

Another aspect of the bill that I find very difficult in this age of democracy is the ability to change regulations at will by Order in Council. I find that to be very offensive because it does not allow for debate in this House on issues that we, as members of Parliament, really have been put here to debate. Orders in Council on changes of significance to people's lives should always be debated in this House and that deserves to be looked at.

Another aspect is the increase in fees from \$10 to \$50. It is outrageous to think that we are putting in a category for every single weapon that a Canadian may own. When they resubmit their firearms acquisition certificate renewal they will have to pay \$50 for every weapon they own.

Most Canadians who are hunters and sportsmen own a variety of weapons. I suggest that having two, three, four or five weapons of different varieties for different types of sport is going to be very expensive for those individuals if the changes in fees are allowed to go through.

The other change that is very difficult for an individual who is a sportsman to understand is the fact that an applicant must demonstrate a secure place within which to store his or her weapons.

I ask members opposite to explain to me in detail how that will be done because there are millions and millions of Canadians who own weapons. Are we proposing, as this government has with this piece of legislation, to allow some sort of inspector to inspect every home in the land to see if they have secured their weapons and put them in a place where they are stored in a proper manner? Or are we saying that as long as the weapons are locked in a closet or in a particular case, that is perfectly acceptable?

Is the legislation suggesting that we have to purchase a particularly secure case, one built in Canada? Most gun owners have a case worth roughly \$2,000. Those particular cases are made of a very durable type of alloy which will not allow individuals to break in very easily. I suggest that that is a good idea for people who can afford it, but most gun owners in Canada do not have the financial ability to purchase such a secure type of case to allow them to store their weapons.

I want to talk a little bit about what is good about the bill. There are some good aspects to this bill. If we had not got into the emotional problems that occur whenever

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there is some sort of massacre or something that is disgusting to parliamentarians and Canadians as a whole similar to what took place in Montreal last year, we probably would have come forward with some very good legislation.

Although it has not been passed and given Royal Assent, I find it ironic to think that for years and years we have had on the books the ability to force all Canadians who would like to purchase a weapon to go through a hunter and safety course, or a gun safety course of some kind and have some national standard. I think the safety aspects of the bill are a very good idea and should be implemented.

Obviously we would have to take a look at what the regulations and course would entail. These particular courses would give those Canadians who are first-time gun owners an understanding of just what they are purchasing. That is a very positive aspect of the bill and I think we should take a serious look at improving this part of the legislation.

The other aspect of the bill that is very important is the photo ID that would be put on the FACs. That would make it much easier for individuals who are selling weapons to do their job in checking out the moral and social capabilities of persons owning a weapon.

• (1230)

One of the problems with the bill as it relates to the FAC is that it does not stipulate whether the FAC is going to be for all the weapons. Our belief is that it is just going to be for one individual weapon at a time. Therefore, one might need four or five FACs. I think that has to be looked at very seriously.

With regard to how the bill relates to the firearms safety course, the question that has to be raised and will have to be looked at by this committee is, is this for first-time gun owners or are we going back to square one, making every person who owns a gun in the country take the safety course. There are those in Ontario who have gone through a safety program and there are those in other provinces who have not.

Also, we have to take a look at the 28-day cooling off period. Is this essential for those who already have an FAC in hand now, who are already gun owners, and who have already taken the course to which I have referred? Is it necessary to make them wait 28 days in order to get their renewal of an FAC? If they have already been