

*Criminal Code*

I feel that every effort must be made in a positive way to substitute the kind of literature and periodicals that will be uplifting, educational and beneficial to our youth. I do not think there is such a dearth of that kind of periodical as has been represented tonight. As a parent I have been concerned about helping my children to get the proper kind of literature and periodicals, and to this day I have not found it impossible to keep them pretty well supplied with good reading material.

Let me refer you to some just offhand. For girls it is possible today to purchase a book that comes out once or twice a month called "Calling All Girls". It is a very high type of publication and one that fills a great need. There is a companion to it entitled "Calling All Boys" that I can recommend for anybody's boys. They get pleasure out of reading those things. They find that they fill their needs to a certain degree. Then there are so many of the splendid old books that we all read as young people, and that are still just as vital to the boys and girls of this day as they were in our time. I wonder if we are not neglecting to supply them in our home libraries or to help our boys and girls to know where they can lay their hands on them when they want them. I know for certain that in the schools every effort is made to supply splendid libraries of such books for the boys and girls in the various grades.

Therefore I cannot believe that there is a dearth of good material for boys and girls to read. That was the conclusion that I reached when I was studying this particular problem as minister of education in the Alberta government. On the other hand, tons of these comic books appear on the newsstands dressed in the brightest colours and with the most appealing covers. Of course, that overbalances whatever influence there may be in the home and the school along the positive line of approach.

One of the main difficulties today is that practically any place that sells ice cream cones or all-day suckers will sell this trash to try to make a living. Any time a child goes in to buy an ice cream cone or an all-day sucker he is faced with the alternative of these very compelling pictures and colours, and very often a lot of good salesmanship in displaying them.

**Mr. Fulton:** A lot of propaganda.

**Mr. Low:** A lot of propaganda, as the hon. member for Kamloops suggests. The best teaching in the world in the home, the wisest guidance in the home, cannot always protect youngsters when they are subjected to such alluring things every time they go to a store. With all deference, I suggest to the hon.

member for Saskatoon (Mr. Knight) that, while the positive approach is excellent and we must use it, at the same time we must protect our boys and girls from the sight of these things as much as we possibly can. That is why I say we are much in favour of the principle of the bill. We appeal to the Minister of Justice (Mr. Garson) and the government to take speedy and effective action to see to it that this sort of temptation and evil is placed as far as possible beyond the reach of our children.

I think that as parents and public men we can assist a great deal by watchfulness and alertness in seeing that whenever these things do appear we are ready to take action on our own and to discourage the publication and sale of such literature.

**An hon. Member:** Trash.

**Mr. Low:** Trash; that is a good name for it. I do not want to dignify it by calling it literature. It seems to me that there is one other point that ought to be stressed further. I was pleased to hear the hon. member for York West (Mr. Adamson) appeal to the newspapers about the whole problem. I think there is a responsibility on the part of the newspapers of the country not to overplay the gruesome and morbid details of crimes that are committed in reality. Our boys and girls cannot help reading the newspapers that come into our homes. Surely we ought not to feel that our journals and our newspapers are not fit for our boys and girls to read. I think we ought to encourage our boys and girls to read the papers, but any time a journalist writes up one of these crimes committed in society I think he should not play up the lewd and sensational in order to appeal to the morbid curiosity of readers. That in itself has a deteriorating effect on the mind of the child, and a child is quite likely to be tempted to try some of the things he hears about such as skinning victims alive from their necks up or down.

I saw a portrayal of that kind of thing in one of our daily newspapers. They are only trying to play up sensationalism. I add my voice to that of the hon. member for York West in appealing to the newspapers to try to play down that kind of thing as much as possible in order that our boys and girls will have something clean and decent to read in our daily and weekly newspapers.

I have come to the conclusion that we must attack this evil on all fronts. There is the positive approach, which the hon. member for Saskatoon (Mr. Knight) has mentioned, and with which I agree. But it is not enough, just as it is not enough to try to