brings in thousands and thousands of dollars. The same is true of big game. Many people engage in this sport and they buy firearms for this purpose. We all have firearms and we use them to have a little fun and pleasure. It is part of many citizens' desire to go out and get a moose or a deer. Is the hon. member going to deny them that pleasure? Will he make them sign something every month that they have a firearm? Will he end sportsmanship in this country under the guise of trying to stop murders committed by people in the possession of firearms? You just cannot do it. You are on the wrong track in what you are seeking to do. You are following a will-o'-the-wisp. You are looking at a simple way of doing it and the way you are suggesting will not take care of the situation.

• (5:30 p.m.)

A sportsman has the right to exist. The government has a right to the revenues that are obtained from the sale of firearms for sporting purposes. I should not like to see this parliament be so stupid as to pass a law that would forbid the sportsmen of this country the right to be sportsmen. I happen to enjoy the privilege of hunting when I have the time. Hundreds and hundreds of people all over the west do the same thing. If my friend is from one of those eastern cities in which somebody gets a gun and shoots somebody, I suggest that changing the Criminal Code will in no way curtail that. You can put all the laws on the statute books that you want, but these people who want to shoot other people will get guns to do it. The thing to do is to use education to train people to use weapons correctly. A certain amount of training for sportsmen and other people is absolutely necessary.

I can give my hon. friend an illustration. In the Arctic, at Aklavik, the people carry guns all the time but nobody ever gets shot. In the Mackenzie River delta the people shoot millions of muskrats during the wintertime. In order to save the fur of the muskrat you have to be able to shoot the muskrat right through the eye or through the head. In the public school at Aklavik the principal who is called "Moose"—he is a real man and does a good job of teaching the children—conducts target practice in the basement of the school in order that these people will be able to shoot muskrats through the head and thus have these most valuable pelts. I just mention this

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one illustration. Go anywhere in the Northwest Territories and you will find people using guns. They must carry guns. This gentleman here in the back row would have them report once a month and if they did not report once a month he would say they were violating the Criminal Code.

**Mr. Leblanc (Laurier):** Would the hon. member give me a chance to explain? I think there is one part of my statement that was not understood. I mentioned that every month the manufacturer or dealer in firearms should report, not that the people possessing firearms should report. This is quite different.

**Mr. Kindt:** Well, one regulation leads to another. What you are aiming at is an inventory of all weapons. I see the hon. member who represents the constituency west of me laughing.

**Mr. Byrne:** I said it was a good pun; he is aiming at something.

**Mr. Kindt:** I doubt it. The hon. member for Kootenay East, who represents the riding just west of me, knows very well what the people of his riding would think about this piece of legislation. They would not care a damn about it. They do not want it. They would not be long in telling him so either, because they are used to firearms. The hon. member for Kootenay East has used firearms to shoot bear, moose and other animals in his part of the country. He goes shooting ducks once in a while. Yes, perhaps he even shoots the bull. However, he would be the last one to want this type of legislation.

People have written to me about it and that is why I have taken the trouble to speak on this measure. One person at Okotoks, who has been a sportsman all his life and has been engaged in the sale of firearms, has written to me on many occasions about bills such as this. I hope this is the last one that will be brought before the house. I have referred these letters to the Department of Justice in order that they may know what the people of the country think. We do not want to penalize everybody because someone thinks that what he is proposing is going to correct a problem. Nobody wants to see the shooting of other people. Nobody wants to see the use of firearms abused, but at the same time what the hon. member is proposing will not solve the problem.

**Mr. H. A. Olson (Medicine Hat):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to say only a few words on this bill but I should like to begin by saying