

The decisions rendered by Canadian courts have proved that current Code provisions concerning obscenity are difficult to enforce. The result is generally public confusion and disarray.

Retailers, distributors as well as police officers, solicitors, defense counsels and judges, consistently find it difficult to enforce a statute directly.

The current uncertainty concerning the interpretation of the law has helped change the current nature of pornography and widen its market. It can therefore be observed that in recent years we have seen an alarming growth in the availability of violent, degrading and increasingly explicit pornographic material. The means by which that material is made available also are much more varied. Video cassettes, films and satellite broadcasting have come to supplement traditional media like books and magazines. I would not want to overlook Mr. Speaker, the records and audio cassettes we hear today. As we know, Mr. Speaker, in the Montreal area, we had a teenager who unfortunately took his own life after listening to a cassette recording, and if you will forgive me, its title is *Heavy Metal*. After listening to a cassette of that kind of music, that young man committed suicide. I think this also could be considered as a kind of pornography available to our Canadian youth.

All that is now available in an ever increasing number of shops and stores. The public expressed their concern about the use of children in new forms of pornography and the availability of that kind of material to the young.

Mr. Speaker, the example I just gave of that teenager who could very easily obtain a cassette from a *Heavy Metal* record, shows how easy it is for these young people to lay their hands on that kind of material.

Mr. Speaker, if you will allow me, I would like incidentally to emphasize the exceptional community work done by organizations in my constituency of Chambly to protect our young people against all kinds of pornography, and especially all kinds of kidnapping.

Indeed, with the support of the Lions' Clubs in my constituency, some of the municipalities, in co-operation with the police forces in the constituency, have set up program, a voluntary one of course, for the identification of our young people, by means of an index card system that is kept by the parents, with the fingerprints of their own children. And so, if a child does disappear, which is something families cannot easily deal with at the best of times, with the fingerprints, finding these children will be easier and quicker, and as a result, we may be able to keep these children from getting caught up in the child pornography network.

● (1750)

An Hon. Member: Excellent proposal, Chambly!

Mr. Grisé: While considering the problem of pornography, the Committee decided to make a distinction between two broad categories of pornography that have aroused public

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concern: sexually explicit productions, characterized both by sexual content and by the stated or apparent intention to bring about sexual stimulation of the customer; and productions characterized by sexual content, combined with violence, degradation or exploitation in such a way as to give these aspects legitimacy.

Mr. Speaker, when we consider what I just mentioned, and a study was published this week, it is this kind of pornography that is aimed most often at young people between the ages of 12 and 17. Mr. Speaker, it is our teenagers who are most interested in this kind of pornography. It is incredible and unacceptable in a modern society such as ours today.

As for the impact of pornography, the Committee noted that most of the intervenors at the hearings shared the following concerns: pornography degrades women, deprives them of their dignity as human beings and equal partners within a human relationship, and treats them as instruments of pleasure for men. The violence of men towards women is judged socially acceptable, and the spectator becomes insensitive to the sufferings of others.

Mr. Speaker, to deal with the unfortunate situations that result, in my riding, the riding of Chambly, thanks to our Government's job development programs, we have been able to set up two shelters for battered women, and I can assure you that when I met with the directors of these agencies and when I visited their premises and met with these women and heard them talk about their experiences... It was incredible, Mr. Speaker. I felt I was not in the twentieth or twenty-first century. I felt I had gone back to the Stone Age. And again, thanks to our Government's action, we will be able to... That problem has not been solved but at least we offer shelter to those people, mostly women who have been beaten up, have walked out of their home and have lived in squalor until they are left with only one possible source of income, Mr. Speaker, prostitution of course, the oldest trade in the world. Once in the prostitution racket, the next easy step leads to pornography.

Again I say that is the kind of programs we can set up to help women who find themselves in such dire straits.

Of course, Mr. Speaker, such serious problems as violence at home and battered women have a very harmful and very negative impact on the children and the family, and then the principle of family life does not last very long.

An in-depth study of the problem was deemed desirable. A special committee was established by the Department of Justice under the chairmanship of Mr. Paul Fraser who was asked to report on matters related to pornography, among others. The committee released its report in April last year. The Fraser Committee recommended a full review of provisions on pornography and their replacement by a classification based on the type of acts depicted. Three levels have been set, each with its own penal provisions and a control mechanism.