

[Translation]

GUN CONTROL

Mr. Ian Waddell (Port Moody—Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Justice. We are glad to see the minister tabling a new bill today for the control of firearms. Last time her own Tory colleagues prevented the bill from being passed. Is the minister prepared to keep her promise to the people of Montreal that the bill would be passed by June 21?

Hon. Kim Campbell (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I recently heard the hon. member saying at a press conference that he intends to hold up my bill to examine various details and regulations that are not essential to the passage of the bill. I am therefore not in a position to make that kind of promise because it is up to the House either to accept or reject my bill. However, I hope my bill will be passed as soon as possible.

[English]

Mr. Ian Waddell (Port Moody—Coquitlam): That was the Liberal Party she heard about. We said something different. We asked that the project go ahead.

The minister mentioned the regulations. Canadians are suspicious about this bill, because at the same time they are bringing in a bill to regulate guns today, her bill. The House is debating a bill to sell arms to the Middle East. Talk about hypocrisy.

Will the minister acknowledge that the guts of this new bill, her bill, will be decided later by regulation, including the magazine size, the definition of the military assault weapon, what is safe storage, all those definitions?

Will she acknowledge that she has put a provision in this bill to allow members of Parliament to block those regulations in Parliament. Has she not, in fact, made a deal with the Tory backbench: "Support me now and block my bill later"?

Hon. Kim Campbell (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member's imputations are offensive but, alas, not surprising. Because this is a contentious subject, when I brought forward my suggestions for change I tried to be as

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forthcoming as possible and bring forward not only my proposed legislative changes, but the use I intended to make of the regulatory power. Some of that regulatory power is conferred upon the Governor in Council by the legislation and some of it exists already.

With respect to the definition of military and para military firearms, I already have the power to make the determinations. What I lack is the technical advice. I have, therefore, constituted a national advisory council on firearms with a broad mandate, including the mandate to give me a list of criteria that will enable me to impose those regulations.

I am advised by my staff who monitor those meetings that that, in fact, may be the first project they finish. I hope, perhaps, to have that list of criteria in the month of June. But whether or not the hon. member supports my legislation and whether or not it goes through, I intend to act on those regulations. I do not need this legislation for it.

With respect to the limitation on magazine sizes, I have indicated how I propose to use the regulations. I do need the legislation to have that power. If the legislation is delayed, then for those who wish to see those limitations it is a matter of cutting off their noses to spite their faces.

I make no apologies whatsoever for allowing this House to review those regulations. I have every confidence that the majority of members of Parliament will support sensible regulations. I find it astonishing that the hon. member would now impugn a provision which empowers members of this House to review the acts of the Governor in Council.

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• (1440)

IMMIGRATION

Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber—St. Barbe—Baie Verte): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister. In commenting on version A of the government's interpretation of the Al-Mashat affair, the Prime Minister said on May 15, 1991, on page 94 of *Hansard* with respect to the role of Mr. Paul Tellier, the Clerk of the Privy Council, that Mr. Tellier had said in speaking of