

with separately, and when we come to motion No. 7, if that is the case, motions Nos. 7, 11 and 13 will be grouped.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Motions Nos. 7, 12 and 14.

**Mr. Speaker:** We will deal with that in a moment once the hon. member for Calgary North has had an opportunity to sort it out.

**Mr. Woolliams:** Mr. Speaker, it will be motions Nos. 7, 12 and 14, because the hon. member for Moose Jaw filed his motion a little later than we did, which moved ours down. If the hon. member for Moose Jaw wants to include No. 1 in his, that is fine with me. Otherwise, it remains the same as I have suggested.

**Mr. Speaker:** That being the case, we would begin with motion No. 1. Motion No. 2 will be debated and voted separately; then the grouping of motions Nos. 3, 4, 5 and 6 will be discussed. When we reach motion No. 7, it will include motions Nos. 12 and 14.

There is an application that motion No. 2 in the name of the hon. member for Palliser (Mr. Schumacher) be stood over until the hon. member can be here, which is reasonable under the circumstances. Motions Nos. 3, 4, 5 and 6 are in the name of the hon. member Palliser. Therefore, the proposal would be to deal with motion No. 1 in the name of the hon. member for Moose Jaw (Mr. Neil) and then to move directly to motion No. 7 in the name of the hon. member for Calgary North (Mr. Woolliams).

**Mr. Basford:** Mr. Speaker, I should like to indicate, from my side, that that is agreeable—that the motions in the name of the hon. member for Palliser (Mr. Schumacher) be stood for the rest of the day until we next deal with this bill. Therefore, I agree with calling motion No. 1 and then proceeding with motion No. 7.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I wonder if photostatic copies of your notes could be distributed in order for us to do our own checking.

**Mr. Speaker:** Yes, that would be helpful and I would be happy to do so. We will arrange for that forthwith.

**Mr. Doug Neil (Moose Jaw)** moved:

Motion No. 1.

June 28, 1977.—That Bill C-51, an act to amend the Criminal Code, the Customs Tariff, the Parole Act, the Penitentiary Act and the Prisons and Reformatories Act, be amended in clause 3 by striking out lines 47 to 49 at page 3 and lines 1 to 8 at page 4 and substituting the following therefor:

“(b) any firearm that is designed or adapted to be fired when reduced to a length of less than twenty six inches by folding, telescoping or otherwise.”.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I should like to make a few comments in connection with this amendment. Effectively, what it provides for is to remove subsection (b)(i) and renumber (b)(ii) as (b). Subsection (b)(i) reads as follows:

(b) any firearm that

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(i) is not a prohibited weapon, has barrel that is less than 18½ inches in length and is capable of discharging centre-fire ammunition in a semi-automatic manner, or—

The reason for this amendment was set forth very well in the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs, which can be found in issue No. 18 dated June 2, 1977. I should like to refer to what Mr. L. H. Nicholson, the chairman of the firearms legislation committee, said at page 18:8, which reads as follows:

The next item is the definition of “restricted weapon”. This is a new definition of a restricted weapon. It would include one that is semi-automatic or self-loading, discharges centre-fire ammunition and has a barrel under 18.5 inches in length. It is understood that the purpose here is to provide some control over the M-1 carbine, an arm now favoured by criminals, but unfortunately it also covers other makes and other models in significant numbers now used by good citizens in hunting. The change proposed will prevent the further use of these firearms and it will cause a substantial loss to the present owners because they can no longer use them for hunting. The provision is therefore strongly opposed. As to the makes and models to which I refer and their numbers, I have some further information if it is of interest to the committee.

At page 18:16 the committee report indicates Mr. Nicholson referring to various rifles. He spoke about the Armalite AR180, sporter carbine, 18¼-inch barrel; the Rouger Mini 14, .223 calibre, 18-3/8—inch barrel; the Universal 1,000 auto-loading carbine, 18-inch barrel; the Plainfield carbine, .223 calibre, 18-inch barrel; the Hand R ultra-carbine, various calibres, 18-inch barrel; and the Savage auto-loading carbine, .22 rimfire, 16.5-inch barrel. He continued by saying, “I could go on; I have another half dozen.”

There are numerous guns with barrel lengths that are under the 18½-inches referred to in this subsection. If this subsection is passed, it will mean that many people throughout Canada will have rifles which will immediately become restricted weapons. These people have had these guns in their possession for many years and have used them when partaking in sports and hunting. To bring in this particular clause would have the effect of putting all these people in a position where they are breaking the law, which is not the intention of the legislation. I am advised by the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation that in many instances people have rifles with barrel lengths slightly over 18½ inches. If they damage the muzzles of those guns, they have to be taken to a gunsmith to be worked on, and they end up with barrels of less than 18½ inches and therefore would fall within this particular section.

The attempts to restrict the use of the M1 carbine can certainly be carried out by subsection (d) on page 4 of Bill C-51, which reads as follows:

—a weapon of any kind, not being a prohibited weapon or a shotgun or rifle of a kind that, in the opinion of the governor in council, is reasonable for use in Canada for hunting or sporting purposes, that is declared by order of the governor in council to be a restricted weapon.

It seems to me that under subsection (d) the governor in council could make the necessary order restricting the weapons it desires to restrict, thus leaving the hunter and the sportsman free to own, possess and use the guns to which I have referred. I am not happy with any legislation, particularly in the Criminal Code, which gives the governor in council the right to pass legislation which is never debated in this House. In this instance, subsection (d) is in the Criminal Code at the present