

speak in favour of the Private Member's Motion of the Hon. Member for Northumberland-Miramichi.

Obviously it is not a new thing for parents, home and school associations, educators, church groups or others, to express concerns over the lyrics of songs which are popular with young people. In the 1930s, the lyrics of Cole Porter's song *Love for Sale* caused a bit of a furor. I cannot remember that, Mr. Speaker; perhaps your fond memories will go back that far. It was not vastly unlike what is happening today and when people expressed concern with regard to a visual presentation which I can remember when Elvis Presley first appeared on the *Ed Sullivan Show*. There was a concern that his physical motion was not suitable for a mixed audience. We had a limited form of censorship which was imposed by the cameramen themselves.

• (1730)

Today there is a new development to which we must direct our attention. Over the last few years our Canadian youth have been increasingly exposed to a new form of musical entertainment, the music video. Indeed, there is now a pay TV station that presents these rock videos on a 24-hour a day basis. These videos can be imaginative, colourful and may involve highly technical special effects, in some cases, incorporating computer technology. Many are excellent visual presentations that compliment positive lyrics that convey a certain idea of the entertainer. However, there is increasing concern over the sexual content, and particularly over the elements of violence so graphically displayed in rock videos of today.

It is time to ask ourselves what the effect of these rock music videos is on Canadian youth. Only this week, a national newspaper featured a story on the front page questioning whether teenagers are the top consumers of pornography. It reported that a survey conducted by a Canadian researcher found that young people between the ages of 12 and 17 are the primary consumers of pornography in Canada, and that 37 per cent of them watch sexually explicit videos at least once a month.

There is not only considerable sexual content in these videos, but also elements of violence which may or may not involve a sexual component. We must ask ourselves whether we are monitoring the content of these videos closely enough, and do we know enough about their impact on our children.

Complaints have been brought to my attention about videos that, for example, portray women as animals in cages, fed, kept and led around on leashes by men. Recently I had the misfortune to view one of these videos, one by a group called "The Twisted Sister" that shows a young boy being harangued by his father with clenched teeth. Eventually the boy throws his father out of the bedroom window. Is this the kind of content we want our young children to see, our young children who are relatively impressionable, who enjoy music? Is this the kind of message we want them to get in our society?

As you know, Mr. Speaker, the existing obscenity provisions of the Criminal Code require the undue exploitation of sex or sex and violence, or sex and cruelty, in order for a matter to be

obscene. Depictions outside of a sexual context do not fall within the controls of the obscenity provisions. Many of the videos, while they do not contain sexual content, definitely are violent in nature.

In 1978, the Standing Committee of the House of Commons on Justice and Legal Affairs in its report on pornography concluded:

A society which holds that egalitarianism, non-violence, consensualism and mutuality are basic to any human interaction, whether sexual or other is clearly justified in controlling and prohibiting any medium or depiction, description or advocacy which violates these principles.

The Special Committee on Pornography and Prostitution, the Fraser Committee, was appointed by the former Government to study the problems of pornography in our society. The Minister of Justice (Mr. Crosbie) tabled the report of the Fraser Committee in the House of Commons on April 23, 1985. Officials in the Department of Justice are reviewing the recommendations of this committee, and the Minister of Justice has indicated recently that he intends to announce the Government's response to these recommendations this spring in the House of Commons.

The Fraser Committee recommended repealing the present obscenity provisions in the Criminal Code and replacing them with a three-tier classification of pornography. As I have said, these proposals have been the subject of extensive review by officials in the Department of Justice, who have consulted widely with non-governmental organizations across Canada and with the provinces. The Fraser Committee also recommended that any amendments proposed to the Criminal Code with respect to proscribed pornographic material should be incorporated by reference into regulations passed, or to be passed, by the CRTC pursuant to the Broadcasting Act with respect to all broadcast media. I understand that the Minister of Communications (Mr. Masse), who has the responsibility for the Broadcasting Act, is considering this issue.

There is another recommendation made by the Fraser Committee, which I believe merits our attention. The Fraser Committee was not given a mandate to study the issue of the control of depictions of violence outside of a sexual context. The Fraser Committee did recommend that the federal Government should give immediate consideration to studying this problem of representations of violence in films and through the broadcast media.

The problem of violence in the media has been an issue which parliamentarians over the years have recognized warrants attention. The Royal Commission on Violence in the communications industry, headed by the Hon. Judy V. LaMarsh was established by Order in Council in May, 1975, and published a report in January, 1976. That report took about seven months, a short time frame when you look at the time frame it normally takes task forces or royal commissions to present reports. Obviously the commission felt it was a crucial matter. It is now 10 years later. The past Government took very little action with regard to that report.

The present Government, our Government of today, has announced it is taking action to deal with the long-standing