

It is a matter of irony to some, and of more acute concern to others, that in this government which has been able to act on the agenda of western Canada, getting rid of the national energy program, getting rid of the foreign investment review agency, getting rid of a number of the instances which had been such a source of antagonism towards the centre in western Canada. Even though all of those individual programs are gone now, there is still unquestionably a sense of alienation in that region. There is still unquestionably a sense in western Canada that the goals of that region are not reflected in the nation as much as they should be. So the challenge now is to look beyond the question of dealing with specific policy changes, and to take a look at the institutions of the country to see how well they serve us and how they can be changed.

It would be presumptuous of us to assume that we are the only ones—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I regret that I must interrupt the hon. gentleman. He will have six minutes remaining, plus 10 minutes questions and comments the next time the debate is before the House.

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

[English]

CRIMINAL CODE

MEASURE TO AMEND

Mr. John Manley (Ottawa South) moved that Bill C-273, an act to amend the Criminal Code (gun control), be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee.

He said: Mr. Speaker, in presenting this bill which received first reading on November 7, 1989, it is worthwhile to think back to the events that occurred one month later. At the University of Montreal in the faculty of engineering on December 6, Marc Lepine entered, bearing a semi-automatic hunting rifle. By the time he had finished his carnage, he had killed 14 women, wounded 13 other people, and taken his own life.

The purpose of this bill is not to address directly the issue of Marc Lepine, but it does address the issue of gun control. It asserts, by the very virtue of its having been presented here, my belief that gun control not only is in

the interests of Canada, and the public in Canada, but it prevents incidents such as that that occurred at the University of Montreal from occurring as frequently or as regularly as might otherwise be the case.

I am not unaware that this kind of legislation tends to be controversial. It certainly attracts correspondence, as I can attest to myself, from those throughout Canada who think that in fact there should be freer access to firearms. With respect, I disagree with those people and I believe the somewhat modest changes in the firearms acquisition certificate system that I am proposing in the present bill, not only make sense, but would improve the bill and the law in Canada. This bill is an improvement in several ways over the legislation which the government brought forward in Bill C-80.

Just to give you an idea, Mr. Speaker, of the perspective that I have on this, think of some of these things that have happened.

Last year, during the first week of hunting season in the counties of Grey and Bruce, eight hunters were charged with firearm-related offences.

In Manitoba, August 1989, Winnipeg police conducted a three-month under-cover operation that showed that 12 gun store employees sold guns to under-cover police officers, even though they did not have the proper certification. In total, officers brought 12 guns, including two shotguns and various 22-calibre rifles from a dozen dealers.

Superintendent Wayne King of the Winnipeg police reported that in 1988, there were 96 cases of stolen certificates.

In St. Catharines, Ontario, a 14-year-old boy pleaded guilty to manslaughter when he shot his friend after taking a pistol from his father's gun case. Before the shooting, the youth wandered around his neighbourhood randomly firing the handgun, narrowly missing a mother and daughter sitting in their living room. The court was told that he shot a boy once in the chest and once in the back of the head as he lay on the ground. "He had a couple of beers and was acting goofy, so I shot him." On it goes.

In Canada, criminological research published in the *Canadian Journal of Criminology* shows that there has been a remarkable decline in armed robberies and homicides with handguns since gun controls were introduced in 1978. In addition, the findings indicate that there is no support for the hypothesis that restrictions on guns lead to an increase in homicides and assaults with non-shooting weapons such as knives. There is research that bears that out, particularly in the United States. I