

his case. That is the point I was trying to deal with, and I think that applies to the kind of approach we have seen displayed here today. That approach does nothing to back up the argument which the hon. member for Selkirk was trying to make in a serious way, I think, in his remarks earlier today.

THE ROYAL ASSENT

[English]

A message was delivered by the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, as follows:

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable the Deputy Governor General desires the immediate attendance of this honourable House in the chamber of the honourable the Senate.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker with the House went up to the Senate chamber.

● (1750)

[Translation]

And being returned:

Mr. Speaker informed the House that the Deputy Governor General had been pleased to give, in Her Majesty's name, the royal assent to the following bills.

Bill C-2, An Act to facilitate the making of advance payments for crops—Chapter No. 12.

Bill C-11, An Act to amend the Pension Act—Chapter No. 13.

Bill C-52, An Act to provide for the consideration of certain unemployment insurance entitlements—Chapter No. 11.

Mr. Speaker: I believe there is agreement to have the Chair call it six o'clock, unless some hon. members wish to speak.

It being six o'clock, I do now leave the chair until 8 p.m.

At six o'clock the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT ACT, 1977

AMENDMENTS TO CRIMINAL CODE

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Basford that Bill C-51, to amend the Criminal Code, the

Criminal Code

Customs Tariff, the Parole Act, the Penitentiary Act and the Prisons and Reformatories Act, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): Order, please. At five o'clock the hon. member for Kootenay West (Mr. Brisco) had the floor.

Mr. Bob Brisco (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, initially I have no hesitation in supporting the position of the hon. member for Calgary North (Mr. Woolliams), namely, that this bill should be referred to committee, for appropriate division. As I recall, we went through a similar exercise when debating the predecessor bill, C-83, at which time a similar proposal made by the hon. member for Calgary North was accepted without difficulty.

I know that a proposal of the sort advanced by the hon. member has sparked much discussion and the raising of points of order, but I am confident that his amendment, if accepted, will lead to the appropriate division of this bill. Certainly it is the view of many that we should not deal with the bill in its present form. It makes little sense to debate a bill dealing with gun control on the one hand and wiretapping on the other. Except that they come under the Criminal Code, both subjects are unrelated.

I am concerned about something that has happened since the timely death in committee of Bill C-83. After that bill died in committee, and even before Bill C-51 was introduced, the Minister of Justice (Mr. Basford) and perhaps the Solicitor General (Mr. Fox) expressed concern and dismay about the fact that Bill C-83 had died at the committee stage. I understand that the Minister of Justice expressed concern that in the city of Vancouver there are criminals driving the streets with shotguns and rifles in their cars. If I am accurate quoting my supposedly reliable sources, the minister made these statements on open line radio. In any event, the information I received is that the minister has indeed expressed these concerns. If that is the case, I must say that I share the concerns of the minister.

● (2010)

I share even more the concerns of the general public. If such has been the case, they ask why the minister has not used his good offices to discuss that type of situation with the provincial attorney general in the province of British Columbia and with the minister responsible for the legislation and the licensing of hunters in British Columbia.

If known criminals are indeed driving the streets of Vancouver with rifles or shotguns openly or covertly displayed in their vehicles, has the minister made any intervention? Surely the provincial government would be most anxious to cancel the licences of these individuals. I cannot foresee any difficulty in the province of British Columbia responding to any request by either the Minister of Justice or the Solicitor General.

I have another concern with reference to the former Bill C-83, which the minister has not publicly declared was a