

Re: Quigley's article in Vancouver Sun, Saturday, Jan. 31, 2004, p. C5.

Dear Editor:

Tim Quigley's article is deliberately misleading. The question to ask in evaluating the latest firearm legislation is whether or not it has made Canadians safer, not where is the situation worse. Our gun laws are not able to protect us from violent crime.

As I have shown in my recent study, The Failed Experiment (November 2003), violent crime is escalating in Canada, the UK and Australia, but it is plummeting in the United States. Homicide rates are increasing in both Australia and the UK despite their strict gun laws. Yes, the homicide rate is falling in Canada, but it is falling even faster in the US.

While we waste billions of taxpayers' dollars harassing hunters in order to register their guns, the US focuses on punishing violent criminals.

Quigley admits that the problem with guns in Canada lies with illegal guns in our urban cores, not with rural hunters, but his solution is to continue to waste billions on licensing deer hunters and registering their guns, rather than focusing on the violent criminals.

Canadians would be safer if we scrapped the registry and spent the money on more police officers and keeping violent criminals in prison.

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Cordially yours,

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