

Then you must purchase the pistol. You must leave it at the dealer. You must then join the pistol club. You must apply to the police to register the pistol and fill out form C-300. You must then transport the pistol to the police where the permit is issued. You must then complete registration of the pistol and leave the pistol with the police.

Step number 11 involves having the registration certificate issued by Ottawa, which is form C-306. You must then obtain a permit to transport the pistol home, which is form C-301. You must apply to carry the pistol to the gun club, which is form C-302. Your police record is checked, and a permit, which is good for one year, is issued. You may now go target shooting.

Steps one to four must be completed up to the acquisition certificate stage to obtain a long gun. Then you may purchase the rifle or shotgun, take the hunting course, pass an exam, purchase a hunting license and go hunting according to provincial regulations. That takes only three to six months.

Would someone who supports this bill tell me how all those gangs in Montreal, Toronto, Edmonton and Saskatoon get their guns?

Senator Berntson: They plan ahead.

Senator Tkachuk: How do they get their guns? Did they take the course? Did they register their weapons? Did they fill out the forms? I do not think so. How did they get their guns? The only people we are registering here are people who have owned guns all their lives and who have never done anything wrong. Those are the ones who are left. They are the people on the farms who have owned guns all their lives and who have never done anything wrong. All those guys in Montreal, Edmonton and Toronto who are shooting people over drugs are to blame for this. They all have guns. Do honourable senators know why? Because it is easier to purchase an illegal gun than it is to purchase a legal one.

I would be a happy gun smuggler with this kind of gun law because then, even people who would never even think of breaking the law will just look at this and say, "I can get a gun in 30 days. What does it hurt?" It takes 15 minutes to buy a gun on any street in Saskatoon.

During the referendum campaign, the Prime Minister assured Canadians that all was well. He risked the entire country on his wrong political instinct. This bill reflects the wrong political instinct about Western and rural Canada. The large majority of elected municipal, provincial and federal politicians in Western Canada have said, "Do not do this." In my province, every municipality passed unanimous resolutions saying not to do this. They are not crazy. The attorneys general of three Prairie provinces, Yukon, the Northwest Territories and the chiefs of all the reserves asked us to reject this bill. That included Liberals and members of the NDP and the Conservative Party in provincial legislatures in Western Canada. They all asked us to

reject the bill. Representatives of the tourism ministry, the wildlife federation, Ducks Unlimited, gun clubs and competitive shooters from local gun clubs to Olympians have said, "Reject the bill." Cattle associations, trappers, outfitters — the majority of the population — have said the same thing.

I do not know about the rest of you, but I am a Western Canadian senator. I was not elected. I was lucky enough to be appointed to the Senate. There is the same number of senators from the Maritimes as there is from Western Canada. There is the same number from Ontario as there is from Quebec. In all, there are 24 senators from each of those regions.

• (2130)

Senator Carstairs: There are 30 in Atlantic Canada.

Senator Tkachuk: There are six more from Newfoundland. Boy, they have a lot down there.

It seems to me that since I do not have to be elected, perhaps I have some reason for being here, and that is to represent my region, to somehow fulfil a mandate. Otherwise, perhaps, I should pack it in and run for election because —

The Hon. the Speaker: I am sorry, honourable senator, but your time is up.

Senator Tkachuk: May I have another couple of minutes?

Senator Sparrow: I have an appointment at twelve o'clock. Could you be finished by then?

Senator Tkachuk: I will be finished by then.

The Hon. the Speaker: Is leave granted?

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

Senator Tkachuk: As a Western Canadian senator, I have an obligation to listen. Even if I believed in this bill, I would have a tough time. I do not think I could do it. Who the heck am I to say to all of the attorneys general, "Oh, you guys are wrong; I am right. You guys do not know anything. You must go out every four years and be elected by ordinary folks, and I get to stay here and vote the way I want." I do not think so.

One last point: Do we have a crime wave going on in museums? What is happening at the gun clubs that I do not know about; and on the trapping trails and the cattle trails? Is there something that I do not know about happening at the hunting camps, at competitions at the Pan-Am Games, the Olympics, and guiding expeditions in northern British Columbia? Is there a crime wave going on? Are people being shot? Are duck hunters shooting each other? Are gun collectors amassing firearms to overthrow the government? Are those flintlocks awaiting a crime wave?