

*Obscene Literature*

letter and a parcel were sent to the Minister of Justice (Mr. Basford). I hope that by now this material has reached the minister's desk. The parcel contains samples of pornographic material collected throughout metro Toronto. I have not seen these samples but am told they would make your hair stand on end. When the minister sees the material he will know what the hon. member for Selkirk and concerned parents are talking about.

According to an article in yesterday's *Globe and Mail*, written by Dick Beddoes, if I am not mistaken, Toronto City Council has set up a task force to study pornography in Toronto. Growing concern is being expressed in Toronto about the tremendous proliferation of this filth and about its effects on children especially.

The hon. member for Selkirk worried in case people confused morality with law. I ask him not to worry. As Aristotle once said, legislators make the citizens good by forming habits in them. I suggest that some of the habits we are allowing our citizens to form are not making them good citizens. I suggest that we should concentrate very much more on what is being imported into the country.

Barbara Ward, whose views have influenced our people recently, and I am thinking particularly of what she said at the Habitat conference in Vancouver, has spoken of the basic needs of humanity which include shelter, food and so on. She has also spoken of our psychic needs. In several of her books she has spoken of the spiritual needs of humanity—which brings me back to our children. Certainly, we can give them food, shelter, vitamins to make sure they grow healthy and meet their physical needs. The question is, how concerned are we about their spiritual environment?

One hears much these days about freedom of speech, freedom of the press and the freedom of this and that—you name it. Let us not confuse freedom with licence.

Speaking as a concerned parent, I want my children to be free to enter the local supermarket without being subjected to the sensational splash of pornographic literature. Over-exposure to obscenity tends to lead to insensitivity. We become used to obscenity and accept it as normal.

Finally, I want to speak unashamedly as a female member of parliament. As a woman, I very much resent pornography.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mrs. Appolloni:** It exploits my sisters, whoever and wherever they are. As we have tried to say for centuries—perhaps people will now listen to our message—the time has come for women to take their place side by side with men, as human beings. We do not want to be considered because of our physical assets. Women want to be considered only as human beings. They want to be valued as human beings, not because they are more or less beautiful than anybody else.

**Mr. Yewchuk:** Question. You are talking the bill out.

**Mrs. Appolloni:** I am talking on behalf of womanhood. Let me add, as a woman and concerned parent, that I do not want

[Mrs. Appolloni.]

my male children, either, to be exploited. For a long time women only were exploited, but now males are being exploited as well. One hears of children aged eight and nine years old being exploited in New York, of their bodies being used to gratify some pervert.

Do we want our children to be subjected to this? It is happening to little boys as well as to little girls.

**Mr. Yewchuk:** Don't talk the bill out.

**Mrs. Appolloni:** I want my sons to grow up in freedom and human dignity. I want them to be valued not because they are different or bigger than anybody else, but because they are human beings. That is what I mean by human dignity.

Having said that, I congratulate again the hon. member for Selkirk on bringing forward the bill we are discussing.

**Mr. Joe Flynn (Kitchener):** Mr. Speaker, I agree wholeheartedly with the hon. member for Selkirk (Mr. Whiteway), as does everybody else in this House.

**Mr. Yewchuk:** Let's vote, then.

**Mr. Flynn:** We must make it evident that we are all against pornography and obscenity. I think there is no doubt about it. Referring to the dictionary for a definition, my colleague spoke, I think, about a harlot. I think women would suggest that in the present case the morals of a pimp are more to the point than the morals of a harlot. As Archbishop Pocock said, when we talk about the "Playboy" sexuality and philosophy we are talking about something which uses and discards our bodies in a way which does not lead to freedom but, rather, to enslavement. It trivializes and dehumanizes that which is meant to be precious and deeply personal.

Archbishop Pocock struck a really vital chord in setting out on what appeared to be his lone campaign against pornography and obscenity. However, he has done it in such a way that he has captured the imagination of not only the citizens of Toronto but of the whole nation who now want to begin a serious fight against obscenity. He has done it in such a way that we are now taking full cognizance of what is happening in the daily newspapers. We are looking at the ads for motion pictures and the fun pages of the newspapers, and realizing what is happening.

● (1750)

There is a problem that is associated with this Bill C-210. It proposes federal classification boards in each province to determine whether any matter submitted to them constitutes an obscene matter within Section 159-8 of the Criminal Code.

The Supreme Court of Canada is scheduled to hear a case emanating from the province of Nova Scotia. It deals with the matter of whether provincial classification boards *ultra vires* come within the legislative branch of criminal law which is exclusive to the Government of Canada. The traditional position taken by provincial governments has been that it is part of civil rights and therefore within the exclusive legislative capacity of provincial legislatures.