

constructive alternatives, that they will attempt to defeat this legislation, I will work as hard as I can to pass this legislation because I think it is important that we in Canada move ahead in this area.

I look forward to the matter being dealt with in a reasonably expeditious manner on the floor of the House of Commons. I will listen with great interest to all Members. I think it is important for us to move this to committee stage. There are a number of groups and individuals who will want to make their point of view on this particular issue known.

Perhaps I could just say that there has been a good deal of interest from the general public in this matter. I have received a great deal of correspondence which has been in support of the legislation. There has been some criticism with respect to the legislation which I have attempted in each case to address. I have attempted to meet with people. I have responded to correspondence pointing out that many of the criticisms are in fact dealt with effectively by this legislation. I am very anxious to have this matter proceed as quickly as possible. I ask Hon. Members to give this matter serious attention so we can get through the debate as quickly as we can. The Hon. Member from Outremont will have an opportunity to speak. Every time she makes an intervention I think it is another intervention of support for this legislation and I appreciate it.

Mrs. Pépin: No way.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: She only moves me to carry on and plead with the Hon. Member to convince the rest of the members of the Liberal Party to take a consistent view of this legislation. I would be very interested to hear from the justice critic that he supports the general thrust of this Bill. I am interested in hearing his solution as I am interested in hearing the solutions of the Hon. Member for Outremont with respect to how certain provisions should be phrased.

● (1620)

As was pointed out by the Fraser Commission, nothing can be gained from the Government not moving to change the present law. It was a commitment of the Government that we would move ahead with reasonable legislation to attack this odious type of hate propaganda which is in existence in our country. We will do it in a way which respects the freedom of expression of Canadians and which allows Canadians to say that as far as their respect for their fellow men and women in Canada is concerned we have a law that meets the test of reasonableness. It is a law which will be tough on those areas of gross behaviour that are unacceptable to the majority of Canadians. It will say to Canada that we in this Parliament have finally come down to deal with serious questions so that we can go forward and say that we in fact have made Canada a better place in which to live.

[Translation]

Mrs. Lucie Pépin (Outremont): Mr. Speaker, I find no pleasure in having to deal with such a repressive law which

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takes us back to the Victorian era. In order to express my views, I would like to quote from an article that came out in *La Presse* on May 7, 1987, under the Lysiane Gagnon's signature. This article very well reflects my views and feelings about Bill C-54 now before us. And I quote:

Here we go again. Straight ahead to the Victorian era, on that old puritan bandwagon of Tories who are back with their anti-pornography legislation.

A legislation that is just as moronic as it is repressive, that will make Canada the most puritan country in the Western world. Because who ever heard of a country where the visual representation of a couple doing what is done regularly in the most ordinary families, and indeed what our governments are encouraging us to do, since it is the only way to increase the birth rate?

This legislation introduced by the Minister of Justice (Mr. Hnatyshyn) is a true reflection of that pathetic exercise by a government which is prepared to do anything, however ridiculous, in order to please the Conservative rightists and the bigot or naive pressure groups who believe censorship will eliminate women and child abuse.

In this legislation the Conservative Government is being overly prudish, to put things mildly . . . it fails to exercise the openmindedness expected by the majority of Canadian men and women.

Material involving scenes of violence and degradation must be banned. But dragging the Government back into Canadian bedrooms, including libraries, book stores, museums and art galleries, I find unacceptable, Mr. Speaker.

Also, normal sexual acts between willing adults have nothing to do with pornography.

Pornography and eroticism are two things quite far apart, a fact which Bill C-54 seems to ignore.

[English]

The flow of harmful pornography across our border must be stopped. Pornography gives us an image of women, children and men sexually so distorted that it warps people's views and actions. The anger, frustration and violence emanating from this material is overwhelming.

What does pornography tell our society? What messages can we take from the existence of this material? Pornography tells us that women and children are instruments for the pleasure of men. It tells us that violence towards women, children and men is socially acceptable, even normal. It tells us that women and children are sexually insatiable, that they accept, even enjoy, physical abuse and degradation. Pornography tells us that sex is power and most fun when one controls and coerces the other person.

To whom are these messages being transmitted? Who are they affecting in our society? The highest users of pornographic materials are boys between the ages of 12 and 17.

[Translation]

It must be remembered, Mr. Speaker, that oftentimes parents pass their problems onto their children, and I explain—since parents are too embarrassed to talk about sexuality, children fall back on pornographic video tapes and magazines.