

Criminal Code

It should also be prohibited not only to saw off the barrel of a firearm to less than 20 inches, but also to alter firearms to specifications other than those of the manufacturer. For instance, the "FN" rifle, which can now be purchased without a permit, can be altered by inserting a small piece of cardboard of the necessary thickness to produce a sub-machine gun. Recently another type of gun was put on the market, the "Enforcer". This firearm is described as a pistol in catalogues, but its operation requires both hands, and a slight alteration is all that is required to make it into a submachine gun.

Why are some companies allowed to make rifles with barrels shorter than 20 inches since such firearms are prohibited by the Criminal Code. The legislation dealing with the import of firearms should also be revised in order to avoid a conflict of authority between customs officials and provincial police forces.

The new legislation should control firearms at the source, either at the import level or the production level. The makers of firearms should be forced to get a special permit. They should also be compelled to keep a detailed record of their sales and to make a monthly report to the authorities concerned.

Retailers should be forbidden to have in stock firearms other than those covered by a permit in Montreal, in Quebec city and in Eastview, where firearms were stolen in retail stores, criminals got their hands on automatic rifles, submachine guns and automatic revolvers.

If such firearms are completely prohibited, Mr. Speaker, how is it that dealers are authorized to sell them? Stores doing business in firearms should be forced—

[English]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I apologize for interrupting the hon. member but the time allotted to him has expired.

Mr. Leblanc: Two more minutes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Does the house give unanimous consent for the hon. member to continue?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

[Translation]

Mr. Leblanc (Laurier): As I was saying, Mr. Speaker, stores dealing in firearms should be required to take greater safety measures to protect their premises. They should be required to send the police a monthly report

[Mr. Leblanc (Laurier).]

indicating clearly the names and addresses of those who bought firearms. At present, they must keep a register to which the police has access whenever it deems it advisable.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the persons who supplied me with the information on which I based my observations, namely Hon. Claude Wagner, former minister of justice in Quebec, Mr. J.-A. Robert, director of the provincial police, Mr. Roland Perron, deputy chief of the Montreal police, Mr. George Shea, secretary treasurer of the Canadian Association of Police Chiefs, Mr. J.-G.-R. Sénécal, of the customs division, Mr. W. A. McGill, head of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, judiciary.

[English]

Mr. Lawrence E. Kindt (MacLeod): Mr. Speaker, I rise to say a few words on this motion. I wonder where the former speaker was raised to have put forward such a proposal in the hope that this house would support him. He has not defined what he means by the control of firearms except to say that special permits should be issued and monthly reports made. Let me tell him that I have used firearms ever since I was old enough to pack them, and it is the privilege and the requirement of sensible people in the west to have firearms in their homes for the shooting of hawks, gophers, coyotes and predatory animals. The hon. member thinks that amendments should be made to the Criminal Code which would deny us freedom in the use of firearms. When our children are old enough we buy them a .22 and take them out to shoot gophers. We teach them how to handle firearms and we teach them safety methods. We teach them that whenever they have a gun in their possession they must never point it at a person but always toward the ground. These things are drilled into our young people and their friends. We have been brought up with firearms. I say this about the common run of people.

The second point I wish to make is that what the hon. member proposes to do by amending the Criminal Code will not stop anyone from being shot or murdered. He is mistaken and is jumping to conclusions when he thinks that this is the way to stop people from being shot. Before this debate is over he will be made to realize that his is a fallacious argument and that other means should be sought. I think the hon. member was not too far off the track when he spoke about the education of younger people in the use of firearms.