

there should be no reason to pursue such a line of discussion.

The rights which do concern us are those which are clearly cancelled when it becomes necessary, on the coming into force of this bill, for an Indian who has always hunted on those lands reserved to his community, or where hunting rights have been reserved to them, to suddenly seek out a firearms officer to ask permission to gather meat.

Indian people, in the course of their hunting, have always travelled over a fairly broad area. One need only review the recent testimony of the Committee on Indian Affairs in respect to Bill C-9 to find a long list of examples of people travelling hundreds of miles from home while they followed the big game at their own area.

Last year, while we were testifying, it became necessary to demonstrate the ease with which an Indian within the meaning of the Indian Act establishes his status under that Act. Any person in possession of the band membership card - which after all does include a photograph of that person - should not also need to be in possession of a firearms acquisition certificate.

If their own band then believes that a particular, isolated individual is not to be trusted with a weapon, then the council of that band should bring application before a court to demonstrate why that person, already in possession of a weapon, ought not to be allowed to continue to possess a weapon.

#### d) Young Indian Hunters

It is pretty hard, and virtually self-defeating for a person in an Indian community who has come into possession of a weapon to keep that fact a secret.

Section 104 (2) brings us back to the question of young people. If you strike the requirement for an acquisition certificate as it would now apply to Indian people, then there remains for our young people simply the question of how old they must be to possess a weapon. If an age requirement must be set, it should either be set at twelve years of age when it is common to Indian people in hunting communities to begin to carry a gun into the bush; or, the band council should be empowered to raise the limit where they feel it is not appropriate to their particular circumstances.

Section 104 (2) (c) raises the spectre of Indian people who have been living and working in the bush since they were born, who have been carrying a gun since they were twelve years of age, suddenly lining up to enroll in the local rod and gun club to take a course in "the safe handling and use of firearms."