

*Government Orders*

undertaking. If not, then it is obvious that what the government is doing is trying to kill this bill.

The minister has not given any terms of the committee or when she expects the committee to report back. She has not given us any undertaking that there is going to be passage of a bill on gun control, be it C-80 or whatever, before the House prorogues.

What has happened is that she has complaints from people in her party who do not like the bill. The government has thrown its hands in the air. It has backed away completely from the subject and said that it is turning it over to a special committee. Let them grapple with the subject. It has backed away. It cannot handle it. That is what it is saying. It is saying it cannot handle it.

Perspective members of the committee should be flattered that the government is saying that it cannot deal with this, that it does not know how to deal with it, and it wants the committee to deal with it. The government is in fact turning over the legislative authority to a special committee. It is saying that it does not want to deal with this particular subject. I think it is incredible that the government has taken this position.

The minister herself said: "—if second reading takes place before the adjournment." There is no intention of the government to have second reading on this bill. We have waited two months and still this is the first day we have had to deal with this very important subject.

The minister also said that Bill C-80 was part of a bigger package. She had proposals in her release on June 26 of other matters, yet, they were not included in Bill C-80.

It is a very, very sad trick that the government is playing on the people of Canada in this very important issue, not to deal with it and to back away from it as it is doing. The minister makes some pretension, as did the hon. member for Calgary West, that this is a more complicated subject. It says that, even though it has been introduced and all other legislation goes to a legislative committee, this bill should go to a special committee. Why should this bill go to a special committee when all legislation goes to a legislative committee? Why can possible amendments not be introduced at a legislative committee? There is no reason at all, other than the fact that the government does not want to proceed.

Certainly, there have been complaints about Bill C-80. There is no question. No one would say that Bill C-80 is perfect.

How many people would say that any legislation that comes through this House is perfect? How many members of Parliament agree on every piece of legislation that is more than three sections long? How many? Very few.

That is the reason for a legislative committee, to hear witnesses, complaints and to get ideas from all concerned on a possible subject, on particular legislation.

Bill C-80 is no different than any other piece of legislation. In fact, Bill C-80 is a better bill than Bill C-58, which is another one of the member's bills, which is an unmitigated disaster. At least with Bill C-80, we can do something with it. We can make the amendments in the legislative committee.

With Bill C-58, it involves almost rewriting the whole bill.

This is an important subject. On that point, the minister is correct. As an important subject, it should be dealt with as quickly as possible.

I am not going to go into the problems of the 14 innocent women who were killed in Montreal and the problem that that created. That will be dealt with by my colleague from Notre-Dame-de-Grâce. I will say that the person who committed that atrocity was an abused child.

If we are looking to the question of prohibiting and stopping killings of this kind in this country, then we have got to do more. This government has got to do more in addressing the problems of youth who are abused, mistreated and who have not had the benefit that we would not like to see young people in this country receive.

Until the government recognizes the need for treatment and rehabilitation of young people who commit crimes, to take them off the streets, to deal with them, to work with them until they get on the right track, this government is not going to be addressing the problem.

There has been a lot of unanimity on Bill C-80. A lot of the groups which object to some of the control mechanisms in this bill, some of the rifle associations,