

Criminal Code

and less, about what is going on in the corporate world in respect of investment, ownership, how in fact Canadians benefit from such foreign owned companies, and where, having been provided that information, there needs to be some regulatory imposition on such companies to ensure that their operations here are to the benefit of Canada and Canadians.

However, we certainly support the simplification of the reporting regime which, as I indicated at the outset, will help small business more than any other group. We think small business has too much of a burden already and, to the extent that that can be lessened, we certainly support this legislation. I presume those other matters which I have raised will be considered in committee.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Is the House ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: Question.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the second time and referred to a legislative committee.

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● (1550)

CRIMINAL CODE

MEASURE TO AMEND

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Hnatyshyn that Bill C-54, an Act to amend the Criminal Code and other Acts in consequence thereof, be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee; and the amendment of Mr. Robinson (p. 11291).

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): When debate was interrupted at one o'clock p.m., the Hon. Member for Yukon (Ms. McLaughlin) had completed her speech. As the Hon. Member is not in the House, the period for questions and comments cannot take place. The Chair is now prepared to recognize Hon. Members for debate. The Hon. Member for Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands (Mr. Manly).

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands): Madam Speaker, I welcome the opportunity to speak on Bill C-54 and on the whole question of pornography, which is not an easy topic for any Member of this House to address. I think, however, it is very important for us to try to deal with it, but I do not believe that Bill C-54 is necessarily the best or the most appropriate way to address the question of pornography. I have received many letters from constituents both pro and con. To a lesser extent people are against this Bill, but I have

received a considerable amount of correspondence from people who are in favour of it.

Bill C-54 would amend the Criminal Code by deleting the present sections dealing with obscenity and adding new laws relating to the production, distribution, sale and possession of material which the Bill defines as either erotica or pornography, namely, visual or other material relating to various forms of sexual activity.

The concepts of erotica and pornography are fairly recent ones. The Oxford English dictionary indicates that the word "pornographer" was first used in 1850 about someone who wrote about prostitutes. The word "pornography" was first used in a medical dictionary in 1857 and defined as a description of prostitutes or of prostitution as a matter of public hygiene. The word "pornographic" was first used in 1880 in *The Guardian* which said:

The excess of the French press designated as "pornographic" have become such as to compel the authorities to adopt strong measures against them.

While the use of the word "erotic" goes back to the 1650s, the specific use of the word "erotica" dates from the 1850s. These, therefore, are comparatively recent concepts but, of course, attempts to use law to control material about sexual activity go back much further.

I want to suggest to the House that erotica and pornography present problems to our society and in our society because sex itself is problematic in our particular society. We have a whole constellation of meanings and attitudes which cluster around accepted sex. On the one hand, physical pleasure, procreation, love, communication and sharing. On the other hand, there is a great deal of attitude surrounding sex dealing with power, dominance, frustration, impurities, sin and disease. So we have some very confusing attitudes and emotions when we start talking about sex.

D. H. Lawrence, who was falsely accused of writing pornography and suffered from censorship, wrote in one of his poems:

Why were we crucified into sex? Why were we not left rounded off and finished in ourselves?

As a society, we are not very successful in dealing with sex. Probably we are more successful in dealing with it in the 1980s than we were in the 1940s and 1950s when I was growing up. Certainly we are more successful in dealing with it now than we were in the Victorian or puritan ages which were very repressive on an official basis but where the double standard reigned supreme.

The sexual revolution of the 1960s and 1970s had some very positive values that I think we need to recognize as a society. At the same time, in some other ways,—and feminists have pointed this out, which I think is very important—the sexual revolution of the 1960s and 1970s reinforced sexism, and the proliferation of both soft-core and hard-core pornography is a symptom of that reinforced sexism. In turn, as a symptom, in a kind of cyclical concept it becomes a cause of further sexism.