

*Criminal Code*

**Mr. Lennard:** What has that to do with this bill?

**Mr. MacInnis:** It has everything to do with this bill because the bill suggests an amendment to the Criminal Code. I am suggesting that if one section of the Criminal Code is not enforced, perhaps this amended section will not be enforced either.

There is another point in connection with this matter that I want to mention. Before I deal with that, however, may I say that it is a rather saddening experience to pass a newsstand today and see the amount of trash offered for sale and the very small amount of literature that is worth while. I do not believe we can overcome the effects of crime comics merely by negative action. If the lives of our young people are to be improved, it will have to be by positive action. Something constructive for them to do will have to be found; something that will take up their time so that they will not have time for crime comics and other harmful diversions. When most of the members of this house were growing up there was not much time for comic papers. I suppose a good many of us grew up on the farm, where there was always work to do. If it did not do anything else, at least it kept us out of mischief. On that same basis, I suggest that, if we are going to improve the lives of our children and youth of today, we must put something in their lives to fill the emptiness that is the lot of so many.

It is evident that the member for Wentworth (Mr. Lennard) does not agree with that. It is his belief that crime can be suppressed by courts and laws.

**Mr. Lennard:** I said, "How are you going to do that with all these gift shops?"

**Mr. MacInnis:** If history has proven anything at all, it has proven that crime cannot be stopped in that way.

I have only one more remark to make before I sit down. I shall listen attentively to the constructive suggestions that will be made by the voluble member for Wentworth (Mr. Lennard). I think perhaps we can say too much about the harmfulness of crime comics. Perhaps we may be just advertising them. The other night when the member for Fort William (Mr. McIvor) and the member for Macleod (Mr. Hansell) were talking, I felt that clergymen should not talk about these things because they build such an alluring halo around them that it makes people think that resisting temptation is not worth while. In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate the member

[Mr. MacInnis.]

for Kamloops (Mr. Fulton) on the excellent job he made when presenting this bill. So far as its principle is concerned, I shall support it.

(Translation):

**Mr. Pierre Gauthier (Porineuf):** Mr. Speaker, I take the liberty of adding my voice, as a French-speaking member, to those who have taken part in this debate. I wish to congratulate the hon. member for Kamloops (Mr. Fulton) on the ideas he put forth in introducing this bill.

I agree that it might be better if parliament and the various legislatures united their efforts in order to encourage moral education in our families. We should have a purpose, a comprehensive program to prevent the lowering, at such an alarming rate, of the moral standards of our people, and especially of our youth, as we have witnessed during the past few years, more particularly since the war.

I come from the province of Quebec and while I was a member of the legislature of that province, it passed an act prohibiting children under sixteen years of age from going to the movies. I also remember that during the debate some members strongly opposed the measure. I still have clippings from newspapers published in other provinces, making fun of the province of Quebec, stating it was backward in passing such legislation.

Mr. Speaker, if children under sixteen were not allowed to go to the movies, it would become easier, all over the country, to preserve what is left of moral standards among the people and more particularly, among our youth.

I believe that fair and honest legislation based on principles of morality would improve family education and help parents do their duty more efficiently. It would also give them the necessary courage and strength of mind to forbid their children from going to the movies. In this way, they would not put wrong ideas in the heads of young people when they are at a critical stage of their development.

I appreciate that, once again, we may be called backward, but in the province of Quebec we have resolutely kept this legislation in operation. I think we were right in so doing since, by this bold step, the moral standards of our youth in the province of Quebec have been maintained at a high level.

Reading newspapers from other provinces, I notice that juvenile delinquency is lower in the province of Quebec. I do not wish to disparage other provinces, but I have visited many of them and attended a moving picture