

S. O. 31

GUN CONTROL

Mrs. Pauline Browes (Scarborough Centre): Mr. Speaker, the brutal slaying of 14 young women in Montreal last week has horrified all Canadians. We all share the grief and sorrow of the families.

That tragic event has also focused public attention on the availability of guns in our society. For under \$500, a 16 year old in Canada can buy an AK-47 assault rifle that has been converted from fully automatic to semi-automatic. For an extra \$60 that 16 year old can also legally purchase a trigger activator which will allow the gun to fire three bullets with one pull of the trigger. However, if that same 16 year old has any knowledge of guns, that AK-47 can easily be reconverted back into an automatic. An automatic AK-47 can fire 30 bullets in less than three seconds.

Last March I proposed changes to the Criminal Code that would ban any gun that was originally made as an automatic. The Minister of Justice threw his support behind the proposal and I urge him to introduce those changes as quickly as possible.

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FISHERIES

Mr. Peter L. McCreath (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, it has been a tough week in Atlantic Canada. An empty feeling pervades all sensitive Nova Scotians over the announced closures at Canso and North Sydney. We on the South Shore know the pain of closures at Port Mouton, Lockeport, Shag Harbour, Port Lehebert and Port Medway.

We must cope with declining stocks and seek to reduce our economic dependence on the fishery. But, Mr. Speaker, must we put up with American fishermen thumbing their noses at our law enforcement efforts? Must the proud officers, men and women of our navy, suffer the indignity of being rammed on the high seas in Canadian waters by foreigners who are in the process of violating our laws, without fear of retaliation? Now we have George Bush's signature on the infamous Mitchell lobster bill establishing clearly, lest there be any doubt, that the Americans are prepared to act in good faith only so long as it serves their own interest. If the Mitchell bill

is allowed to stay in place it will suggest to Nova Scotian's that the FTA is not worth the paper it is printed on.

• (1410)

I believe that Canada will win the FTA panel and I urge the government to move quickly with the process in order to minimize the damage that is already being done to Canadian lobster prices in Europe as well as the United States.

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[Translation]

RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHILD CARE

Ms. Albina Guarnieri (Mississauga East): On November 24, the Minister of National Health and Welfare confirmed that ultimate responsibility for child care rests with the parents. The minister is right. The Conservative government sent a clear message that it feels no obligation towards young Canadians or their families.

[English]

By not delivering a new child care initiative, by not addressing the needs of more than one million Canadian children who live in poverty and by not declaring a national emergency to deal with the shocking increase in child hunger, this government has introduced the Conservative social philosophy that the rich should prosper but the poor must pull themselves up by their own boot straps.

The recent last-minute bail-out of the successful Kids First hot line is an example of the ad hoc manner in which programs directed at the youth are funded.

[Translation]

The Conservatives have no overall plan and, as the minister confirmed himself, no short-term or even long-term vision to help the thousands of Canadian families who are unable to find reasonably priced day care for their children. The minister should agree that his inertia is depriving our children of a future to which they are now entitled.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.