

Government Orders

This is an area of gun control which, when legislation was brought forward in the late 1970s, really stimulated a lot of emotional debate. Bill C-80 has also stimulated a great deal of controversy.

Some months ago I made a recommendation that a firearm manufactured as an automatic weapon, converted to a semi-automatic, brought into the country and then very easily converted back to automatic, should be banned from the country. I am very pleased that in this legislation, Bill C-80, concerning military weapons, that has been included as the major point of this bill.

• (1550)

I am concerned that the hon. member would say what he has about putting this to a special committee. I happen to think that it is an excellent idea to have this go to a special committee, that we have an opportunity to discuss it now and not wait until it is past second reading because I had a chance to visit with a number of gun clubs this past summer to discuss some of the details of this of concern.

I have spoken to a number of policemen, including the chief of police for metro Toronto, and they are most concerned about the proliferation of guns in the hands of criminals in metro Toronto. I think that it is an excellent idea to have this sent to a special committee now.

I want to know if the member is at the point that he does not want to listen to anybody out there. He just wants to talk about it here. We think it is a good idea to get to a special committee to talk about this now, listen to the people, and if there are some amendments that need to be made, indeed they will be made.

It is an opportunity to discuss it now.

Mr. Waddell: Madam Speaker, the member says we do not want to listen to people.

I precisely said that we want to put the government's bill in a committee, listen to witnesses and get evidence. That is the real process.

This is a sham. This is not the real process.

I would like to ask the member: Is she going to tell the chief of police of metropolitan Toronto that she has effectively sabotaged the gun control bill which he favoured? That is exactly what she has done.

What is she going to tell her constituents in Toronto when they ask her why she stopped gun control, even a modest proposal? What is she going to tell them? How does she feel about the first woman Minister of Justice who voted against choice and, second, is unable or unwilling to fulfil her promises to Canadian women who learned last December that it is women who are the greatest victims of lax gun control and violence in our cities in this country?

I would like to know what she is going to say. I think she is going to have a little bit of hard swallowing to do.

Madam Speaker, while I am on my feet, I had inadvertently forgot to introduce this. This sometimes happens when one gets in flight. I forgot to introduce a subamendment to the Liberal amendment. I would ask permission to do that.

Madam Deputy Speaker: I would need unanimous consent for the hon. member to present an amendment to the amendment at this time. Is there unanimous consent?

An hon. member: No.

Madam Deputy Speaker: I do not have unanimous consent.

We will continue with questions or comments.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Denis Pronovost (Saint-Maurice): Madam Speaker, I listened very carefully to the comments made by the hon. member for Port Moody—Coquitlam. Like my colleague, I felt obliged to rise in the House because what the hon. member said was entirely at odds with the practice of his party, the NDP. Our socialist friends are normally terribly keen on all kinds of committees, but now that this government wants to appoint a committee to study all aspects of the question, the hon. member of the New Democratic Party tells us this would be one committee too many and that it would be a waste of time.

Madam Speaker, when the government makes a decision, those same members tell us, now listen, you are making decisions without consulting the people, without consulting Canadians who want to make their views