

this House. I do not think that anyone believes that Bill C-49 is the answer to the question. It is simply a clouding of the facts when the Government and the Minister parade Bill C-49 as a fulfilment of the Conservative promises on the issue of prostitution.

I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that we on this side of the House will want to work with the Government and with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to encourage the Government to back off on this particular piece of legislation. We believe it should introduce instead a more comprehensive package which will take into consideration not only the issue of street solicitation, which is 10 per cent of the problem with respect to prostitution, but the over-all difficulties as outlined in the Fraser Commission report. This report begins to address this problem for all Canadians in a way which is not specifically punitive toward the prostitute while in fact allowing the procurers and the customers to go scot free.

Miss Carney: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Hon. Member two questions. She correctly pointed out that prostitution did not begin in 1979, but I would suggest to her that street soliciting did emerge about that time. Since prostitution has been with us for about 4,000 years, is the Hon. Member proposing that we wait another 4,000 years to deal with the over-all problem of prostitution as she seems to infer from her remarks?

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, I am suggesting that the problem of prostitution was dealt with in a very complete and informative way by the Fraser Commission. This piecemeal piece of legislation does absolutely nothing to deal with the over-all social problems which derive from prostitution. Why is the Minister and her Government hiding behind a piece of legislation which is so flimsy that it cannot even get the support of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities?

Miss Carney: Mr. Speaker, that raises my second question. The Minister of Justice (Mr. Crosbie) had indicated that he will be consulting with provincial Governments and other groups before bringing in some of the other legislation which was suggested by the Fraser report. Of course, that would include the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. I would ask the Hon. Member one specific question: since I know that the Mayor of Vancouver totally supported myself and the constituents of Vancouver Centre in backing the measures we took to bring the problem of street soliciting before the House, and totally endorsed the Justice Committee recommendations which are contained in this legislation, is the Hon. Member suggesting that the Mayor of Vancouver does not support this legislation?

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, what I am suggesting is that there was a unanimous recommendation passed on the weekend in Yellowknife at a meeting which was attended by the Mayor of Vancouver. This particular recommendation was endorsed unanimously by all municipalities at a meeting which was attended by the Mayor of Vancouver at which very serious concerns were expressed about the approach adopted in Bill

Criminal Code

C-49. It is like "trying to remove the tip of an iceberg, assuming the rest will disappear". That particular report was endorsed by, among others, the Mayor of Vancouver, so the Minister can draw whatever conclusion from that.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): If there are no further questions or comments, we shall resume debate.

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have an opportunity to speak on Bill C-49. I applaud its intention. I believe all Members of this House and the many people who are concerned with it applaud the intention which seems to be espoused by the Minister of Justice (Mr. Crosbie) and by some Conservative Members. However, I think it is the responsibility of every Member of this House, even if he or she is on the Government side, to take a close look at the way this Bill is drafted because it is dangerous law, Mr. Speaker. It is police law and I intend to expand on that considerably as I speak this afternoon. What this Bill is going to do is force a realignment of prostitution in Canada, as previous speakers have pointed out. The street prostitution is going to be dealt with here but will be at the choice of a municipality or police force or an individual police officer who wants to apply this draconian, steel fisted wording which the Minister of Justice put before us to deal with today.

I come to the House of Commons having been a probation and parole officer in British Columbia. I have dealt on a regular professional basis with both male and female prostitutes, with pimps and with the general grouping of people we find associated with the criminal element. I intend to expand at some length at what the real issue is here, how prostitution should really be dealt with in a Canadian way rather than this typically narrow way which is an attempt to be able to say to a few concerned constituents across the country, "We have brought the legislation in. The Liberals, the New Democratic Party and a few groups across the country did not like it but we have brought it in and we are able to deal with it". If anyone in this country is going to give the highest of all ratings to this Bill it is going to be organized crime, not those community groups which are concerned about street soliciting. It is organized crime which stands to reap the very greatest benefits from the kind of inflation we are going to see in the whole field of prostitution in Canada.

I believe Canadians should take a close look at the wording of this Bill. I am not persuaded, and I do not believe the Minister of Justice has persuaded anyone in his own caucus, that this is the way this problem should be approached. I quote Section 195.1 of the Criminal Code which states as follows:

• (1640)

Every person who in a public place or in any place open to public view

- (a) stops or attempts to stop any motor vehicle,
- (b) impedes the free flow of pedestrian or vehicular traffic or ingress to or egress from premises adjacent to that place, or
- (c) stops or attempts to stop any person or in any manner communicates or attempts to communicate with any person—