

Senator Kinsella: Honourable senators, perhaps the honourable minister can tell us when she expects the government to be in a position to release that study, which is known in the research community to have been undertaken? They are anxious to see what that study will say. Does the honourable minister have any indication as to when it will be released?

Senator Fairbairn: I will talk to my colleagues, honourable senators. I do not know personally at this moment what the intention is vis-à-vis a release, or a date, or the timing on a follow-up to that study, but I will attempt to obtain that information for my honourable friend.

Senator Kinsella: Honourable senators, the minister may recall that an indication was given that this blueprint of policy would be out this fall. We are now getting towards the end of the fall. Is that the type of time line the research community can count on?

Senator Fairbairn: I will try to find that out for you.

DELAYED ANSWERS

Hon. B. Alasdair Graham (Deputy Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I have a response to a question raised in the Senate on November 8, 1995, by the Honourable Senator Comeau regarding firearms legislation funding arrangements.

FIREARMS BILL

FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS WITH GOVERNMENT OF NOVA SCOTIA—AVAILABILITY TO OTHER PROVINCES OF SIMILAR ARRANGEMENTS—COSTS TO TAXPAYERS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

(Response to question raised by Hon. Gerald Comeau on November 8, 1995)

In the document entitled a Financial Framework for Bill C-68, An Act Respecting Firearms and Other Weapons tabled by the Minister of Justice with the House Justice Committee on April 24, 1995, anticipated costs and revenues were identified.

The Federal Government has every confidence that the Financial Framework document reflects the anticipated revenues and expenses entailed in the design, development and implementation of the registration system.

As for responsibility for costs incurred, the federal government has made it clear throughout that the provinces will not be called upon to pay for the design, development or implementation of the registration system.

A letter was sent to the Government of Nova Scotia May 24, 1995 from Justice Minister Allan Rock on the issues of costs. Similar letters were also sent to the Governments of all the provinces and territories.

Its continuing costs of administration will be funded by revenues paid as fees by firearms owners.

The actual amounts will be set by regulations that will be subject to Parliament's review, and Federal-Provincial/Territorial Firearms Financial Agreements.

The administration of the Canadian Firearms Registration System will be fully funded by the federal government and costs recovered through fees.

Similarly, the actual issuing costs of all Firearms Licences, Registration Certificates, and Authorization Permits will be recovered by the provinces and territories through fees set in regulations to be reviewed by Parliament and included in the Federal - Provincial/Territorial Firearms Financial Agreements.

The objective of the Government is to make the entire Firearms Program cost-neutral. Furthermore, it is the Government's intention not to remove the front line police officer from their duties in protecting the Canadian public.

PRIVILEGE

SPEAKER'S RULING

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, before I proceed to call Orders of the Day, I wish to give my ruling on a matter of privilege raised by the Honourable Senator Cools. I would ask that my ruling be distributed to all honourable senators so that they may follow the text of my comments.

Honourable senators, on November 6, 1995, the Honourable Senator Cools raised a question of privilege to challenge whether a certain kind of point of order can properly be raised, and whether it is within the power of the Speaker to rule on such points of order. In her submission, Senator Cools stated that:

A point of order cannot be used to compromise the Speaker or the position of the Speaker, or to limit the powers and privileges of the Senate. No point of order may ask the Speaker to adjudicate on the competence of the Senate to pass legislation.

Honourable senators will find that quote at page 2202 of the *Debates of the Senate*.