

Alternatively, those registered owners who are not gun collectors, as we will recommend be defined, but who wish to attain that status, could upgrade their storage facilities and meet the other qualifications necessary for recognition as genuine gun collectors. In this way, they could retain these firearms as properly qualified collectors.

In the result, all converted automatics remaining in the country would become registered and restricted to those qualified to possess them. In this way, the Special Committee feels that both the interests of present owners and the interests of public safety would be protected and properly balanced.

RECOMMENDATION 17

The Special Committee recommends that all present legal owners of converted automatics, who do not turn them in during the initial amnesty proposed in Bill C-80, be required to register them by a pre-determined cut-off date, and be allowed to retain them as restricted weapons for a specified period. During this period, the registered owners could sell them to the Government of Canada for the purpose of eventual destruction. The method of valuation would be recommended by the Canadian Advisory Council on Firearms.

RECOMMENDATION 18

The Special Committee further recommends that, other than the Government of Canada, only properly qualified genuine gun collectors would be permitted to accept a transfer of these firearms during the specified period, and when that period expired, only such collectors would be permitted to renew these certificates. Qualified genuine gun collectors would then be allowed to retain these converted automatics so long as they maintained their status as such, and subsequent transfers of these firearms would be limited to others so qualified.

2. MILITARY, PARA-MILITARY AND OTHER SEMI-AUTOMATIC FIREARMS

In addition to the particular concern with converted automatics, many of the witnesses who appeared before the Special Committee expressed a deep concern with the presence in Canadian society of other "weapons of war". By this they meant all military-design firearms, whether manufactured as semi-automatic versions of military weapons, or firearms made to look like military weapons and having at least some of the same capabilities, often referred to as para-military weapons. These witnesses see no legitimate purpose for such firearms in our society. They would like to see them all prohibited on the basis that their high fire-power makes them a danger to public safety, and that their symbolism has no legitimate place in our firearms culture. Some witnesses, such as Mr. Darryl Davies, the representatives of the students and employees of the École Polytechnique, the National Association of Women and the Law and the families of the École Polytechnique victims, also favoured a banning or restricting of all semi-automatics, whether of military-design or not, because of their rapid-fire capability.

Those witnesses representing the owners and users of these firearms expressed equally strong opposition to any prohibition of military-style or other semi-automatics. The Ontario Arms Collectors Association, the Shooting Federation of Canada, the Dominion of Canada Rifle