

the other hand, by the fact that there are more people in certain areas than in others, but that is not a problem for the government because this will save us money down the road.

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[English]

GUN CONTROL

Mr. Jack Ramsay (Crowfoot, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, the governments of the provinces, particularly Manitoba, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Ontario, as well as the two territories all registered opposition to the registration component of Bill C-68.

How does the government plan to gain the co-operation of these governments after having forced the bill on them against their will?

Hon. Herb Gray (Leader of the Government in the House of Commons and Solicitor General of Canada, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I am glad the hon. member has noted that Parliament has now adopted a bill designed to ensure that we have peaceful communities and designed to ensure we have increasingly safe homes and safe streets.

I am sure the provincial governments will take note of the strong support for this measure across the country which will inspire their co-operation.

In any event, the Minister of Justice has announced today the appointment of a user group on firearms, composed of people from across the country who are responsible firearms users. This will be a very important way to make sure we have a cost effective, user friendly system of firearms registration which takes into account the concerns of responsible firearms users.

Mr. Jack Ramsay (Crowfoot, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member would have us believe that the provincial governments do not have any consideration for the safety of their communities and their streets and that only the federal government can see that kind of safety within the bill.

The federal-provincial financial agreements for the administration of gun control programs expired on March 31, 1993. I ask the government, what is the status of these financial negotiations with the provinces? Have these agreements been renewed and if not, why not?

Hon. Herb Gray (Leader of the Government in the House of Commons and Solicitor General of Canada, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I will have to get further information on this for my hon. friend. It is the desire of the government to have agree-

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ments with the provinces which respect their concerns and at the same time ensure the safety of Canadians.

I hope my hon. friend will finally realize the support of Canadians for this bill and cease his opposition, which is certainly not well founded in light of the facts and in light of the support of Canadians who want safe homes and safe streets. They do not want an American style gun culture anywhere in Canada.

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[Translation]

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

Mrs. Suzanne Tremblay (Rimouski—Témiscouata, BQ): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Canadian Heritage. Mr. Manera, the former CBC President, and Mr. Beatty, the current one, both said that, should the CBC undergo additional cuts, it would be necessary to review the mandate of the corporation.

• (1435)

Does the minister intend to order new cuts to the CBC and, if so, will he review its mandate, as is deemed necessary by Mr. Manera and Mr. Beatty?

Hon. Michel Dupuy (Minister of Canadian Heritage, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member has got it all wrong. You do not deal first with the budget and then with the mandate. You start with the mandate and then look at the budget. This is exactly what we are doing.

A committee will make recommendations to us regarding CBC's mandate. We will look at these recommendations, make decisions and then decide on a long term financial plan.

Mrs. Suzanne Tremblay (Rimouski—Témiscouata, BQ): Mr. Speaker, given that the French network is already performing a lot better than the English one, does the minister realize that any additional cut would have a greater impact on the French network and could jeopardize its mandate?

Hon. Michel Dupuy (Minister of Canadian Heritage, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, there is one aspect regarding CBC's mandate which, I think, will not change. It is the fact that the CBC must respect the linguistic duality of our country. This is a public institution. It is an institution which will continue to reflect that basic reality of our country.

If the hon. member has opinions on the budget cuts made by CBC's president and board of directors and looks to me, it may be that she wants me to manage the corporation. This will not happen. I will merely be the one who decides on CBC's mandate and budget.