

Criminal Code

of a gun be the same, but whether the numbers on the parts are the same as the serial number of the gun, I am not sure.

In many cases people will not look for those numbers. Gun may change hands many times, and when a person is accused of having an illegal gun because numbers have been erased, that will come as a surprise because that person will not have looked. People look to see how straight the barrel is, they look at the sights, they look to see whether the gun fits the shoulder and so see if the face plate is in the right place. They look at a number of things, but as a rule I do not believe they look at the serial number to find out whether it has been changed.

While the minister is right that much of our legislation falls into the same category as this, that does not make this legislation right. If someone wishes to lay charges against someone for having changed numbers, that fits into a different category. That is usually done for a fraudulent reason, to cover a theft or to do a number of other things, but it does not seem to me to relate to whether a person has a gun or not. While the minister is right that this has been fairly commonplace in a number of other bills, I do not think it makes it right in this case. A police officer should be required to tell an alleged offender: "You have committed some kind of an offence, and we are going to prove it".

An alleged offender should not have to say that he bought his gun from a little old lady who was handy with a file, or something of that nature. That can be established by the person laying the charge. That is the way most law works. That is the way most Canadians think it works, and it seems to me that everything we are trying to do in this bill is going to make it easier for the police to harass people. Even if they harass people only to get them to prove that they did not commit offences or that they did not know they were committed, that is still harassment, and that will really not help the police very much. This bill would allow the police to make everyone prove that they are innocent.

How are police officers going to examine guns in the first place? Are they going to go around looking at everyone's guns? That would be an immense harassment. They really should have some reason for doing that, and if they have a reason for doing it, the reason should not be harassment. It seems to me that everything in this bill is as much for harassment as it is for people who believe in law and order, or for people who believe we should take guns away from everybody in this country.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Is the House ready for the question?

Some hon. Members: Question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

[Mr. Peters.]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): All those in favour of the motion will please say yea.

Some hon. Members: Yea.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): All those opposed will please say nay.

Some hon. Members: Nay.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): In my opinion the nays have it.

And more than five members having risen:

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Pursuant to Standing Order 75(11) the recorded division on the proposed motion stands deferred.

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, if it is all right with the House, it is my understanding that we are now going to proceed in chronological order. We did get out of chronological order because there was an agreement a week ago Thursday with reference to two amendments, the one on orders in council and the one on notice, which we have now covered. However, we will now go in chronological order according to the members, if that is agreeable to the House.

Mr. Schumacher: Mr. Speaker, I think motions Nos. 13 and 14 should be called because they were grouped and debated together with motion No. 12.

Mr. Basford: They have been called.

Mr. Schumacher: They were called together?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): They were called at the beginning. Motions Nos. 12, 13 and 14 were grouped.

Mr. Stan Schumacher (Palliser) moved:

Motion No. 2.

That Bill C-51, An Act to amend the Criminal Code, the Customs Tariff, the Parole Act, the Penitentiary Act and the Prisons and Reformatories Act, be amended in Clause 3 by striking out line 16 at page 4 and substituting the following therefor:

"collection of a".

Motion No. 21.

That Bill C-51, An Act to amend the Criminal Code, the Customs Tariff, the Parole Act, the Penitentiary Act and the Prisons and Reformatories Act, be amended in Clause 3 by striking out line 4 at page 32 and substituting the following therefor:

"the applicant who is a gun"

Motion No. 22.

That Bill C-51, An Act to amend the Criminal Code, the Customs Tariff, the Parole Act, the Penitentiary Act and the Prisons and Reformatories Act, be amended in Clause 3 by striking out lines 19 to 22 at page 32 and substituting the following therefor:

"collection of the applicant who is a gun collector".

He said: Mr. Speaker, these three amendments have to do with the position of collectors of firearms. The amendments are designed to permit continuation of gun collections. The intention of the government in this bill is to phase out gun