

*S. O. 31*

We have to be able to restrict guns to people who cannot possibly handle the responsibility. We have to be able to weed out, wherever we possibly can, people who are unable psychologically to deal with the responsibility of having a gun.

We have to deal with the benefit and the over-all responsibility as parliamentarians in bringing before Parliament and into passage gun control laws which are going to be in the best interests of the people of Canada.

People in Canada are just becoming aware of the increase in violent crimes. A recent poll by the government's own pollster, Decima, has stated that people in Canada are becoming more concerned about the increasing rate of violence in this country.

If we are to address that concern, we have to come forward with gun control and we need to have perception. The government has to provide the perception that it is seriously interested in bringing forward good legislation as quickly as possible, and not to delay, as has been the case up until now, when dealing with this very important question.

We have, of course, to fully address the question of fully and semi-automatic automatic weapons, as well as the people who would convert those semi-automatics to fully automatic. I think that Bill C-80 deals with that. It also provides a good penalty for those who would convert the weapons in that way.

Bill C-80 is not perfect, but it is basically on the right track. This is why we, in this party, object to the fact that Bill C-80 may not see the light of day. That is wrong. The minister will have to admit, if she is to be straightforward with this House, that this special committee is going to take a long time. We have lost very valuable time. We cannot continue to lose this valuable time.

We have to look at putting in every possible means of acting in the best interest of the people in this country. I hope that the government will reconsider, proceed with second reading of Bill C-80, withdraw this motion, and we in our party will certainly agree to passage of second reading today. I feel that is in the best interest of everyone.

We can deal with the committee. If the government will give the undertaking not to prorogue until after we deal with the second reading committee stage and perhaps report stage, but certainly third reading, as well

as introduction in the Senate, which we hope would give quick passage to the bill, we can have this bill passed into law by the time the government prorogues and starts a second session. It is of vital interest.

Although we disagree with this motion on the basis that I have stated, it being counterproductive to this party's interest in gun control, I would still like to make an amendment to the motion for the consideration by this House. I move:

That the motion be amended by changing the final period to a semi-colon, and by adding after the semi-colon, the following:

and that the said special committee make its final report to the House no later than February 15, 1991.

**Madam Deputy Speaker:** There being no questions or comments, I will recognize the next speaker. I imagine it would be a member from the hon. member's party.

May I call it one o'clock and then allow the hon. member to start after Question Period?

**Mr. Waddell:** Am I allowed to speak now, Madam Speaker?

**Madam Deputy Speaker:** No more.

**Mr. Waddell:** I will just take one minute.

**Madam Deputy Speaker:** It is one o'clock p.m.

It being one o'clock, I now leave the chair until two o'clock p.m.

At 1 p.m. the House took recess.

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**AFTER RECESS**

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

**STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 31**

[*English*]

**NATIONAL DRUG AWARENESS WEEK**

**Ms. Catherine Callbeck (Malpeque):** Mr. Speaker, November 18 to November 21 has been proclaimed National Drug Awareness Week.

This week is being used to draw attention to the tragic economic and social costs of alcohol abuse and other drug problems. Organizers also hope to encourage individuals in communities to co-operate to solve these problems.