

CRIMINAL CODE

PROVISIONS DEALING WITH HATE LITERATURE

Hon. Jim Fleming (York West): Mr. Speaker, my question is also directed to the Minister of Justice. I am wondering whether he can confirm news reports this morning indicating that Cabinet has approved amendments to the Criminal Code which will make it possible to take greater or more effective action against the dissemination of hate literature. At the same time, could the Minister indicate whether those changes, if indeed they have been approved, will remove the necessity of getting the permission of a provincial Attorney General to lay a charge of hate mongering?

Mr. Nielsen: Privileged information.

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I would say to my hon. friend, who has for long been concerned about this matter, and in his previous role was very directly involved in helping to bring about racial peace in our society, that I will be making a statement on the subject this afternoon in committee. I am not at liberty at this point, before the Speech from the Throne, to release details of what the Government will do.

Mr. Nielsen: Leak. Leak.

Mr. MacGuigan: In particular, in this case we want to await the recommendations of the committee before which I will be appearing, to know just how to move. But I would indicate that there is certainly a disposition on the part of the Government to ensure that the law on hate propaganda is effective.

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● (1450)

EMPLOYMENT

IMPACT OF B.C. HYDRO POWER EXPORTS ON JOBS

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Employment and Immigration. It is with regard to this week's report of the B.C. Association of Professional Foresters. I am sure the Minister is aware its conclusions are that 20,000 permanent forestry jobs are threatened or are likely to be lost as a result of hydroelectric projects in British Columbia, and that an area considerably larger than Prince Edward Island has been or is about to be flooded by the B.C. Government. Since the B.C. Government has indicated an intention to sell firm contract power to California at a cut rate, does the Minister not think it is in the nation's interest to have studies of the real cost in lost jobs and losses to the environment before that occurs?

Hon. John Roberts (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, this is obviously a question of great significance touching many other areas of responsibilities than mine. I will be happy to take the point which the Hon. Member has raised and discuss it with other colleagues,

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including the Minister of the Environment, who is responsible for forestry and see if there is some appropriate response that either he or I should make.

ENVIRONMENT MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I will direct my supplementary question to the Minister of the Environment, who seems to be the one responsible. Since it is clear, certainly to British Columbians, that B.C. Hydro is a corporate monster quite out of touch with reality, last year being the second largest borrower in the world bond market, will the Minister tell this House and British Columbians whether he supports and endorses B.C. Hydro's proposal to export cut-rate electricity to the United States?

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, I will be glad to look into this matter when it is brought to my attention in its full complexity and detail.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: In the interest of recognizing as many Members are possible, Members will now be recognized for single questions.

Some Hon. Members: No.

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NUCLEAR ARMAMENTS

CIVIL DEFENCE INFORMATION PROGRAM URGED

Mr. Robert Wenman (Fraser Valley West): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the President of the Privy Council. According to projections of the 1979 U.S. Congressional Committee on the effects of nuclear war, a nuclear attack only on the United States would result in the death of over two million Canadians from fallout alone. For the 23 million Canadians remaining, the federal Government commits a crime against its own people by withholding currently printed and stored information on survival. In view of the reality of modern technology that has reduced warning time to minutes rather than 30 days, and that preparations for civil defence 30 days prior to any proposed hostility would be destabilizing and inadequate, why does the Government of Canada not launch a major civil defence information program now?

[Translation]

Hon. Yvon Pinard (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, it is true that the consequences of a nuclear war are disastrous and that if a direct attack were launched on North America, the chances that Canadians would escape such an attack would be minimal.

However, I can inform the Hon. Member that our emergency measures planning includes provisions that we are trying to improve and which will help warn people who would be far from the centres of attack. We are also seeking to upgrade communications systems for informing the population through