

Oral Questions

knows, there is a provision in the Criminal Code, section 163(8), which defines obscene and is intended to address that question of hard core pornography.

The constitutionality of that provision is now before the Supreme Court of Canada in the case called Butler. That case was argued in June of this year and the decision has been reserved. We are hoping to hear soon from the Supreme Court of Canada their views of that subject. That will enable us to move ahead in this area with some kind of assurance about charterability.

In the meantime, however, as the hon. member will know, in all of the discussions that have taken place within Parliament, the Rix Rogers report and others, there has been a strong consensus on the issue of child pornography. I am prepared to move ahead in that area pending any kind of resolution of the broader issues in hard core pornography that the Supreme Court of Canada may provide.

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CANADIAN CENTRE FOR OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Mr. Stan Keyes (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Labour.

According to an internal memo, the minister has been directed by Treasury Board to shut down the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety, unless of course business and labour can come up with over \$1.7 million in just five weeks.

My question is as follows. Is the minister prepared to stand up and protect the health and safety of Canadian workers or will he abandon his responsibility as the willing hatchet man for Treasury Board?

Hon. Marcel Danis (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I would like to tell my colleague and all members of this House that the government is very committed to CCOHS. I know the centre is in the hon. member's riding. When the Liberal government was in office, from 1978 to 1984 it gave the CCOHS on average \$3.1 million a year.

When we came into office in 1984, until now, we have given the CCOHS on average \$9.8 million per year. We will continue to contribute to CCOHS. However, we feel it is fair that the other stakeholders do the same; that is the unions, that is companies and that is the other provincial governments that get services from CCOHS.

Mr. Stan Keyes (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, only this minister can take a Liberal creation, the CCOHS—

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

Ms. Copps: We created it.

An hon. member: When did Lincoln Alexander become a Liberal?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Hamilton West.

Mr. Keyes: The fact of the matter is that this government says it is very committed to the CCOHS, yet it has only released half the funding that it needs before mid-January. That is its commitment.

How is it that the government can find \$26 million in taxpayers' money for so-called prosperity hearings on competitiveness and the CCOHS is already there. Forty-three per cent of all its sales go to foreign customers?

Given that the government says that Canada must become internationally competitive and given that this House has urged the government to reinstate funding for the centre, will the minister do the right thing and financially support the whole amount of money that is needed to support this national centre whose programs save the lives of working men and women in this country.

Hon. Marcel Danis (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I believe the intervention of the hon. member would be a lot more productive if he did what one of my colleagues, and I seldom say that, from the NDP and colleagues in the Progressive Conservative Party did when they saw the same article that the hon. member for Hamilton West saw. They came to me and said: "How can we help to make sure the centre continues?" They have undertaken to talk to the unions and the provincial governments to make sure that the centre survives.

I can tell the member that we will go the extra mile and we will put in the money as long as the other stakeholders do.