

have no information." Registration would also encourage firearms users to comply with future safe storage regulations.

Safe storage of firearms is a necessary precaution to ensure that third parties, who are not fully aware of the dangers involved in firearms use, cannot harm themselves or others. We regulate the safe storage of toxic materials which may be less lethal than firearms, and we would urge that you give safe storage regulations priority. Additionally, safe storage regulations would discourage the theft of weapons by unstable or anti-social personalities. At present, as one witness testified, even "current police procedures for safe storage of a gun at an officer's home do not protect it from theft or from unauthorized family use. This is the area that the statistics show most deaths come from."

Similarly, training should be required for the use of any potentially lethal objects. We do not let individuals get behind the wheel of a car on public lands without proving their competency, and there seems no reason to treat firearms use more lightly. We know that you have declared your resolve to implement the training provisions in Bill C-17. We would only add our conviction that they must be implemented without delay to prevent unnecessary injuries or deaths.

Concerns were also expressed about continued access to semi-automatic firearms. We suggest that the Canadian Advisory Council on Firearms should be asked to consider the appropriate uses of semi-automatic firearms, and that you should consider putting on the restricted list all semi-automatics which are not suitable for hunting.

Finally, we would urge you to take quick action on the continuing importation into Canada of military and paramilitary firearms.

The Committee thanks you for your courtesy in appearing before us, as well as for the serious consideration we are sure these concerns will receive.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear!

Hon. P. Derek Lewis: Honourable senators, I also would like to draw the attention of senators to another matter arising out of the consideration of Bill C-17, the gun control bill, by the Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs.

At the hearings of the committee we heard from Wendy Cukier, who is President of the Coalition for Gun Control. She made a very good presentation. She was asked to provide a short document which would set out some suggestions they might have as far as regulations that they felt might be useful.

Unfortunately, that submission did not come in in time for the committee to consider it before the bill was reported and passed last week. The committee asked, and the chairman, Senator Nurgitz, undertook, to write the Minister of Justice and send along these suggestions.

I would like today to read the letter which Senator Nurgitz has undertaken to write to the Minister of Justice.

It is addressed:

The Honourable Kim Campbell, P.C., Q.C., M.P.
Minister of Justice and Attorney
General of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa K1A 0A6

Dear Ms. Campbell:

As you know, the Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs, which I chair, recently held hearings on Bill C-17, (Gun Control). During those hearings, we asked the Coalition for Gun Control if they could provide us with a short document indicating the areas of regulation which they would consider most urgent or most important.

Although the Coalition responded promptly, my Committee had already reported Bill C-17 back to the Senate by the time we received their document, and it did not form part of the record. Therefore, I would like to draw their submission, which is attached, to your attention by way of this letter.

Sincerely,

THE HONOURABLE NATHAN NURGITZ,
Chairman.

Attached to that letter is the submission, which is very detailed and useful. It is three pages long. It is attached to the letter and will go to the minister, and the department will have the benefit of their suggestions.

Hon. Royce Frith (Leader of the Opposition): Do you plan to have that become part of our record today?

Senator Nurgitz: If I might say, honourable senators, I was concerned because I am not sure there is provision for the tabling of documents at this stage of the proceedings. However, it certainly became part of the record of the committee last night.

Senator Molgat: I think it is always proper, if someone is reading from a text, for another senator to ask that the material be tabled. Therefore, I so ask.

Senator Frith: Honourable senators, I would like to suggest that in this case we do not just table it. I was away when this bill was passed. I congratulate all my colleagues on both sides for the way they handled this bill, the timing of it and its reception by the media, and in particular for the acclamation the Senate received for its role in the passage of this bill.

● (1410)

The letter that has been read by Senator Nurgitz will be a part of the record. I think we should make a special case and ensure that the submission is also a part of the record so that someone following up on Senate activity on gun control has the entire record in *Debates of the Senate* and need not go elsewhere for the documents. I think both the letter and the submission should be in today's *Debates of the Senate* so that