

*Private Members' Business*

Lepine is very good evidence that that is not necessarily the case.

Furthermore, this view ignores the reality which is made clear by criminological research. The majority of homicides in Canada occur among friends and in domestic situations. The Canadian Centre of Justice Statistics shows by its data that the weapon used most frequently to kill women and children in the home is a gun, usually one purchased for hunting purposes.

It is a simple proposition. Gun control works. There are some problems with the framework of law that is currently in Canada. Some modifications are called for and the government acknowledges that with Bill C-80. I propose a few which are similar and some which are different from what it is proposing. In the final analysis, these amendments make sense.

**Mr. Ian Waddell (Port Moody—Coquitlam):** Mr. Speaker, I rise as justice critic of the New Democratic Party to speak briefly on this private members' bill.

I would like to comment generally on gun control and then I will comment, clause by clause, on the bill put forward by hon. member for Ottawa South.

I refer to a story by Peter O'Neill of the *The Vancouver Sun*, Ottawa bureau. It appeared in the *Victoria Times Columnist* recently. It states: "Gun control legislation faces death, Ottawa. The federal government's controversial gun control legislation may die along with the current parliamentary session, Justice Minister Kim Campbell said Monday". It goes on: "Campbell said she would discuss with her Conservative colleagues next week whether there is still time to hold public hearings to get the bill through the Commons." It has almost been a year now since the 14 women were killed at the École polytechnique in Montreal by the crazed man Marc Lepine. There was a great outcry to deal with an update of gun control. The government promised that.

• (1720)

I just want to say that the government has been very gutless here. It is a broad gutlessness if you like, Mr. Speaker, because not only has it failed to deal with a bill, but it has have failed to even deal with a bill from both sides, from not only the people who oppose it, but the people who are for gun control.

I believe that there is a way here in which we can have stronger gun control that will stop crazy people, criminals and people in a fit of passion from getting guns and will keep Canada different than the United States, where they have 45 million handguns, but will also protect our traditional ways of life in the north among hunters, fishermen and trappers and so on.

I want to address some of these concerns. I think the Minister of Justice is gutless in not dealing properly with gun control. I am putting her on notice, come the one year anniversary of the Montreal killings, I will be putting a question to her as to what has happened with her bill and what she has done.

I want to say this to the hon. member for Ottawa South. In the little experience I have had, as justice critic and looking into this gun control legislation, I visited the RCMP and saw all the different guns. I went into the firing range and fired an Uzi and I looked at all the pistols they had seized and everything. I went through the act and I tried to come to terms with all the technical matters of the act. There are some problems with this bill. Let me just outline them.

The first one is you need a firearms acquisition certificate to get a gun now, unless your gun is grandfathered before the law came in during the late seventies. You raise the age to 18. You have got a problem. What about in rural Canada? I say this to the member, and I hope he is listening. I have noticed and you must notice, there is a difference between the people who live in Ottawa South, or the centre of Vancouver, Toronto or Montreal and those who live in the rural areas. Whereas, like my friend right next to me here has, let us say, a 16 year old son who wants to go hunting with him. What we have to consider in that area is whether that is going to be an impossible prohibition to those younger people who may in the rural areas be like 18 year olds, in fact, have grown up in many ways and are responsible. I would want to look at that very carefully.

The second part of his bill I like very much, the fact that the applicant should provide secure storage facilities. I think any reasonable person, that is who we are trying to deal with in these firearm certificates, would do this. I think that is a good part of his bill. I think the government should consider that and indeed, I will consider it closely when we are debating the government's bill, if we ever get to debate it, Bill C-80.