

APPENDIX D

DISSENTING OPINION - IAN WADDELL M.P.

Unlike the American, the Canadian frontier was not opened with a gun. In the Canadian West and in our North, you checked your guns with the R.C.M.P. and even the police were under orders not to draw their weapons unless absolutely necessary.

Canadians don't believe the gun solves all problems. Our people want stricter and more effective control of firearms. On most of the major issues, this committee report lets them down and guts the essence of Bill C-80 and the government's other proposals.

In the report, the regulations limiting magazine sizes are gutted. A 900,000 person loophole through the references and competency provisions of the FAC process is allowed. The prohibitions on converted automatics, military and para-military weapons are diluted. In short, if the Committee's recommendations are implemented, Bill C-80 will not be recognizable.

I oppose the Special Committee's recommendation that Bill C-80 be withdrawn. Such an action would derail the move to strengthen Canada's gun control laws. The amendments I support could easily be introduced at the Legislative Committee stage.

Converted Automatics

Converted automatic weapons are remodelled to get around our present law prohibiting automatic weapons. There is no place for these weapons in Canada. They should be prohibited and an amnesty offered for a limited time period. If the government chooses to grandfather these weapons, the provision should be as limited as possible. In contrast, the Special Committee recommends a much wider grandfathering provision than is found in Bill C-80.

I would prefer no grandfathering. As Mr. Lorne Newson, Chief Provincial Firearms Officer for B.C. said in a brief to the Committee: "In the first place, these people were very much aware they were skirting the law by buying superficially modified machine guns. They are deserving of no sympathy." Converted automatics are treated as illegal weapons for the most part today. The Committee proposes to overturn the case law, make these machine guns legal and further suggests that an owner who chooses to give them up be reimbursed by the government. I oppose the Committee's recommendation.

Military and Para-Military Assault Weapons

The Special Committee supported the Minister's proposal to prohibit military and para-military semi-automatics. The grandfathering procedures proposed by the Committee are wider still than those proposed for converted automatics. Present