

Gun control legislation prepared for Parliament in the autumn

To the editor of The Herald:
Bill C-83 (Peace and Security Legislation), probably not amongst most Canadians, summer preoccupations, has been reported to the House of Commons by the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs and the government intends to proceed with the legislation in the fall.

highlighted the winter and spring debate on Bill C-83 the government introduced as part of this package other measures aimed at assuring better protection from crime for Canadians, measures such as stronger provisions regarding electronic surveillance ("wiretapping") dangerous offenders, and the custody and release of inmates.

its responsiveness to the legitimate criticisms of Canadians by making a number of substantive amendments without compromising the principles behind the proposals. These amendments were based on the worthwhile suggestions of hardworking groups of members in our own caucus, gun clubs, gun collectors, native organizations and others. Some of the more

substantive amendments will:
- allow all minors to receive firearms instructions from a parent without a permit;
- lower the minimum age for obtaining a firearms permit from 14 to 12 and require parental consent for these minors to obtain permits;
- eliminate the fee provisions for certain people who live in designated areas and who hunt or trap as a way of life to sustain themselves and their

families;
- simplify the firearm and ammunition definition sections and lessen public inconvenience with regard to gun owner documentation;
- allow bona fide collectors who have in their possession fully-automatic weapons registered with the R.C.M.P. on or before June 1, 1976 to retain these weapons under stringent storage conditions. No prohibited weapons may be

imported by collectors, and trading in these weapons will be strictly controlled;
- create a better system of processing registration application for restricted weapons;
- designate individuals as well as classes of individuals as licensing officers to reduce problems of distance in remote areas;

- restrict the power of the Governor General in Council to declare weapons to be prohibited weapons; and
- establish a minimum three year sentence for a second conviction for using an offensive weapon in committing an indictable offence and introduce mandatory minimum periods of prohibition from firearms possession for these serious offenders.

Peace and security means more to Canadians than simply the provisions contained in Bills C-83 and C-84. This legislation is only part of an on-going process to improve our criminal justice system. In the gun control area, for example, we are already working on an education program to deal with responsible gun ownership and we are beginning in-depth consultations with the provinces to integrate eventually the licensing system with provincial competence testing programs. While I expect an immediate increase

in awareness of the responsibility attached to the possession of firearms upon implementation of Bill C-83, the long term consequence should be a perceptibly safer society for Canadians as a result of a rational approach to guns and gun control. Again, however, I should emphasize that gun control is but one element in a general scheme.

Yours Sincerely,
Dr. Frank A. Philbrook,
Members of Parliament,
Halton.

Terrorist acts abhorrent and must be opposed: MP

To the editor of The Herald:
A few days ago, I replied with the following letter to one of my constituents. I thought this might be of general interest.

Regarding the subject of the recent Israeli rescue of skyjack hostages at Entebbe, Uganda, I would most certainly agree with what seems to be the general reaction.

In my view and I am sure that of the Canadian Government, terrorist acts such as hijacking are abhorrent and must be opposed as strongly as possible, whether the terrorists are Arab, Ugandan, or whatever nature.

By the same token, it is a consistent policy and practise of our Government to continue trying to assist the needy and innocent people of these and other countries, whatever the actions of their governments of fellow citizens.

The Honourable Allan MacEachern, Secretary of State for External Affairs did in fact make a public statement of the subject at the time in the highest forum of the nation, the Canadian Parliament.

"Mr. Speaker, in reply to the honourable member, may I say that I have not yet sent a message to the foreign minister of Israel. I did receive

a letter from him which was given to me late this morning, and I hope to reply to him as soon as possible. I should like to say in reply to the honourable member that the action taken by Israel in securing the release of the hostages was certainly a remarkable feat, well executed and responded to the widespread concern felt by Canadians that the lives of the hostages be spared. It was the first serious setback of international terrorism and as such will be widely applauded. Mr. Speaker, I should add in completing the answer for the honourable member that I understand the matter will be before the Security Council of the United Nations, and it will be possible to study further the implications of these events under international law."

You may also recall that Canada set a tough and effective example for the U.S.A. and every other country years ago in exiling the F.I.Q. kidnapers while saving the life of British Trade Commissioner James Cross, also by playing a very important role in effecting an international agreement on skyjackers through having maintained good relations with Cuba. The same internationally respected

diplomacy by Canada should also help to resolve the Middle East and Ugandan situations eventually, while gunboat diplomacy will probably demonstrate its weaknesses and limitations.

In the meantime, I shall do my utmost as your M.P. for Halton to ensure that Canada continues to enjoy its excellent

Moslems listened to, but not Christians

To the editor of The Herald:
(The following is a copy of a letter sent to Ontario Education Minister Thomas Wells.)

As a confused Canadian citizen this morning's news prompted me to write this letter hoping for clarification of your decision on the following matter.
Last week a delegation of Moslems objected to references in our text books which they claimed were biased against their religion and people. This Wednesday, four days later, the report states that those books will be taken out of the schools.

The philosophy of our schools is the complete opposite to the Christian religion. As a parent, with experience, I

relationship with the Sovereign State of Israel, as much as I and others like me enjoy our own personal relationship with the Jewish people of Canada, including my colleagues the Liberal M.P.'s, the Honourable Barney Danson, the Honourable Herb Gray and my Health and Welfare Com-

mittee Chairman Bob Kaplan. I should be very pleased to discuss this and other matters in person with you or others of my good Halton constituents.

Yours sincerely,
Dr. Frank A. Philbrook,
Member of Parliament,
Halton.

Moslems listened to, but not Christians

believe there is only one way to make a child moral, that is, a strong belief in right and wrong. The moral laws given to us centuries ago were the backbone of our civilization which in turn produced a nation of responsible people and a strong family unit.

Mr. Wells, it is evident that the prime purpose of the education system is to eradicate Christianity; the teaching of Christian purity, self discipline, sex only in a marriage setting are scoffed at. Sex education is presented in the manner that "everybody is doing it." Here are the methods; just don't get caught. This is offensive to

Christians and thousands of them have objected, but no action has been taken. Like the Moslems we are offended too. Another announcement on the news this morning reported that there must be even more sex education in the schools. How can there be more? Secularism has saturated this area already. It

is a known fact that V.D. is at epidemic proportions among high school and university students, to say nothing of the abortions performed, which are kept under cover. The last seven years have seen our schools discard the teaching of morality and the result has been the facts mentioned above. Knowledge without character has degraded society and all but ruined the family unit.

Perhaps, we should examine the standards arrived at by our God-fearing forefathers. If more of our time and energy were spent building a stronger family unit and improving our relationship with God, the improvement in our society would be astonishing.

The school system is sowing the seeds of acceptance to a society which is producing a sub-humanity. Why are the Moslems listened to but not the Christians?
M. J. Harris,
R.R. 2, Milton.

Cable rate OK'd in 1975

To the editor of The Herald:
It was somewhat satisfying to read Mr. MacLean's complaint in last week's Herald and know that the facts are to the contrary.

Mr. MacLean's letter objected to a one dollar per month increase in Cable Television subscription rates. I would point out however, that the rate increase was authorized by the Canadian Radio-Television Commission for July 1975 and since implementation has been delayed for fourteen months, this has realized a \$14.00 saving for Georgetown area subscribers. In the interim, our costs of operation have not remained fixed.

As well, it might be interesting to note an actual reduction in rates on a per

channel basis. When we delivered twelve channels to Mr. MacLean's home, his monthly cost was 41.66 cents per channel. Now, it is 35.29 cents on the seventeen channel system.
John E. Ollivier,
Marketing Manager.

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