

*Adjournment Debate*

There is another concern on my mind and in my heart, and that is that we are hearing contrary voices on the issue. I recall the former Member for New Westminster saying, "Look, if we pass that kind of legislation, you could not even read the Bible." Shucks, I do not see kids lining up to buy the Bible in order to read those passages. I wish they would. That is the issue. As a matter of fact, another somewhat stupid comment was made by a lawyer in Vancouver by the name of Jonathan Baker. He said that the local by-law would prevent people from reading Shakespeare. That is the kind of stupidity which is being promulgated by lawyers who want to sit on the sidelines and not to contribute to the protection of children.

● (2105)

There is another current which disturbs me. While groups across Canada are gathering their support for this kind of legislation—and I am speaking now of women's groups who fortunately are joining the battle and seeing it as an issue of violence against children and women—other organizations which have the respect of the large community are helping to create the problem. For example, I am thinking of Planned Parenthood. In a publication known as *The Great Orgasm Robbery*, they said:

Sex is fun, and joyful . . . and it comes in all types and styles, all of which are OK. Do what gives pleasure and enjoy what gives pleasure and ask for what gives pleasure. Don't rob yourself of joy by focusing on old-fashioned ideas about what's "normal" or "nice". Just communicate and enjoy.

When that kind of hedonism is promoted through an organization that has some kind of credibility across Canada, and which receives government grants, how do we stop hedonism once it is moving? The kids who are taught that in school grow up to be teenagers who abuse other people. It is time that the Government quit giving grants to organizations which do that. As well, it is time the Government brought in legislation which would protect our youth.

**Mr. Al MacBain (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, before proceeding with my formal remarks, I would like to pay tribute to the Hon. Member for Surrey-White Rock-North Delta (Mr. Friesen) for his genuine interest in this subject. It is imperative for Members of the House to remember the consistent efforts which have been made by the Department of Justice and the Government to combat pornography in all forms.

In 1978 the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs recommended that specific legislation be implemented to deal with pornography involving children. Following the tabling of that committee's report, proposals to deal with obscenity were contained in Bill C-51, which was introduced by the then Minister of Justice, the Hon. Ron Basford. Subsequently, those proposals were repeated in Bill C-21 which was introduced by the Hon. Otto Lang who as well was a Minister of Justice. The draft legislation adopted in substance the major recommendations of the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs. Unfortunately, both Bills died on the Order

Paper due to the pressure of other business and the session coming to an end.

In January, 1981, the then Minister of Justice, the Hon. Jean Chrétien, introduced specific proposals to deal with child pornography in Bill C-53. With his colleague, the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Miss Bégin), he established the National Committee to Study the Sexual Abuse of Children and Youths which, among its tasks, was to consider the matter of child pornography.

During its consideration of Bill C-53, the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs debated at length the nature and form of such amendments. At the risk of the Bill dying in committee, the Minister agreed to split off the exploitation of children provisions of Bill C-53, which included measures to deal with child pornography from the sexual assault provisions. Bill C-53 died on the Order Paper at the end of the last session, in December, 1983.

The impasse over the proposals in Bill C-53 indicated the need to wait for the findings of the Committee on Sexual Offences Against Children and Youths which is due to report this July, as well as the Special Committee on Pornography and Prostitution which is expected to report in December, 1984.

To assist these committees in their efforts, the Department of Justice is completing extensive empirical research into pornography. It is expected that the results of these endeavours will provide much needed information on the best methods to control the distribution of obscene materials.

● (2110)

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault):** Order, please.

FINANCE—PROPOSED MORTGAGE RATE PROTECTION PROGRAM. (B) INCREASE IN MORTGAGE RATES

**Mr. Gerry St. Germain (Mission-Port Moody):** Mr. Speaker, on May 10 I rose to voice my concerns about the devastation regarding the escalation of interest rates and what hardship it will impose on the housing industry and on jobs in particular. Since I posed my question to the Minister of State for Finance (Mr. MacLaren), the situation has deteriorated. Interest rates have risen 2 per cent since the February Budget to 14.5 per cent for five-year mortgages. The mortgage rate insurance plan is another prime example of what the Hon. Member for York West (Mr. Fleming) described as a Liberal fixation for smoke, mirrors and ballyhoo. There is no leadership. There is no tackling of the problem of higher interest rates. We must provide stability for the housing market. We must increase the incentive for lenders to participate in the mortgage market at reasonable rates. We must reduce the deficit.

There is no quick fix-all, Mr. Speaker. There is no magic potion. However, by tackling the problem, interest rates can be reduced. By gaining control of the country's debt and encouraging risk-taking and thereby revitalizing the economy,