

Oral Questions

Mr. Keeper: I hope the Minister can back up what he said about my view with regard to the centre being located in Winnipeg. At no time did I downgrade the fact that this centre would be located in Winnipeg.

TIMING OF ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. Cyril Keeper (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, the people of Winnipeg want to know whether the Minister will place the centre where it should be in order to fulfil its promise or whether he will give into the temptation of playing pork-barrel politics just because his back-bench MP's are telling him to put it in St. Boniface. Put it where it belongs and stop playing pork-barrel politics. Tell us when you will announce that decision.

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I am glad that he is applauding the federal Government's initiative and putting the LCDC in Winnipeg. It is a very welcome change of tune from what I have heard from the NDP, both provincially and federally—

Mr. McCurdy: What nonsense.

Mr. Epp (Provencher):—saying about this Government's commitment to Winnipeg. While they may get a little irritated about my saying it, it is about time they heard it.

Mr. McCurdy: There is nothing unusual about dishonesty from that side.

Mr. Epp (Provencher): Just relax, our health care costs will go up if you keep going on like that.

Advice has been given to me from the advisory committee. I made that quite public. There is also an environmental study that we have to do under federal regulations for buildings such as this. When that material is complete and I have made a decision, I will announce it.

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CHILDREN

GARBAGE PAIL KIDS—REQUEST FOR BAN ON IMPORTATION OF MOVIE

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of National Revenue my question is directed to the Minister of Justice. It concerns the Criminal Code of Canada.

The Minister will know that a few weeks ago I publicly called upon the Government to ban the importation into Canada of an offensive product known as *Garbage Pail Kids* cards. These are bubble gum cards depicting the mutilation, dissection, burning and murdering of small children.

Given that the promoter of this product now says he wants to bring into Canada a movie known as *Garbage Pail Kids—The Movie*, will the Minister of Justice state in the House that he will not let this kind of offensive movie into our country?

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I am informed by the Department of National Revenue that current regulations with respect to importation of obscenity into Canada are being strictly observed. If the Hon. Member has any influence with his caucus colleagues, he might want to draw their attention to very progressive legislation, Bill C-54, which has specifically directed prohibitions against pornography, which might be of assistance to him with respect to the kind of offensive material he describes. He might be able to convince his colleagues to bring this matter into committee so that we can see whether there are better ways to improve the protection at our borders with respect to salacious material.

CRIMINAL CODE—APPLICATION OF PROVISIONS

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, perhaps for once I can try to get a non partisan answer from the Government. I will try to be the same myself.

My supplementary question is directed to the Minister of Justice. Given the present provisions of the Criminal Code on obscenity and crime comics, has the Attorney General, the Minister of Justice, attempted to receive information from his officials or the officials of the Department of Revenue in order to determine whether all of these products, the movie or the bubble gum cards in question, which offend millions of Canadians in their right mind, should be banned? Will he take that initiative and ban this offensive product that I believe is objectionable to all Members of the House and offensive to right-minded parents?

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I will give a non partisan response to the question. It is a serious question. I am not attempting to make it a partisan issue.

I am simply saying that it has been long recognized that our present obscenity laws—

Mr. McCurdy: Nonsense.

Mr. Hnatyshyn:—require strengthening. Nonsense says the Hon. Member.

The fact is that we will be monitoring the situation. I am sure the Department of National Revenue is taking into account the representations made by the Hon. Member. I am not in a position to report to the Hon. Member as to precisely what action has been taken. I will take the question as notice and pass it on to my colleague. I am sure he will get back to the Hon. Member.