

I know my time is limited. There is much more I could say on this issue. I hope I will have time later on to discuss a very specific concern that I have, which is the vulnerability of Canadian resources. In particular, I am concerned about the vulnerability of Canadian water supplies under both the free trade agreement now in place and the North American free trade agreement which this government proposes to ram through this House in the next few days with virtually no debate.

It is a sad state of affairs when this government wants to essentially rewrite the economic constitution of this country in the drafting of the North American free trade agreement and not involve Canadian people, not even involve the Parliament of Canada, in thoroughly debating this issue.

We saw exhaustive debate when the government attempted to rewrite our social constitution through the referendum campaign in the fall of 1992. People were absolutely exhausted with the amount of information this government tried to ram down their throats. However, when it tries to rewrite our economic constitution with the North American free trade agreement there is absolute silence. The committee does not even want to travel to some provinces, does not want to travel to our large centres, to Montreal or Toronto, because it is afraid of what the people will say.

I hope to have more opportunity to discuss this, and I hope that I will be one of the few speakers who has the opportunity to debate this proposal to ram through the North American agreement.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Is the House ready for the question?

**Some hon. members:** Question.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** The first question is on the motion of Mr. Ricard that the question be now put. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

**Some hon. members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. members:** On division.

Motion agreed to.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** The next question is on the main motion. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

**Some hon. members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. members:** On division.

### *Private Members' Business*

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and referred to a legislative committee in the Economics envelope.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** It being five o'clock p.m., pursuant to Standing Order 30(6) the House will now proceed to the consideration of Private Members' Business as listed on today's Order Paper.

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## PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

• (1710)

[*English*]

### CRIMINAL CODE

#### MEASURE TO AMEND

**Ms. Barbara Greene (Don Valley North)** moved that Bill C-348, an act to amend the Criminal Code (gun control), be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee in the Departmental envelope.

She said: Mr. Speaker, first of all, the purpose of this bill is to establish a system that would enable the authorities to know the number and kinds of unrestricted firearms being acquired by Canadians after the coming into force of this bill, and to trace those firearms when they are subsequently disposed of, lost or stolen.

Presently only restricted weapons, hand guns and military-type weapons must be registered. Registration of unrestricted firearms is not required. No one knows how many guns there are in Canada or who has them. A person who has been issued a firearms acquisition certificate may buy as many guns as he or she wants. The FAC provides no record of purchase or any control over the number of weapons a particular individual owns. There is no ownership renewal process or follow-up conducted by police.

This particular bill is designed to be a fairly inexpensive way of beginning a system of gun registration. As you will note, it talks about after the coming into force. This would allow a point of sale type of registration system which is one that was recommended by the Canadians for Gun Control. One of the principals of that organization, Wendy Cukier, is an expert in the area of data and information systems and has recommended this particular kind of system.