

as well as prostitutes with soliciting for purposes of prostitution. Since the present law cannot be enforced against prostitutes, how does the Minister feel it can be enforced against their customers?

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member will be aware that it was not just one but two amendments which I announced last June would be made to the Criminal Code and which are now proposed for the new omnibus Criminal Code Bill. One of those is to ensure that motor vehicles in or on a public place will be considered, for the purposes of the legislation, to be a public place. That is a very important amendment because it reverses a decision in her province which would have held to the opposite effect. That will, of course, help expand the effectiveness of the law. That, plus the clarification of the question with respect to customers, which again is in doubt in her province, will, I think, make the law more effective.

As she also well knows, we are awaiting the report of the Fraser Committee. We encourage her to encourage the success of those hearings.

Miss Carney: Mr. Speaker, expanding a bad law does not alter the fact that it is a bad, ineffective law.

DEFINITION OF "PUBLIC PLACE"

Miss Pat Carney (Vancouver Centre): Mr. Speaker, the Minister has referred to his acceptance of the Justice Committee's recommendation that a public place be expanded to include automobiles. Why has he failed to accept the Committee's view that a public place should also include parking lots, back lanes, garages, and apartment foyers, where street soliciting takes place? Why has he failed to protect child hookers from a lifestyle which involves drugs, disease, and possible death?

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member obviously has her own ideas of what the law should contain. If she is right—

Mr. Hnatyshyn: That is more than could be said for you.

Mr. MacGuigan:—I presume she will believe that her views are shared by the majority of Canadians. If that is the case, the Fraser Committee will be reporting that to us and we will be very pleased to consider legislative changes of that kind.

As the Hon. Member well knows, there is a great division apparently in the country on the question of what kind of laws we should have to deal with this problem. It is a problem which we all admit is a very real and very serious one.

Oral Questions

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

KEY LAKE URANIUM MINE—TREATMENT OF RADIOACTIVE WATER SPILLAGE

Mr. Doug Anguish (The Battlefords-Meadow Lake): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of the Environment. It concerns the Key Lake spill of radioactive water. The company, Key Lake Mining, operators of the mine, say they are waiting to clean up until AECB and Sask. Environment give them details of how to do it. To date, all the answers given to questions in the House have not been with regard to the clean-up. There has been talk about having a study to prevent future situations occurring.

Last night in the adjournment debate the Parliamentary Secretary suggested that the water be pumped back into the mill, treated, and released again into the environment. Is this an admission that the Department of the Environment and AECB can pump frozen water, or is the Government going to wait until the Spring thaw and then let the radioactive spill loose into the environment?

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, the answer is implicit in the way the Hon. Member is posing his question. Obviously frozen water cannot be pumped into the system, and he knows that very well. What he continues to ignore is the fact that action is being taken on the site. I am informed that the company is preparing a report to be submitted on or before February 1. At that stage we will have full knowledge of the causes of the accident and we will have an input, as Environment Canada's officials will be part of the reviewing team.

CONTINGENCY PLANS INQUIRY

Mr. Doug Anguish (The Battlefords-Meadow Lake): Mr. Speaker, I compliment the department and the officials for studying the causes of the situation, but the situation is still there, that we have radioactive water out in the environment. There were indications as early as August 3, 1983, when 400,000 litres of contaminated water slipped from the mine site.

This question should perhaps more properly be put to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, who is in charge of AECB, but since he is not here, and since the Minister of the Environment admits to working closely with him, I will put the question to him. I am sure he will know if there are contingency plans in the case of such spills of radioactive material, so that they can be cleaned up immediately when there is a spill. If there are such plans, would he table them in the House of Commons? If there are no such plans, there should be severe criticism of the federal Ministers and of the Atomic Energy Control Board for their disregard for safety in the uranium industry.

● (1440)

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, while I do not dispute the necessity of developing