

Criminal Code

This points up the very important idea as to whether there should be different legislation in different areas. In my area of northern Ontario, if you want to go hunting on Sunday you can do so. The law in northern Ontario does not say you can go hunting on Sunday, but in practice a fine is not levied for hunting on this day. This has always been the case. In northern Ontario you can apply to the provincial authority for a permit to carry a side-arm. You have to carry it publicly. You were given a letter, not a permit, saying you could carry it. This letter was given by the Department of Lands and Forests. In other areas, this right is not granted, and to this extent there is a difference between various areas of the country.

If you carry a gun in Toronto, it is thought that you have the gun because you perhaps want to shoot your neighbour. The only reason you can carry a gun in Toronto is for the purposes of defence. But in northern Ontario you can carry a gun to go hunting; and there are rifle practices, turkey shoots and all the other things connected with the sporting use of guns. The motivation of people is important in this respect.

I am pleased to note that in an editorial even the revolver clubs are pointing out that the government has paid some attention to this difference and has modified the legislation to the point that they think it is not bad legislation. They have pointed out to me, and I think they are right, that the registered revolvers in the country are not the guns used for criminal purposes.

● (9:40 p.m.)

A gun in my area which is worth \$85 when registered, in Montreal is worth \$200 if it is unregistered. They do not want registered guns. They may steal a registered gun and if it is used once it has to be discarded because it can be traced. I am told that the underworld seldom uses a gun that is registered, even those that are stolen in hold-ups. So, the laws we now have do not appear to have failed. For this reason, I think we should not pass legislation that is more restrictive than is necessary. I would also like to point that it is necessary to provide regulations concerning new guns and new types of weapons, but I would strongly urge that discretion be used and some restraint be applied in doing this. We do not subscribe to the belief held in some other places that guns should be used for the defence of citizens rather than for the purpose for which they are often used now, that is for sport.

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The other matter which I should like to deal with is the matter of abortion. I am surprised at these people who say they are religious, who have some church background and who speak about the taking of life in the act of abortion. I wonder how many of them have been to a church service for a foetus. So far as I know, no church will bury a foetus that is under seven months of development. Such a foetus is not considered to be living, it is burnt in an incinerator. It does not have to be buried, and a death certificate does not have to be issued for it, unless it is in the province of Newfoundland. I am sure there are certain things that members do not know concerning this business. One of them is that according to the legal profession half a million abortions a year are performed in Canada which has a population of 20 million. Half of these 20 million people must be under child bearing age, which brings it down to 10 million. I presume that only women have children, so this brings it down to five million. This is a pretty significant proportion.

Mr. Woolliams: Who is going to take care of the babies? Can you answer that?

Mr. Peters: I do not know who is going to take care of them but someone mentioned shotguns being used to blow the husbands' heads off. Some of these women who are having abortions may find that some members of parliament are so violently opposed to it that there may be a few husbands' heads blown off. This raises an interesting situation. So far as I am concerned, there are three stages in this proposition. To my knowledge, doctors consider that an abortion is performed only up to the third month of pregnancy. After the end of the third month of pregnancy they are called miscarriages and following the seventh month it is a birth, either a still birth or a live birth. This involves a simple D and C operation. It can be done in any doctor's office without anaesthetic in a matter of four or five minutes.

Several years ago on a radio program for the C.B.C. I interviewed a doctor who performed abortions. He told me he did a large number of abortions in Montreal, and indicated that in the 100 that he did a week he had only one or two problems over a period of several years. He also told me something else that was very interesting. When I asked him why he had not been caught, he said that at that time he charged around \$500 for an abortion but it depended on how much money the person seemed to have. He also told me that