

Criminal Code

system as well. We are teaching our boys and girls to be true men and women, to act courageously in facing the problems of life. But the devil—perhaps I should not call him that, though that is what he is; I will call him his satanic majesty—has plans for our youth. You can almost hear him saying, "Get them young. That is the time to get them". Our Sunday school teachers can work their heads off and still not succeed in combating an agency such as obscene literature. It is a curse. Sometimes a clerical gentleman is held up to ridicule, and you see the effect on our youth. Sometimes a good mother and father are held up to ridicule in these obscene pictures; then it is suggested that they should break the seventh commandment and get a great thrill.

I know the Minister of Justice (Mr. Garson) as I knew his dad, one of the outstanding citizens of Winnipeg, a contractor who had no trouble getting contracts because he did an honest business. As I think of the background of the minister I am sure that in his own way he will give serious consideration to the bill which has been presented by the young member for Kamloops (Mr. Fulton). If I may refer again to his satanic majesty, if he finds that not only the churches in Canada, not only our public schools and Sunday schools but also the members of the House of Commons are lined up against him, then he will think the thing over and back out.

Mr. E. G. Hansell (MacLeod): Mr. Speaker, I have a great deal of pleasure this evening in rising to support the action of the hon. member for Kamloops (Mr. Fulton) in presenting this bill to the house. I believe it is needed as part of our Criminal Code. I do not rise to support the amendment necessarily or particularly because of my profession; I want that understood. I do so because I believe that is the reasonable thing to do, and also partly because before I entered the ministry I had a great ambition to become some day a famous cartoonist, and in the process perhaps become a millionaire. Well, I did become a cartoonist, connected with one of Canada's daily newspapers. I never became a millionaire, however. I created a comic strip which was said by those who read it to have some merit, but I never did make a million dollars, and I think I know why. There were perhaps two reasons in particular. In the first place it was not sexy enough, and in the second place it contained no crimes. Any man who can put enough sex and crime into his drawings or his writing and get away with it can make a million dollars any time he cares to try it.

Because of my interest in cartooning, Mr. Speaker, I have followed these particular publications over the years. I have watched the trend, and I know something of the extent to which publishers have gone in their greed for the almighty dollar. They are not concerned with the future of our citizenry as long as they can fill their unholy coffers. Since there has been some revolt on the part of the people of Canada, however, these publishers have taken some steps, or shall I say have put up some sort of front, in their own defence. Not so long ago the association of comic magazine publishers met in New York and drew up a code of ethics for the publication of crime comics. I am not going to take time to read that code, because I have only ten minutes before the hour expires. The code itself is not bad, but of course the difficulty is that it has no teeth. If the code is broken, what matters it, anyway? I could say something about this section of the Criminal Code which my hon. friend is seeking to amend. That section has teeth if only the authorities would do their duty and use it to prosecute those who publish obscene and undesirable literature. I agree that this section as it now stands does not specifically cover crime comics, but it does cover unwholesome literature.

I have been building up quite a file of this material over the past few years. I have the hardest job in the world keeping my youngsters from reading crime comics. I told them I was against them, and every once in a while they come running to me calling, "Daddy, daddy, here is one you should have for your file", so I have quite a nice little stack of them piled up. Here is a publication called "Crime Does Not Pay", which has been referred to. On the cover is the word "Crime" in large letters. I think, Mr. Speaker, you can read that from where you are sitting, but I will bet a million dollars you cannot read the type underneath which says "does not pay". It is so small it is almost negligible.

The youngsters get this book and read it. I did not read it but I went through it and looked at the pictures. I am going to tell you how I have categorized these pictures. The list is as follows: Those depicting a punch or bludgeoning with a blackjack or something else, 11 times—that is in one issue; burning or torturing, 8 times; you can see blood running twice and guns depicted 14 times. You can see a corpse 4 times; drinking bouts, 5 times. You can see somebody in the electric chair twice; poison is used three times and gassing once. I ask any reasonably minded man, is that the sort of thing our young people should be reading? That is a book entitled,