

*Private Members' Business*

Madam Speaker, with respect, Bill C-300 merely imposes a view of the world that no longer corresponds to current standards in Canadian society. The bill tabled by the hon. member opposite makes illegal what the vast majority of Canadians do not consider to be obscene.

In cases where there is genuinely obscene material, the Criminal Code provides that this is an offence. I see no reason to go beyond what the Criminal Code already provides. We as Canadians are proud of the range of opinions and views expressed in our society and of our ability to respect them.

Madam Speaker, we must not undermine this tolerance, which is our strength as a people, by passing legislation whose impact is considerable and goes well beyond the existing social consensus on the difficult question of obscenity.

For six years I have seen and heard the hon. member opposite in this House, and I know him to be very respected and a man of extraordinary integrity. Before drafting my speech, I gave the matter considerable thought, but I cannot accept Bill C-300, for all the reasons I just mentioned.

Therefore, Sir, I cannot support your bill.

• (1350)

[*English*]

**Ms. Barbara Greene (Don Valley North):** Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the member for bringing forward this motion and I think it is certainly a measure worthy of consideration.

I trust that the minister will report to the justice committee on this important matter in a reasonable period of time. I, too, think it should be looked at as part of a larger package.

I have some specific concerns about the proposed motion, because the kind of pornography that I would like banned is much more specific. It is not simple nudity. I personally do not have any problem with the portrayal of women's bodies. I do not think that is pornography. What I and I believe most people are really concerned about is when women's bodies, children's bodies and men's bodies are portrayed in a degrading or dehumaniz-

ing way. It is the type of portrayal that frequently sends a hate message to society.

I think this legislation is too general to address such an issue. It is suggesting that the depiction of women's bodies in general is wrong or hateful. The bill is much too simple and would require a number of amendments.

The kind of legislation that I would support would attack the worst of the pornography that is in our society. Most of us can agree on what is generally offensive material, which is material that combines violence with nudity or children being used in a sexual way. We can only really attack the worst kinds of pornography in our society through legislation but even that is a small part of the total answer to this problem.

As a media studies teacher, this is one of the subjects that we were trying to grapple with. Legislation can never address the influences upon young people in our society and the tremendous amount of mainstream pornography that confronts us. Pornography can be far more insidious because many people do not even know when they are seeing material that dehumanizes other human beings.

For example, if one looks through a popular women's magazine that one could find on the stands in a Loblaws store or any other supermarket, one can see pictures and products that promote rape myths about women. You will see pictures in which women are depicted as enjoying pain and being violated. You will see pictures that treat women as things, simply there for sexual purposes. There are images of domination and violence against women in our society, making other people think this is sexually attractive.

Think of some of the names of products in our society that suggest that women are, in fact, simply meant to be violated. I think of products with names like Impulse, which suggests that women are always ready, or Poison, the perfume. A recent Calvin Klein Obsession ad frequently depicts a woman surrounded by a group of young men. In some of them, there was a hazy type of photography used, so that it appeared that everybody was nude. We had what was being used simply to sell Calvin Klein perfume or the Calvin Klein name for jeans and so on, the picture of what was, in effect, a teen gang bang.