

to the publisher, and in any event notify the publisher to be careful to see that no more comics of that kind were included in shipments to him. The bill does create a possibility of the risk referred to by the honourable gentleman; but some risk arises from all legislation of this character, and I do not think we should make the proposed amendment to the bill.

It may be out of order to refer to evidence given before the committee this morning, but perhaps I may be allowed to mention a point that was made there. It would appear from the discussion that a prohibition on some of the mats which are brought in from the United States would work a hardship on the publishers of crime comics. I think that is one of the ordinary commercial risks in this type of business.

I believe that the passage of this bill will mark a forward step by parliament in effecting a prohibition on the publication, distribution and sale of crime comics. For that reason I am not able to support the amendment of the honourable senator from Toronto-Trinity.

**Some Hon. Senators:** Question!

**Hon. Vincent Dupuis:** Mr. Chairman, I do not wish to tax the patience of my colleagues for long, but honourable senators will appreciate that I cannot do otherwise than support the bill for the protection of the youth of this country against subversive literature or crime comics.

The problem that troubles me is how the law is going to be implemented. I quite agree with the thoughts expressed by my good friend from Bedford (Hon. Mr. Nicol). Of course we are all in agreement as to the purpose of the bill, but regardless of the form in which it passes, it will not cure the malady of this century, namely, that the youth of Canada and of the world generally are more interested in comics than they are in national literature and geography.

When the bill is passed who is going to declare whether or not a comic strip is a crime comic under the law?

**Hon. Mr. Nicol:** The judge will.

**Hon. Mr. Dupuis:** Let me finish my question. Who is going to say whether or not certain literature is obscene? As an example of this problem, I may refer to the movie *Les Enfants de Paradis*, which was shown in the United States, in Ontario, and in some of the other provinces in Canada, where it was considered to be a great production. But what was looked upon as a beautiful piece of acting in Ontario was regarded as a crime in Quebec. That illustrates the variation in attitude across the country.

The administration of this law will, I presume, be in the hands of the provincial Attorneys-General, and it will be their responsibility to declare what comics are crime comics. I am told that the chief of police in each city appoints a man to deal with such questions of morality. I think it is a bad thing to have a law under which I, for instance, could be arrested for having in my possession a comic which I may think is a good comic.

**Hon. Mr. MacLennan:** The bill does not refer to comics but to "crime comics".

**Hon. Mr. Dupuis:** But the comic will have to be declared to be a crime comic by the chief of police or his lieutenant.

**Hon. Mr. Haig:** No, by the Court.

**Hon. Mr. Dupuis:** But prior to my appearing before a judge I would have to be arrested and detained.

**Hon. Mr. Nicol:** The Attorney-General would supervise the procedure.

**Hon. Mr. Dupuis:** But while the comics were being examined or while the obscene literature was being read, where would I be? Why, even the honourable senator from Toronto-Trinity (Hon. Mr. Roebuck) might be arrested under such a provision; and my good friend from Bedford (Hon. Mr. Nicol) might be arrested for publishing comics which to his mind were not crime comics.

I agree with the remarks of the honourable senator from Repentigny (Hon. Mr. DuTremblay). I am glad to be on his side, though all the Liberals are not always in the same basket. The honourable gentleman has said that it would be very unjust to pass a law which might place in the hands of some prejudiced person power to take action against a publisher.

I am not prepared to propose an amendment to the bill, but I have a suggestion which I should like to leave with the committee. I believe that the Canadian Government should appoint a board of censors, composed of one person from each province, to review all comics and literature published or offered for sale and determine whether the material is suitable for public distribution. In that way literature would come under much the same kind of control as the movies. I understand that in each province there is a board which sees all movies before they are exhibited to the public. My honourable friend from Repentigny (Hon. Mr. DuTremblay) has just reminded me that such a board of censors would have to receive the approval of the provinces.

**Some Hon. Senators:** Question!