

provisions of the gun control legislation are too weak. There are still too many crimes committed in Canada involving guns. The evidence is clear that in those jurisdictions and countries in which there are tough gun-control provisions, there is less crime involving guns.

Let us look at the provisions in place in the United Kingdom. British law provides that one may not possess or acquire rifles, pistols, revolvers or shotguns unless one has already obtained a certificate from the local police and the local police will not issue such a certificate unless they are satisfied one has good reason for having the gun, public safety is not endangered and one is fit to be entrusted with a firearm. That applies to everyone who wants to have a firearm, not just to those who have purchased one since January 1, 1978, as is the case with the Canadian legislation. The effect of the law in the United Kingdom is that there are only 8,000 to 9,000 hand gun and about 30,000 shotguns in the British Isles among a population of some 55 million. In the United States, there is a population of some 220 million to 230 million and it has been estimated that there are more than 55 million hand gun alone plus 150 million to 200 million rifles and shotguns.

In addition to the requirement to obtain a certificate, certificates have to be renewed every three years in the British Isles. In general terms, these licences are issued only to members of registered target-shooting clubs and shotgun and rifle licences are issued only to citizens who can show acceptable reasons for shooting and hunting.

What are the implications of these laws for crimes involving guns in the United Kingdom? In fact, while hand gun were involved in over 10,000 deaths in the United States in 1979, in England there were only eight deaths involving hand gun in the same year. I suggest that tough and effective gun control does reduce the number of crimes that are committed and the number of deaths that result from guns. In fact, an average of less than one policeman per year has been killed by hand gun while on duty in the British Isles. Contrast that with the situation in Canada. Here hand gun were used more than any other weapon in the murder of Canadian policemen in the 1970s. This is according to a report from the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, a branch of Statistics Canada. In fact, of the 73 policemen who were murdered between 1961 and 1981, 71 were slain by firearms. That can be contrasted with the situation in the United Kingdom where there is tough gun-control legislation. There are far too many crimes involving guns committed in Canada.

The final report of an evaluation of Canadian gun-control legislation done by Decision Dynamics Corporation clearly showed that the purpose of that legislation which came into effect in 1978 has been achieved to a significant extent although the report points out a number of problems with the administration of that legislation. I will deal with those problems in a moment. I would emphasize, Mr. Speaker, that this study was looking only at the watered-down gun-control provisions which were implemented as a result of Bill C-51.

The study found that the proportion of violent crimes committed with firearms declined in the post-legislation period.

### *Criminal Code*

Where firearms were used in a violent crime, there was an increasing trend for the firearm to be a hand gun. There has been a moderate displacement of firearms by other weapons in robberies. There was a strong relationship between alcohol and drug use and firearms misuse in the true rural jurisdictions that were examined. Accidents with firearms were declining prior to 1978 but the legislation contributed to further downward trends. Finally, and I think very importantly, suicides with firearms declined moderately in the post-legislation period.

In terms of process, the study found that following 1979, courts imposed more severe sentences for firearms offences and that robberies with firearms resulted in longer jail sentences after the implementation of Bill C-51. Following 1979, sentences for repeat firearms offenders were more severe.

The study did go on to find that the application of the return procedure which is set out in Section 101 of the Criminal Code, the search and seizure provision, needs to be more clearly delineated. My colleague, the Hon. Member for Skeena has been very critical of this provision in the past. Unquestionably there have been abuses of this provision. The legislation now in force provides that following all Section 101 searches with or without a warrant, the Attorney General immediately shall make a return or report to a magistrate showing the grounds upon which the search was conducted. However, the study found that that requirement has not been met and that the use of these returns appears to be limited. They are only made if a seizure has occurred and a request for forfeiture was intended. Clearly that is flouting Parliament's intention when it adopted these provisions of the gun-control legislation.

Another point that the study made was that the mandatory nature of the Section 98(1) prohibition order must be emphasized to Crown Attorneys and judges. The study notes that the enforcement of the mandatory prohibition upon a Section 83 conviction is very poor and that it may be that many Crown Attorneys and judges are simply unaware of the mandatory provisions of Section 98(1).

We do need tougher and more effective gun-control legislation in Canada. I would like to give an example of one of the problems which has arisen from the current inadequate gun control legislation. Two 18-year old Woodbridge High School students in Toronto were gunned down with a 12-gauge shotgun as they stood outside their school. An 18-year old man was arrested in connection with the incident. The day after he was charged with two counts of attempted murder and his mother asked the question, which I think all of us must ask: "Why does the law allow my son to have this gun?" In fact, a York Regional Police constable said that, quite clearly, the gun laws are not strict enough. He also said that if something is not done we will see a lot more shootings and maybe even police officers killed.

● (1810)

All the young man had to do was go into the regional police station, apply for his certificate and pay the \$10 which the law