

AMENDMENTS AS PASSED AT THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE,
FEBRUARY, 1976

This Association is pleased with many aspects of the proposed amendments to the Criminal Code respecting firearms, particularly the increased penalties for firearms misuse and abuse. Unfortunately, there are aspects of the Bill we cannot accept.

While we are also pleased that, for the time being, the government has resisted the temptation to impose useless registration of sporting firearms we would prefer assurance written into the Criminal Code that under no circumstances shall an applicant for a license to use rifles and shotguns be obliged to list or detail the firearms he owns on the license application or in any other way.

This Association is disappointed that the government has not chosen to include training, testing and certification of competence in the criteria for the granting of a license.

We believe that the broad regulation making power contained in the Bill is so fraught with the danger of abuse of power and arbitrariness that we would be obliged to oppose the whole Bill for that reason alone.

There should, for example, be no opportunity without reference to Parliament for gun registration per se to be imposed by Regulation.

Finally we feel the proposals are harsh toward groups of law abiding citizens, such as ourselves, out of all proportion to the extent of the real problem the Bill is intended or should be intended to eliminate: the misuse of firearms by criminals or the careless or accidental misuse by good citizens.