

Entertainment Industry

recall some of the lyrics of that song—"a working class hero is something to be; you are all f-blank peasants as far as I can see". Then the lyrics went on to say: "If you want to be a hero, just follow me". At least the lyrics were to that effect. Is that sexually explicit? It sounds like it. Would that be in fact censored by the Hon. Member? Would some kind of Big Brother federal committee go in and grab the records and discs of kids and say that they could not have that kind of music? I do not like that, and I think it leads to a great deal of abuse. In the long run it is worse than the problem which the Hon. Member is trying to attack.

● (1720)

I agree with some of the comments of the Hon. Member. Obviously parents must have some direction and control over their children. There cannot be pornographic materials, what I prefer to call pornographic materials. That has to be tightly defined, and there is no definition of that in the motion. It would have been better to talk about pornographic material rather than sexually explicit material. Quite frankly, I am not bothered by sexually explicit things. Sex is a part of life. Sometimes I wonder whether in our puritanical traditions in western Canadian society we are a little afraid or Victorian in many ways. I speak as a Scot, and a Scot should know. Scots are pretty Victorian. I know that some people in the other cultures of Canada are less Victorian than we Scots who can be a bit dour and Victorian. Sometimes I think it is a fault. Some of my forefathers, such as John Knox and so on, would have defined everything as sexually explicit, and we would not have been able to make the least reference to things which concerned sex. In any event, it is not a good expression. Pornographic is a better expression but it has to be defined as talking about the exploitation of a person or a group, for example women, by others, usually to make money, to degrade or to exploit. That is worth classifying and worth censoring, if we have to censor, and I have already told the Hon. Member that I do not like the notion of censorship.

The committee already has before it the Fraser Report and I believe the Badgley Report. There is some good material on pornography in the Badgley Report. That is what the committee should be looking at. Also the motion indicates the negative moral effect this may have on the youth of Canada. That sounds like Jerry Falwell of the Moral Majority, speaking about negative moral effect on American youth. Of course he would exclude anything left of Attila the Hun. He would say that any political expression has negative moral effects on the people. I have been told that at one point the White House wanted to bar the music of the Beach Boys, until Nancy Reagan intervened because she liked and knew the Beach Boys. Would this motion ask the committee to make legislation to ban records such as those of the Beach Boys? The Sex Pistols were banned; their song "God Save the Queen—It's a Fascist Regime" was banned in the United Kingdom. How far do we want to go? Do we really want to ban things because they make commentary on our political institutions or our leaders? It seems to me that that should not be done in a democracy.

In Canada we have the notion that the provinces look after this matter. I know the Hon. Member dealt with it somewhat in his speech, but traditionally the provinces have looked after classification and censorship. I acknowledge that there is a Customs problem in the federal Government, that the Criminal Code exists and that it is a federal statute. However, do we really want a federal censorship board to guard over our young people? I look at some of the younger people who assist us in the House and I wonder whether they really want a country where mainly a bunch of old men and a couple of women decide what the youth will see. No, I do not accept that, and I do not think the young people of Canada would accept it either.

When I think of the negative moral effect on Canadian youth, I think of the 24 per cent who are unemployed and about the tragedy of young people who are unable to obtain jobs in the Province of British Columbia. I think of the tragedy of a lost generation out there, for some people; I think they are the really bad moral things. I do not really care what young people over a certain age are seeing or hearing in the privacy of their own apartments or homes. Are we to have a Big Brother who will go in and look at their record collections and take away some of them? What kind of warning will there be on these discs? Will someone have to listen to them? Will there be different kinds of warnings? At some point will they be taken off the shelves and so on? I believe in free speech, but I think it is dangerous to use expressions like "sexually explicit lyrics" and "negative moral effect". Those are the words which were used in the motion. I do not impute bad intentions to the Hon. Member. I suspect he is responding to some of the trash and pornography which society seems to throw up. However, we must be careful. It is easy to step over the fine line to censorship, which I think is backward.

Let me conclude by saying for myself that it is good the committee is considering the problems of various forms of pornography—violent pornography, pornography against women, exploitive pornography, sado-masochism and exploitation of children. Yes, the committee should consider those matters. It has the benefit of material from the Badgley and the Fraser reports, but I do not think we have to send a motion such as this one to the committee. The motion talks in broad terms which in the past could have resulted in the censorship of some of the most interesting music that has come to be accepted in our society.

Mr. Dennis H. Cochrane (Moncton): Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to speak on Motion No. 251 in the name of the Hon. Member for Northumberland-Miramichi (Mr. Jardine). When I first toyed with the idea of speaking on the topic, I was of a mixed mind. Instinctively I have a natural aversion to government intervention, to excessive Government regulation and to very hard censorship. However, I began to study the issue and realized the sincerity with which the Hon. Member is approaching the particular topic. I viewed a few of the videos currently on television and thought back to the days when I was a school teacher and realized how impressionable are our young people. As a result of that process, I decided to