

[English]

METRIC CONVERSION**EFFECT OF ORDER IN COUNCIL ON TEXTILE IMPORT TARIFF COLLECTION**

Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga South): Mr. Speaker, the metric madness of the Government of Canada continues to create havoc with the business community. By an Order in Council passed on May 17, but not communicated to anyone, the Government attempted to convert some of the customs tariff items in the 50,000 tariff series from imperial to metric. Canada Customs found out about the regulation on May 25 and, without telling the industry, tried to enforce the regulations on May 30 and May 31. There was havoc. The regulations have since been suspended. Fortunately, or unfortunately, the regulations only covered part of textile imports.

As a consequence, computer programs designed to convert imperial to metric cannot be used by customs brokers and others in attempting to comply with the regulations.

When will the Government wake up to the fact that business, indeed people generally, should have the right to measure things the way they want to measure things? When will the Government stop trying to change a measurement system without notification, and without understanding how that system works in the real world? In short, when can we have an opportunity to elect a Government which is prepared to cooperate with business?

The Order in Council affecting the 50,000 tariff series should be revoked forthwith.

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CRIMINAL CODE**PORNOGRAPHY—SEIZURE OF VIDEO TAPES AT ART FESTIVAL**

Ms. Lynn McDonald (Broadview-Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, the confiscation of video tapes by police at an international video art festival is the sort of thing which gives all of us who are concerned with violent pornography, a bad name. This is not to suggest that artists should be above the law. No one should be. However, it is to say that the police and departments of the Attorney General should exercise some common sense in deciding who are the real culprits and who deserves to have the full force of the law brought against them. There is real, serious, violent, and dangerous pornography out there. I continue to receive complaints from women's organizations that the complaints they take to the police are not being acted on.

The police, of course, are hampered by the loopholes in the current law, and that is something we could be doing something about here in Parliament. The Criminal Code amendments have still not been brought forward for second reading. It has been nearly a year since we had the draft legislation. It will require serious action on the part of Parliament to amend the Criminal Code and the Broadcasting Act to deal with pornography. It will also require vigorous enforcement. Let us

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hope that will be wise and well directed enforcement on the part of provincial authorities, and not a witch hunt against merely technical infringements of the law.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

THE ECONOMY**EXCHANGE VALUE OF DOLLAR—STATISTICS CANADA ANALYSIS**

Hon. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. I would like to point out to the Minister that the Canadian dollar at noon today, in terms of the U.S. dollar, stood at 76.89 cents. It is just about down to the historic low, the lowest value the Canadian dollar has ever had in terms of the U.S. dollar.

I would also like to refer the Minister to the current economic analysis of Statistics Canada which was issued yesterday. It was stated in that analysis that the Canadian economy grew more slowly in the first quarter of this year than in the last quarter of 1983, and that low rates of growth will likely persist. Statistics Canada came to the conclusion that external demand, which provided most of the strength in recent quarters, has lost vigour; that real net exports have declined; that the already weak growth of domestic demand has persisted, and that the slowdown will continue beyond the first half of 1984. It is stated that growth has slowed to a pace which is insufficient to reduce unemployment. These are the conclusions of Statistics Canada, an official government agency.

Will the Minister tell the House, in view of the fact that his Budget has been a complete failure and that the economy is deteriorating around us, what plans the Government has to stop the further unravelling of the Canadian economy? The Minister is presiding over the dissolution of the Canadian economy. What plans has he to overcome these conclusions and these facts which I have just read to him from the report of Statistics Canada?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, my colleague could not only have read from the Statistics Canada publication; he could have read from the Budget Speech which I delivered in this House on February 15, at which time I indicated that there would be a slowdown in the rate of growth which we had known in the last year, particularly in the last quarter of last year. At that time the rate of real growth was close to between 6.5 per cent and 7 per cent. That was such a high rate of growth it could not be sustained over an extended period of time, and one should expect a slower rate of growth.

What is important to note, however, is that the economy is continuing to grow and that a more moderate rate of growth is something we will be able to sustain over a longer period