

*Customs Tariff*

on, constant consultation for the sake of consultation, not for the sake of hearing the views of Canadians.

I am sure that, as a Member of the last Parliament, the Hon. Member is aware that the former Liberal Government introduced legislation last year that would have made it easier to prosecute those who publish or distribute hate literature or pornography. I am sure the Hon. Member is aware of that because he was in the House and was a strong advocate of that legislation introduced by the previous Government. I am sure the Hon. Member is also aware that the Conservative Party, while it was in opposition, stone-walled and obstructed that omnibus Criminal Code Bill introduced by the Liberal Party. Consequently no action was taken because of the obstructionist tactics by the Conservative Opposition of the day.

I would like to hear from the Hon. Member for Cape Breton-East Richmond (Mr. Dingwall), as an experienced and seasoned Member of Parliament and as a Member during those days, whether he can advise the new Members of Parliament, such as myself, why the Conservative Party in opposition stone-walled legislation introduced by the Liberal Government that would have addressed the issue of the importation and publication of pornography and hate literature.

**Mr. Dingwall:** Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Hon. Member for his complimentary remarks. It is in character with the disposition that he has demonstrated during his short time in Parliament, and I want to thank him for his complimentary remarks.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Dingwall:** I hope I can live up to the objective test that he has set for me.

I should point out to the Hon. Member that unfortunately this Government—who knows why?—is bent on the idea of consultation, which I think for many objective standards is a good thing. What the Government has refused to do, although it has tabled its consultation papers for the benefit of Members of Parliament and Canadians, is to table the number of polls initiated by the Prime Minister's office concerning public policy in Canada. The Government has refused, Mr. Speaker, to table the polls which the Conservative Party and its agencies have taken with regard to public policy issues and where the public stands.

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** Are there some pages missing from my Bill? It has nothing to do with polls. The Hon. Member must be reading a different Bill, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Dingwall:** Therefore, it is quite in character with the Conservative Government that it would not come forward in a very forthright, substantive way with regard to new law, new legislation, respecting child pornography. This Government is going to wait and it is going to consult. It is going to take more polls, so whatever the Government does the Tories will make certain that the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) will be loved in each area of Canada.

● (1230)

Perhaps I could answer specifically the question raised by my distinguished colleague as to the motives of the then Government, but I do not think anyone in Canada would dare to question the intentions or motives of the Tories. We know by their track record what are their motives and intentions. They have been the same for 100 years. They are on the side of big business, on the side of big, multinational oil companies and on the side of vested interests. They do not care about the various regions.

To give a concise and concrete answer as to their motives is very difficult. I can only say that what they have demonstrated in the past by their stance on various issues and by what they have done in policy conferences on the national and regional levels indicates that their sole purpose in government is to perpetuate the class system in Canada, not the middle class or the poor. That is their ideology, motive and intention.

**Ms. McDonald:** Mr. Speaker, my point of order is that the debate has been rather lost, but since there is only a brief period for questions and comments, I want to make a comment at this point. Do I have the floor for that purpose?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Yes.

**Ms. McDonald:** I want the Bill to pass, so I will be very brief in my comments. However, I am afraid I have to say something about the hypocrisy of the two previous Liberal speakers.

**Mr. de Corneille:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. The Hon. Member has declared that her intention now is to talk about some other speakers, not about the subject. Therefore, I would suggest that Your Honour rule her out of order.

**Ms. McDonald:** Clearly my remarks concern the substance of the remarks of the two previous Liberal speakers on pornography and the accusation of failure of the Conservative Government to act swiftly. The Liberals were in government for the last number of years, until September 4. They had many opportunities to bring in legislation. They were requested to bring it in. They were made offers of swift passage in the case of pornography legislation. They were told that if the clauses on pornography were taken out of the omnibus Bill, they would be given swift passage. But the Liberal Government was not prepared to move swiftly on the matter.

Further, the notion of applauding the Federal Court of Appeal because it discovered that something was wrong with the legislation is unacceptable, as that had been repeatedly pointed out to the Government. They could have brought in an amendment without the court pointing out what was wrong with the legislation. It was well known. They had been told that and had been asked to bring in amendments to the legislation so that it would not be unconstitutional. Instead they were slack. They just let it drift. Now we hear compliments to the court for finding out something which the Government ought to have known and ought to have acted on a long time ago.