

contain three or four zany features which I had particularly illustrated in my speech. It has also helped to save Aunt Minnie from being thrust into a federal penitentiary.

First, let me allude to the zany features about which I spoke in the debate on Bill C-83. I drew the example of a Canadian serviceman trying to defend that beautiful part of Canada known as Halifax-East Hants against invaders who were armed with nothing more than that deadly weapon Bill C-83 as presented to us then by the Minister of Justice (Mr. Basford). These bookladen invaders were able to tie our stout defender up in no time at all. For one thing, they found that as a serviceman he was entitled to carry a weapon. However, he had not obtained a licence to put ammunition in that particular weapon. This was one of the features of the brave attempt by the Minister of Justice in Bill C-83 to deal with some control of deadly weapons.

● (2120)

The Canadian soldier was rash enough to point the weapon at the invader. This drew a further penalty. On the way back to headquarters, they marched through a field in which was scattered ammunition. The ammunition provision in Bill C-83 provided a further penalty against our stout Canadian defender. When the Canadian defender wanted to leave all his arms behind him in the museum of his own choice, it was pointed out that this too was an offence.

By the time that particular mythical war was over, the Canadian soldier had lost 17 years of his life in the Canadian penitentiary, although some of that might have been forgiven on the grounds of good behaviour. The enemy, armed only with Bill C-83, was in firm charge of the field.

Those things have been corrected. I hope that the hon. member who thought that no government could be so zany as to bring in measures like that will now realize that a government can be that zany. In any event, I want to give the Minister of Justice full credit for removing those zany features.

One part of pursuing zaniness to its ultimate conclusion was when I pointed out to the Commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police that there would have to be somebody in every detachment across Canada who would licence the undermembers of each particular detachment to chase the criminal element with loaded weapons. Otherwise the RCMP officials would be in violation of the law. The Commissioner of the RCMP said that was impossible. Somebody then whispered to him and he said that they were correcting that with an amendment to Bill C-83.

I enjoyed myself. The press obviously felt like the member of parliament who said that no government could be that zany. The speech never created the slightest stir of ink on any newspaper page across Canada that I can remember. However, the Minister of Justice, the Solicitor General (Mr. Fox), and people in their departments knew that I was telling the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. They knew they had to get rid of the zany features in Bill C-83. Some attempt has been made to do that at this time.

Criminal Code

May I also say something on behalf of a grateful public which never has a chance to know the depths I went to in order to try and correct the zaniness at that time? May I say something to the minister on behalf of the Aunt Minnies of Canada? These were the old souls threatened with incarceration, fines and all sorts of prohibitions, criminal records in any event, when they dared to harbour antique firearms. The provisions in that bill were also zany insofar as they dealt with firearms.

One of the great occasions I had with that particular bill was to have a group of people drive up one Sunday afternoon to my home in Halifax. They brought antique firearms, some dating back to the time when Cromwell was terrorizing various parts of the United Kingdom in the name of peace and order. Some were from the time of the American revolution, some from the war of 1812, some from the revolution in the Northwest Territories, and the like. All these weapons were trotted into my home. I was told that all of them were subject to the sanctions of Bill C-83. I do not think anybody could have been shot with those particular weapons. They would not have been able to find ammunition that could be used in them. Nonetheless, as the bill proposed by the government came before us then, the owners of such weapons could have found themselves in great difficulty indeed.

I suppose across Canada there must be thousands of homes occupied by Aunt Minnies and other people where these antique firearms exist. We now have in this measure that which we did not have before, some method of saving Aunt Minnie from going to jail, from paying a fine, or at least from having her fingerprints taken by the constabulary of Canada. I have to thank the Minister of Justice for listening to the Aunt Minnies of this world. I also have to thank him for not attempting to apply the definition presented to us in the bill before us as it was an absolute farce and led to all kinds of strange results.

I will not take too much time because I want to see the bill get into committee. There is one point I want to draw to the attention of the Minister of Justice. I thought the natives of the northwest made very strong points indeed about their difficulty in buying firearms, either from dealers in their own localities or, as they seemed to prefer, from mail order shops. I want to give the minister notice that when the bill reaches committee I will ask some questions to see that the rights of the people in Canada who should have the use of firearms, those for whom shooting game is an absolute part of their lives, have that right without hindrance and a lot of bureaucratic foofaraw, to bother them.

I should say to the minister that I armed myself with four advisers, all of whom had a hand in telling me what they thought was wrong with the bill when it came in last year in the form of C-83. They were largely responsible for initiating my speech about the mythical invasion of Halifax-East Hants. I told the House tonight some of the hilarious and crazy things that the original suggested reform would have brought about. All of the four are now reasonably satisfied with the measure that is presently before us. That says some thing for the