

National Defence

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Notwithstanding the immense, and evidently widespread, popularity of the suggestion contained in the motion, I have consistently taken the position that suggestions for changing procedures of the House may be important and valid but can scarcely be considered as matters of urgency.

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I want it to be amply clear that members on my side of the House were prepared to agree to that motion.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Reid: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Fairweather: You had left the House. Sit down.

Mr. Reid: As there seems to be unanimous agreement—

An hon. Member: No, no; Sharp said no.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Let us understand one another clearly. If support for the substance of the motion is as widespread as it seems, surely ample machinery exists to implement that worthwhile suggestion.

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NATIONAL DEFENCE

SUGGESTED COMMITTEE STUDY OF RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLANS FOR MEMBERS OF FORCES—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, I rise to request leave to propose a motion of urgent and pressing necessity pursuant to Standing Order 43. As the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Richardson) has allowed Canada Trust to establish a retirement savings plan for the Canadian Armed Forces, as the Canada Trust plan will be in direct competition with the RRSP's offered by military credit unions which provide full financial services to forces personnel at military bases and have offices on those bases, as military credit unions provide RRS plans containing the same advantages as are contained in the minister's proposal, and as the Canada Trust plan could affect membership and loss of funds of military credit unions, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Victoria (Mr. McKinnon):

That this House refer the whole matter to the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence for a complete study and a report from the Minister of National Defence.

Mr. Speaker: The House has heard the terms of the motion being proposed. Pursuant to Standing Order 43 it cannot be debated without the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There not being unanimous consent, the motion cannot be debated at this time.

[Mr. Fairweather.]

● (1500)

CRIMINAL CODE

AMENDMENT CONCERNING POSSESSION OF FIREARM WHILE COMMITTING AN INDICTABLE OFFENCE

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-379, to amend the Criminal Code.

Some hon. Members: Explain.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, with the indulgence of the House, I wish to make a short statement in connection with this amendment. I realize that normally this is not allowed, but I hope that in view of the fine spirit of unanimity which is present today, I will be permitted to mention what I have in mind.

Across our country today there is a carnival of gun murder. Thugs go here and there, intimidating or committing murder. Almost an open season exists. The reason is that there is no serious penalty against those wrongdoers who carry guns. I feel a minimum penalty for carrying a firearm should be added to any other sentence that may be given for the commission of a crime to the end that it will not be popular for those who carry guns to be in possession of them when endeavouring to commit an offence. What I propose is this:

Every one who carries or has in his possession a firearm for the purpose of or while committing an indictable offence, is guilty of an indictable offence and liable to imprisonment for not less than five years.

If that were done as well as putting an end to allowing people out on parole before the completion of the five-year sentence, it would go a long way towards ending or greatly reducing the amount of crime committed today by those thugs who carry revolvers and other firearms.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. John M. Reid (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: 919, 1,011, 1,032, 1,082, 1,108, 1,111, 1,117, 1,149, 1,166, 1,168, 1,214, 1,217, 1,237, 1,259, 1,260, 1,307, 1,317, 1,321, 1,329, 1,335, 1,358, 1,371, 1,452, 1,465 and 1,470.

Mr. Speaker, if questions Nos. 149, 391 and starred question No. 196 could be made orders for return, these returns would be tabled immediately.

I ask, Mr. Speaker, that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.