

Adjournment Debate

called upon to make decisions. It has been estimated that there are upwards of eight million guns in Canada. Most of the owners of these firearms, probably 99 per cent, use their weapons properly, are law-abiding people, and deplore as much as anyone the use of firearms in crimes. Mass ownership of firearms is certainly not a major cause of increased violence.

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THE ROYAL ASSENT

A message was delivered by the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, as follows:

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable the Deputy Governor General desires the immediate attendance of this honourable House in the chamber of the honourable the Senate.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker with the House went up to the Senate chamber.

And being returned:

Mr. Speaker informed the House that the Deputy Governor General had been pleased to give, in Her Majesty's name, the Royal Assent to the following bills:

Bill C-90, Appropriation Act No. 1, 1976.—Chapter No. 89.

Bill C-91, Appropriation Act No. 2, 1976.—Chapter No. 90.

Bill C-85, An Act respecting immigration security.—Chapter No. 91.

Bill C-86, An Act to amend the Veterans Insurance Act and the Returned Soldiers' Insurance Act.—Chapter No. 92.

Bill C-71, An Act to amend the Criminal Code and to make related amendments to the Crown Liability Act, the Immigration Act and the Parole Act.—Chapter No. 93.

Bill S-10, An Act to amend the Feeds Act.—Chapter No. 94.

● (2200)

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION*[English]*

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 40 deemed to have been moved.

HEALTH—MEASURES TO ENSURE ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF SWINE FLU VACCINE—CONSULTATIONS WITH PROVINCIAL MINISTERS

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to see the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Lalonde) in the House tonight, and to be honoured by his presence. I also want to congratulate him on the speed with which he moved after I drew this matter to his attention last week. His attitude has changed altogether since then, and I can understand why it would, because apparently he did not have many of the facts or the report from the fellows who went down to Washington and met with the U.S. president.

I should like to say a few words about this virus infection and make one or two observations about the minister's

[Mr. Ritchie.]

announcement. First of all, people are asking what this swine flu is. It is an acute respiratory infection that affects up to 40 per cent or more of the population with headaches, aches, and pains generally in the same area as with other flu viruses. It can swing from the respiratory field to the gastro-intestinal field by mutation. It will keep some individuals away from work for a month or more. If the individual develops pneumonia it is a bacterial pneumonia, or a bronchial pneumonia which can be cleared up with antibiotics. The individual can get a pneumonia which can last from one to two months. As an example we have the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) whom I see sitting down there in the House. He had this viral infection and he can tell you how it makes you feel, and how draggy you become.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): I didn't lose a day, though.

Mr. Rynard: The first influenza vaccine was manufactured during the second world war. It is interesting to note that the fellow who worked on that was Jonas Salk who later on developed the polio vaccine. He is now in charge of the Salk Institute doing virological work in San Diego, California. According to reports he has stated very definitely that there is need for mass vaccination.

I want to say to the minister that he is absolutely wrong when he separates the population by age groups. That cannot be done effectively, because you can vaccinate three or four in one household, with two or three not vaccinated. They will bring the disease in and give it to the others if the virus is strong enough. You only get a certain degree of immunity from vaccination, up to 80 per cent. That is why this is wrong. That is why Jonas Salk said that mass vaccinations must be carried out, and he urges speed in this regard.

The swine virus vaccination has a very short incubation period of from 12 to 36 hours, and spreads very rapidly. If it goes according to plan in the next year this will flair up and we will probably have an epidemic.

● (2210)

One interesting thing is that the flu virus is made up of several parts—up to eight. Those parts shuffle around in a process called mutation and form a new strain. Hong Kong flu in 1968 was the last major outbreak. It could be back in the process again recycling itself in 1978. You do not get immunity to virus flu as you do to measles because it mutates like musical chairs. That is why it is very difficult to keep it under control. The virus hides in the body.

I remember after the 1918 flu epidemic, about 1925 and into the 1930's, we saw many cases of people no older than the minister himself contracting Parkinson's disease as a result of the Spanish flu. We believe the virus can hide in the cells of the brain and hide elsewhere in the body, and that it may cause degenerative diseases and cancer. It is one of the diseases we have never been able to control.

It is interesting to note that the first real evidence of virus appeared in 1610. There were two severe outbreaks in Canada in 1889 and 1918. It is a killer disease, and speedy. It is necessary to utilize all the facilities and to have the total manufacturing output of vaccine under scrupulous care. I am certain that if the vaccination were carried out