

I might just mention with respect to my proposal concerning magazines and cartridges that we consulted broadly with the sporting and hunting community and were advised that our proposals for a limit of five for long guns and ten for handguns was appropriate.

I am now advised that there is another category of competition shooting where people use registered firearms. These are people who are working within the firearms system in Canada. They are known to the authorities. These are not people who are outside the law but who use firearms that have built-in magazines of perhaps 12 or 15 cartridge capacity. These are Brownings or Colt 45s, and there is a certain kind of competition shooting that uses that.

It is precisely to get the input of the firearms owning community into the proposals I put forward that I want this before the committee, a committee with the broadest possible mandate. Our desire is not to harass people who are doing perfectly lawful activities and, as I say, who have firearms.

Those who are registered and in the system have never traditionally been a problem in Canada, barring the concern we have that such firearms not be stolen. There are provisions in Bill C-80 to make more stringent requirements for storage and satisfying those storage capabilities for people who are private owners of restricted firearms as opposed to the gun sellers.

This is the kind of thing I would like to get input into. It has been a source of frustration for me that I have been doing consultation but I have not had a process in place, broadly based, and with the opportunity of advice from members of Parliament on how this should be done.

The measures contained in Bill C-80 itself will improve many aspects of Canada's gun control system. I believe they will reduce the accidental misuse of guns. They will help to keep firearms out of the hands of those who should not have them or who might use them for criminal purposes. They will encourage the responsible ownership and use of guns by all Canadians.

I believe that these measures, with strong support, will help alleviate the personal sense of fear and vulnerability that many people experience in today's society. One of the most poignant insights that was made in the brief to me by the students at *École polytechnique* was the notion that freedom from the stress of the presence of

unregulated firearms or high powered firearms in society is a right of people. People have a right to live free of that kind of stress and pressure. That is why we have an obligation to put into place a system of firearms regulation that addresses that concern.

[*Translation*]

Madam Speaker, one major focus of the legislation is a number of measures intended to place effective limits on certain types of high firepower or military-type firearms.

High firepower military type guns were a concern before the Montreal shootings and concern has greatly increased since then. They have been used repeatedly and in many countries to commit terrible acts of mass murder.

Just last week a man armed with a Chinese version of the AK-47 assault rifle shot 16 people in a small town in New Zealand, killing 13 of them. The standard magazine for such a rifle holds 30 shots.

Our police officers and soldiers were confronted with a veritable arsenal of these weapons during the disputes at Kahnawake and Kahnésatake this summer.

Many Canadians have shown sympathy for some of the Mohawks' claims, Mr. Speaker, but the use of violence or military weapons to achieve them is another matter.

I share the view of all Canadians that the use of such weapons for any such purpose is totally unacceptable.

[*English*]

Earlier this year the Federation of Canadian Municipalities unanimously endorsed a resolution calling for the prohibition of military and paramilitary weapons, and I have received some 100 municipal resolutions and petitions demanding the same thing.

I have also met with representatives of the students, as I said, at the University of Montreal to receive their petition which included the signatures of over half a million Canadians.

I was impressed by the presentation, and all of us should share the concerns that effective action must be taken against high firepower guns in Canada.

Since Canada prohibited fully automatic firearms in 1978, there has been an increase in the traffic of fully automatics which has been altered to semi-automatic mode. These guns are dangerous because they have