

will be subject to guidelines to be laid down by Order in Council AT SOME FUTURE DATE. For this, the gun owner must pay a fee in an amount NOT YET STATED.

The S.W.F. feels that the benefits of this great bureaucratic operation will be so insignificant that they will not begin to justify the effort. Active criminals will certainly not apply for a license. And, anticipating the requirements of the regulations yet to be published, where will the line be drawn in approving or rejecting an application in the face of a record of alcoholism, criminality or mental illness? Consider all the variations in degree that will have to be taken into account. Because of its complexities alone the operation will tend to become either autocratic and unfair or meaningless.

As for the proposition that killings with long guns would be reduced by this licensing system, it is to be remembered that the majority of such killings are committed by persons who would have had no trouble getting a license because before the event they were considered normal citizens. Others likely to be involved in such killings, and who are an identifiable threat, could be taken care of by different provisions of the criminal law. For instance, had one CWF recommendation been accepted, a person recently convicted of a violent crime would be under an Order of Prohibition barring him from possessing any firearms. As for the man who is a threat because he is partially insane or is intermittently unstable and violent, action could be taken to seize all his firearms under Sec. 105 which -- wisely -- would be strengthened by the new Bill.

Further, to the proposed Federal licensing system of the owners of rifles and shotguns we would like to draw your attention to the last two pages of a letter mailed to the Honourable Ron Basford on February 17, 1976 from the Honourable Roy Romanow, Attorney General for the Province of Saskatchewan. A copy of the letter is attached to our brief.

Sections 91, 106.3 (11), (12) and (13)

These sections of the Bill must be read together and attention must also be paid to present Sec. 101(b) which would be repealed and not replaced.

The combined effects of these steps would be that a person 14 to 18 years of age would require a special permit before he or she could own or use a firearm. Now this age bracket is 14 to 16 years. Even more important, under present Sec. 101 (b) any youngster may use a firearm under the immediate supervision of the lawful possessor of that firearm, ie: a father may supervise his son, a Scout Master his Scouts and a Cadet Leader his Cadets. If the Bill is adopted, all these youngsters will have to apply for and secure individual permits.

It should be noticed that on the average, provinces fix 16 as the age at which people may acquire a hunting license. In one province the age is higher (with a qualification); in two or three, lower. In about half the provinces, youngsters must first pass a hunters' safety course before they may be licensed to hunt -- and it is felt that this will shortly be the situation in all provinces.

The S.W.F. feels the proposed changes are a deliberate attempt by the government to discourage young people from taking up the sports of hunting or target shooting. Certainly, this section of the Bill will accomplish nothing in the way of keeping guns out of the hands of criminals or of improving safe gun handling standards. The proposals would most likely destroy our present Junior Firearms Safety program in Saskatchewan.