#### March 13, 1986

Entertainment Industry

## PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS-MOTIONS

[English]

• (1700)

### ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY

## SUGGESTED COMMITTEE STUDY OF STANDARDS FOR RATING AND LABELLING

# Mr. W. R. Bud Jardine (Northumberland-Miramichi) moved:

That the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs be empowered to study the question of consumer standards for rating and labelling in the entertainment industry, particularly with respect to videos, records, cassette tapes and compact discs, and that in undertaking this study, the committee focus on the question of sexually explicit lyrics and the negative moral effect this may be having on the youth of Canada.

He said: Mr. Speaker, on December 3 of last year I had the occasion to make a statement in the House decrying the violent and sexually explicit lyrics in certain types of today's music, music which is directed not so much at the population at large but rather at the most impressionable and vulnerable of our population—the teens and preteens. As I mentioned in my statement, this had been brought to my attention by the New Brunswick Federation of Home and School Associations.

Frankly, as I had to admit at that time, I had not been paying attention to the music and was, therefore, ignoring the words, the words with their almost subliminal message of torture, degradation, rape, rebellion and even suicide. Thankfully, others had been listening, people from coast to coast, parents, teachers, church groups and students who have written to me and who have said quite simply to the recording and video industry and to the provincial and federal representatives: "Enough is enough".

This is not a new issue in North America. I am not crusading for a new cause, a new platform to introduce censorship of any kind. I recognize not just the difficulty but the futility in that, an attempt by anyone to deny anyone what they perceive to be their legitimate rights and freedoms. This issue has been raised before by a number of organizations. Most noticeably and most recently it has been raised by a group of Washington wives of U.S. Congressmen and Senators who have organized themselves into the Parents Music Resource Centre.

What is it that they want? What is it that the New Brunswick federation wants? It wants the recording industry to start policing itself with the same standards along the lines of the film industry's rating system. An industry which will not police itself will be policed. It will be regulated to some degree if it flauts the mores of a society or of a country.

A disc jockey called me in December and told me he had made a point of listening to the words, to the message, of some of the recordings he had been playing for months and months, artists to which I had objected. He admitted quite frankly that he was absolutely shocked at what he had been playing and would therefore refuse to ever play them again. This was not a

I would like to speak about some of the things I watched on television in the last two days. It costs \$5,000 to fly a heart from London, Ontario, to Ottawa for a transplant. I am not sure how much of that is picked up under our present medicare plan. I would be very surprised if it is all picked up. But all of that cost should be picked up. The price one has to pay to hire a private jet to save a life, surely, is perfectly legitimate and must be a cost which is shared by the entire nation. All of us, through our tax system and all levels of Government, have to share. Surely that is what co-operative federalism is all about. Surely, Confederation means that we treat one another fairly and equitably no matter where we live in this nation or what our standing is in the community. That is what this borrowing should be about.

In addition to paying off the interest on the interest on the interest, we should make some constructive borrowings like we did in wartime. If we could do in peacetime what we did in wartime, we could borrow and have deficits for life and for construction instead of for death and for destruction. We can put our people to work and pay off our deficits in two or three years with the returns on those borrowings. That is sound business sense.

I want to say to my colleagues in the Conservative Party that I made the same kind of argument to Ministers of Finance in previous Liberal Governments.

I want to appeal to the Minister in charge of Canada Mortgage and Housing. If he has any weight and muscle in his Cabinet, he will bring in an amendment to the borrowing authority Bill next Monday for an additional \$1 billion to put into place the items I have just mentioned.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I regret that the hon. Member's time has expired. May I say that there is a Private Members' Hour to come. We are just going to go on until five o'clock so the Hon. Member for Windsor West (Mr. Gray) can use his own discretion. We have about one minute or so left, so perhaps he would like to call it five o'clock.

**Mr. Gray (Windsor West):** Thank you for your suggestion, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the House would agree to call it five o'clock so we can go into Private Members' Hour and I would be able to give my speech on this important Bill without interruption on Monday?

### The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Is that agreed?

### Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The Hon. Member for Windsor West has used no time, and he will be the first one to be recognized on Monday, or whenever Bill C-99 comes up again for debate as far as the Orders of the Day are concerned. [*Translation*]

Order, please. It being 5 o'clock, the House will now proceed to the consideration of Private Members' Business, as listed on today's Order Paper.