

With respect to the energy program itself, I think most Canadians recognize that the one area in which there is an abundance of energy supply is that of natural gas. Mr. Speaker, in your great Province of Alberta, a fair degree of employment opportunity has been created by the increased demand for natural gas from that province into other areas of Canada. Only in the last year have lateral lines been made available to smaller communities in northern Ontario. Historically, when natural gas lines were extended, it was only through the major centres of northern Ontario.

This kind of change in program by the Government does not particularly damage the people in large centres in northern Ontario. A number of constituents living perhaps 20 to 25 miles away from the main line have over the years lobbied individual Members of Parliament to convince the Government to extend the lines to their smaller communities. This would have allowed those people to have the same amenities as those made available to constituents living in larger urban centres in northern Ontario.

The fact that the Government has asked for the program to be terminated is a valid use of the mandate given to it last September. However, I hope the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Miss Carney) and the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) would take into account the difficult terrain and the other things which I mentioned earlier concerning the lack of products needed for conversion to take place.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Before calling it one o'clock, the Hon. Member should know that he has a minute remaining as far as his speech is concerned. After three o'clock, if he wishes to use that one minute when Orders of the Day are called and the House resumes consideration of Bill C-24, he may do so.

It being one o'clock, I do now leave the chair until two o'clock this afternoon.

At 1 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[English]

PORNOGRAPHY

DEFINITION OF OBSCENITY—CALL FOR NEW LEGISLATION

Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal): Mr. Speaker, given the striking down by the Federal Court of Appeal of the Section of the Customs Tariff Act that has been used to prevent the importation of pornographic material into Canada, it is imperative that the Minister of Justice (Mr. Crosbie) and

S.O. 21

the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Beatty), guided by the Fraser Report, which should be made public, move quickly to bring in legislation for a legally clear applicable definition of obscenity. Immediate updating of the relevant sections of the Criminal Code and the Customs Tariff Act is called for in order to give coherency in our laws, and control the entry and distribution of violent pornographic material.

This ruling underscores and substantiates claims by women's groups about the inefficacy of the law. They have long recommended revision and updating of the 117-year-old Customs Tariff Act, and time and again have pointed out to legislators that the wording of the Act is too vague in its definition of obscenity, that it provides inadequate protection to our society against the degradation and violence depicted and directed toward men, women, and children.

Under the present Act pornographic material falls under the classification of immoral and indecent publications, and with such a loose and imprecise definition to determine acceptable or objectionable material, it is no surprise that the court so ruled. Until we have action to change the laws, we have open, unprotected borders to this offensive material. The time for action is now.

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[Translation]

ACID RAIN

RESULTS FROM MULRONEY-REAGAN MEETING

Mr. Claude Lanthier (LaSalle): Since major holidays have octaves, Mr. Speaker, I had an opportunity yesterday to substitute for the Minister of State (Multiculturalism) (Mr. Murta) as Irishmen celebrated St. Patrick's Day in Montreal.

I am pleased to report that the major topic of conversation in Montreal yesterday was the great pride felt by all Irishmen in Montreal with respect to the concrete measures taken by a well-known Irishman—our own Prime Minister—and another Irishman to widen the scope of proceedings, thus paving the way for finding a solution to the acid rain problem which is a threat to Quebecers.

In addition, I am pleased to say that I rejoice at the great progress made yesterday during the Quebec City meeting when another outstanding Canadian, Mr. Davis, was appointed special envoy.

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[English]

TELEVISION

FUNDING OF INDEPENDENT PRODUCTIONS

Ms. Lynn McDonald (Broadview-Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, the announcement by the Minister of Communications (Mr. Masse) of changes in criteria for funding of independent television production from the Canadian Broadcast Project