

governments as well. A future government could use either of the two sub-sections referred to, in effect, to require the registration of sporting firearms without any further reference to Parliament. Surely this would be a perverse result when the government proposing the legislation had rejected the concept of registration per se. The responsible firearms owner and user in Canada takes the position that if, in future, sporting firearms registration is to become mandatory, then that should be a subject for further debate by his elected representatives in Parliament and must not be done by Regulation only by Cabinet or simply by some minor licencing official.

It seems so simple a matter to alleviate the fears of so many gun owners in Canada and make them much more satisfied with Bill C-83, that we find it difficult to understand why it was not done in the Bill as originally drafted or has not been done by proposed amendment now. Indeed, on May 7th, 1976, Canadian Press reported the Honorable Minister of Justice, Mr. Basford, as publicly stating that Bill C-83 specifically prohibits the listing or registration of sporting firearms. Mr. Basford is in error, and if he were right and the Bill did in fact include such prohibition, then a considerable number of gun owners in Canada would be far more satisfied with the Bill than they now are. This one change, or guarantee if you will, would do much to quiet the howls of outrage that have been heard since Bill C-83 was introduced.

The obvious answer is simple. A further sub-section, sub-section (9) should be added to section 106.1 of the Bill, by way of amendment, stating simply as follows: