

*Oral Questions*

it will be impossible to exempt taxpayers to whom such conditions apply. However, I can give the Hon. Member the assurance that we have no intention of unduly burdening a specific group of taxpayers such as senior citizens and that we are giving serious thought to ways of helping this group avoid potential problems.

[English]

## AMOUNT COLLECTED IN PENALTIES

**Mr. W. C. Scott (Victoria-Haliburton):** Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is for the Minister of National Revenue. On March 17 of this year I asked him to review the provisions which require that senior citizens pay income tax quarterly. His answer was, "I will be giving special attention to this point". In response to my March 11 question on the Order Paper, the Minister stated that over \$31 million in penalties was collected from senior citizens who did not properly make installment payments in 1981. I ask the Minister, is this not proof enough that most seniors do not understand the present filing procedures? What has he done and what will he do to speed up the process of informing our senior citizens that either they should pay quarterly or they are exempt from this procedure which is now in existence?

[Translation]

**Hon. Pierre Bussières (Minister of National Revenue):** Madam Speaker, perhaps the Hon. Member will recall that quite recently, an insert was sent with the Old Age Security cheques to explain the procedure to be followed when a person has additional income and is therefore obliged under the Act to make quarterly payments. I believe that the number of senior citizens who are obliged to make such payments is very limited, and that it would probably be very confusing for the vast majority of senior citizens if we were to send them information which does not, in fact, apply to them. People who are obliged to make quarterly payments are so advised by the offices of the Department of National Revenue, and as I have indicated before, the number of senior citizens to whom this procedure applies is very limited.

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[English]

## CRIMINAL CODE

## PORNOGRAPHY—INQUIRY RESPECTING MINISTERIAL ACTION

**Ms. Lynn McDonald (Broadview-Greenwood):** Madam Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Communications I will direct my question to the Minister responsible for the Status of Women, on the issue of pornography. The Minister no doubt will be aware that her colleague has passed the buck on this back to the CRTC. She is presumably also aware recently the President of the CRTC and the past President of the CRTC, now President of the CBC, said that it was not up

to the CRTC to act on pornography, but it was up to the courts and to the Parliament of Canada. Will the Minister comment on this and tell us what she sees as her responsibility, given that while child abuse in pornography is increasing, the large number of victims are women? Is she prepared only to try to buck up the Minister and get him to do his job in communications, or is she prepared to take any initiatives herself?

**Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Minister of Justice):** Madam Speaker, I can inform the Hon. Member that I have under consideration amendments to the law on obscenity which, of course, will affect that law wherever it is applied, broadcasting or anywhere else. I hope that, when introduced, these amendments will have the support of the Hon. Member and her Party. I think that at the moment this is a better way to proceed than attempting to segment particular areas and to have a special law which relates to them.

## INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

**Ms. Lynn McDonald (Broadview-Greenwood):** Madam Speaker, the Minister said that he would be bringing in some obscenity legislation. In April last, when appearing before the Justice Committee, the Minister said it would be within a month or so. Can he give us some kind of date on when we may expect this? Will the Minister undertake to communicate with women's groups as to the content of this legislation?

**Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Minister of Justice):** Madam Speaker, there is always a lot of consultation that goes into the presentation of any such amendments. When my friend and I had the dialogue in committee, it was in April, several weeks ago. I hope to be in a position before very long, if I have the agreement of the House Leader, to bring in such legislation.

## DEFINITION OF OBSCENITY

**Ms. Lynn McDonald (Broadview-Greenwood):** Madam Speaker, I would like the Minister of Justice to comment on the relationship between obscenity in the Criminal Code and in the broadcasting regulations. It is forbidden to broadcast indecent, profane and obscene comments and pictorial representation. There are no penalties stated and there are no definitions. In effect this regulation is a dead letter. Will the Minister tell us what effect amending the Criminal Code might have and if there is some way to make the regulations more effective?

**Mr. Nielsen:** That is a legal opinion.

**Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Minister of Justice):** Madam Speaker, as I pointed out, if we put something in the Criminal Code it would apply to the presentation of material, whether that occurs in broadcasting or anywhere else. The Code does so now. If we make it even more effective, that would make the law as it applies to broadcasting more effective as well.