

*Proceedings on Adjournment Motion*

entitled to membership and what the geographical boundaries are to be. In particular, the treaty is open to accession by all independent states in the western hemisphere lying south of the Mexican-United States border or in the Caribbean sea. The nuclear powers and extra-regional states having dependent territories in the zone are, moreover, asked to respect the treaty by acceding to separate protocols. As you will note, Mr. Speaker, no provision is made for the accession of countries like Canada which physically lie outside the zone and which do not possess nuclear weapons or have dependent territories in the zone. The question of Canada's joining the zone does not therefore arise.

We have of course commended the Latin American initiative in forthright terms. In his address of September 27 to the United Nations General Assembly, the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Martin) said:

I am sure we should all wish to congratulate the states of Latin America and the Caribbean for reaching agreement to establish the first nuclear-free zone in an inhabited part of the world. This treaty will lend impetus to the non-proliferation negotiations, which have now been intensified in Geneva and will shortly be before this Assembly.

Hon. members will see how warm we have been in our commendation of the Latin American initiative, and how we have, as far as possible, identified ourselves with it. More important, however, is the conclusion, we believe, of the universal non-proliferation treaty, and this is one aspect of disarmament to which the Canadian government has attached high priority within the context of the 18 nation disarmament committee held as a result of the United Nations initiative.

As a member of the Geneva disarmament committee Canada has been active in all stages of the negotiation of a non-proliferation treaty, and we shall continue to do our utmost to bring it to fruition as a logical and more universal sequel to the Latin American treaty.

NATIONAL DEFENCE—WINNIPEG—THEFT OF  
ARMS FROM MINTO ARMOURIES

**Mr. L. R. Sherman (Winnipeg South):** Mr. Speaker, on the week end of October 29-30 there was a raid on the property of the Department of National Defence in Winnipeg, the Minto armouries. Stolen were six .303 calibre Bren guns on bipods, one .30 calibre Browning gun, one ammunition magazine for these weapons, one bayonet and several flare pistols.

No ammunition was stolen, presumably because no ammunition was kept in the storeroom from which the other items were taken. In any event, a Winnipeg police spokesman has confirmed that suitable ammunition can be purchased easily from commercial outlets. The Bren guns and the Browning gun were chained to bolts embedded in the floor of the quartermaster's store in the armoury. The chains were cut by the thieves. The weapons were not equipped with breach blocks but the thieves took both practice and regular blocks, breaking into a locked metal cabinet in the same room to do so. The block is, of course, part of the loading mechanism and its possession makes each stolen gun completely usable.

A number of theories have been advanced as to the reason these guns were stolen. There is a great deal of speculation as to the motive, and some of the theories offered are rather imaginative. The question has been asked: What is the ultimate destination of these weapons? Are they to be delivered to Cuba or to Israel, or to an organized crime syndicate in the United States or in another part of Canada? Were they taken by thieves planning to use them in a bank or payroll hold-up, or were they taken merely as a prank?

Winnipeg police are working on the case and will undoubtedly solve it before too long. Public curiosity as to the motive of the crime will then be answered. But this aspect of the affair is really not germane to my participation in this adjournment debate. The main purport of my remarks is not directed to the question of motive, though that is undoubtedly important. The main purport of my remarks has to do with the unsupportable position of the Department of National Defence when a D.N.D. installation can be broken into and robbed in circumstances such as this.

The questions I ask tonight are those I asked earlier in the house. The basic question is why a Department of National Defence stronghold could be breached by thieves after the authorities had been warned that a raid was coming. This is the thunderbolt in the whole incident. It is bad enough that national defence property should be vulnerable to thieves at any time, but after an advance warning the situation becomes incredible.

An army spokesman has disclosed that the Winnipeg police did tip the army off a week before the raid, and Chief Constable George Blow confirms this. The police apparently told