

INVITATION TO ATTEND SHOWING OF PLAYBOY TAPE

Ms. Lynn McDonald (Broadview-Greenwood): So far, Madam Speaker, the CRTC has not seen fit to act, although asked to do so on many occasions, and a number of months ago. I can certainly assure the House that my Party would be prepared to support swift passage of an amendment to the Act. We can amend the Act, the CRTC can only amend the regulations.

Will the Minister attend a showing at 3.30 this afternoon in the West Block of a tape of what is now available from Playboy network in the United States? I have invited all Members of the House and the press to see this tape because I think it will show most clearly that what we are talking about is not simply adult movies so-called, not simply erotica, but really severe abuse of women, and a great deal of cruelty and brutality toward women.

Hon. Francis Fox (Minister of Communications): Madam Speaker, a number of Members on this side of the House have indicated a very real concern to me on this important issue. I met with a number of them last night and I know they do indeed share the type of concerns expressed by the Hon. Member, and intend to assist this afternoon.

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CRIMINAL CODE

REQUEST FOR AMENDMENTS TO DEAL WITH STREET PROSTITUTES

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon West): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Justice. As the Minister knows, the Supreme Court of Canada today rendered its decision in the Westendorp case, striking down Calgary's by-law dealing with solicitation for the purposes of prostitution. In that judgment the Minister will know that the Chief Justice of Canada has made it clear that municipalities under the present constitutional arrangement from Halifax across to Vancouver have very little room to manoeuvre in the fight against soliciting. Now that it appears by virtue of this Court ruling that the ball is directly back in the federal Government's court, is the Minister prepared to bring in amendments to the Criminal Code to make effective the laws against solicitation for the purpose of prostitution?

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Madam Speaker, I am sure the Hon. Member will recall, because I believe he supported it, this issue was referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs for their guidance to the Government last year. We are, of course, eagerly awaiting that guidance. I may say our hope had been that this Calgary by-law would be upheld. We did not oppose the by-law. And since the judgment has been rendered today I have asked my Department to investigate any ways that may exist to enable us either to delegate such kind of power to municipalities which wish to have it or through some

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other way to make available to the municipalities this type of control over the use of streets.

DEFINITION OF SOLICITATION

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon West): Madam Speaker, I am sure the Minister will be aware, by virtue of reports from his colleagues on his side of the House, that the conclusion of the Standing Committee at this point is inconclusive. Only one Member of his Party, the Hon. Member for Sarnia, was in favour of amendments to the Criminal Code. The New Democratic Party was in favour of legalizing prostitution. We had anticipated the decision here, and said that we wanted to have amendments to the Criminal Code to make it effective.

The Minister cannot avoid his responsibility any further. I would like to know whether he is prepared to make amendments to the Criminal Code in terms of a new definition of solicitation, including customers as well as the prostitute, making both males and females subject to charge, and redefining "a public place". Will the Minister not take action now to aid the municipalities across the country?

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Madam Speaker, I find it very strange that the Hon. Member, who has responsibility as a Member of the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs for this advice to the Government, would now be asking us to make a decision without reference to the views of the Committee. The Committee has presented no report. He may rightly indicate the Committee Members are divided in their views. So is the country, Madam Speaker, and it was precisely because of this that we asked the Committee members for their best views. The responsibility is theirs; it is not ours.

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INDUSTRY

EFFECT OF GOVERNMENT POLICIES ON PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRY

Mr. G. M. Gurbin (Bruce-Grey): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy. The Minister will know that the petrochemical industry is having severe difficulties. He also will know that this industry uses only 5 per cent of the total oil and gas resources in Canada, but adds up to 27 times their value in finished products. Is the Minister aware of the difficulties that are persisting, and is he aware of the fact that the revenue and taxation policies which have been implemented by the federal Government have already exceeded those levels which were expected in 1985, which has made many of the companies non-competitive? If he is aware of these things, what is he prepared to do about it?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Madam Speaker, questions with respect to the petrochemical industry are normally handled by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, but there is a component of my Department which deals with that. I suppose what I can