

*Government Orders*

Another one indicated: "My plea is that the government examine the growing roots of violence in all forms in this country and work to minimize it at the starting point".

Among my correspondence there was very little support for limits on magazine capacity. Many felt it would have its greatest effect on antique gun collections, particularly those older models with integral magazines. I had about 12 to 14 different examples of guns that would be restricted or prohibited under the legislation. Many of the correspondents felt that there was no problem putting limits on military, assault or fully automatic weapons. To quote one person: "There is no reason for anyone to own a fully automatic".

There are good features of this bill that will come up in committee discussions, such as a firearms safety course and the national standards that are proposed to ensure that only qualified people can obtain the firearms acquisition certificate.

Most people do not have a problem with a waiting or a cooling off period before getting an FAC. After all, as someone said, the purchase of a firearm should not be a spur of the moment decision.

Other good features that were praised by people in writing is the fact that return of lost firearms could be expedited and the fact that it is going to allow individuals with an FAC to transport a handgun owned by another person, possibly a family member.

I have been critical of the bill. There are things I would like to see improved. I think I am speaking for a large number of legitimate hunters and sport shooters. They understand the problem that we are facing in this country. They understand the concerns, and they understand the objective of the minister and the government. They are even more concerned than many others about the abuse and misuse of firearms.

They have a direct concern with the legislation. They deserve to be heard before we proceed any further. As users, they can offer constructive suggestions. They can help us design training courses.

They can probably suggest better controls for firearms than legislators or bureaucrats. They have expressed concern about what might be lost under the bill. They also have the most to gain by offering constructive suggestions and by helping. By helping, they can enhance

their chosen sport and possibly improve our legislation and contribute to a safer country.

Madam Speaker, let's approve this motion. Let's establish the committee and let's listen to Canadians before we proceed any further with this bill.

**Mr. Derek Lee (Scarborough—Rouge River):** Madam Speaker, I want to commend the member for his straightforward remarks on this subject. I found it useful to listen.

Most of us in the House have heard a number of those perspectives earlier. My comment then, going right to the reason for the motion that is in front of the House, is that the government appears to have made an error at some point, likely following the Marc Lépine tragedy in Montreal.

Whatever the reasons, the Minister of Justice appears to have been compelled to come forward with a bill which reflects government policy. It is what the government wants to legislate. Now the government appears to realize that the bill is not a good one, that there are some serious flaws in it.

There is a need for a bill but there are too many flaws in the present one. The bottom line here is if the bill is too bad to continue, and the government does not have the guts to withdraw it, then it must have the need to show that it is taking some action.

Is that not the reason why it is referring the matter to a special committee? Is it not really admitting that it made a mistake here? Is that not why we have to go back to square one and rehash all of these issues? There are many, some addressing the bill and some not addressing the bill.

There is no reference to amnesty here. I just noticed a statistic today from Toronto that this year from January to August 31, the metro Toronto police have seized 1,506 illegal guns. That compares to about 1,200 guns in 1980. That is 6.2 guns per day taken from the streets of Toronto.

There are a lot of issues that are not being addressed by this bill. I would like to ask the member if he would not acknowledge that the government started off on the wrong foot so that we all can start off on the right foot very quickly to address the many needs that this legislation must address.

**Mr. Fee:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleague for the question.