

matter is that under a variety of programs we have been and are continuing to be of considerable assistance. It is not the fact that the federal Government has pulled the rug out from underneath the support of job creation in the forest industry. That is the reverse of the truth. It is in fact the British Columbia Government which has reneged on some of those programs.

The answer to the second part of the question is no, it is not the case that we have reneged on the possibility of using Canada Works funds in social and community projects. It is true that we have opened up Canada Works to programs which encourage and assist the private sector in creating jobs. I do not know whether the Hon. Member is opposed to using the private sector to create jobs in this country. I sincerely hope not because that would seem to me to be an incredible—

Mr. Waddell: That is fine.

Mr. Roberts: He says fine. Then he should be endorsing our programs, not criticizing them.

Mr. Waddell: But don't take it from the other sector.

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CRIMINAL CODE

CHILD PROSTITUTION—EXISTENCE OF INTERNATIONAL RING

Miss Pat Carney (Vancouver Centre): Madam Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Justice I will direct my question to the Acting Minister, the Solicitor General. The Minister of Justice has already told my colleague, the Hon. Member for Saskatoon West, that he has rejected specific recommendations by the Justice Committee which would make it a crime for adults to buy sex from juveniles. In light of the fact that B.C. law enforcement agencies say that there is an international "chicken hawk" ring in existence, ranging from Los Angeles to Vancouver to South Africa, in which the "chickens", or juveniles under 18, are preyed upon by the "hawks", or adults, how can the Minister justify the failure of the Government to implement the Justice Committee's recommendations?

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General of Canada): Madam Speaker, as the Hon. Member knows, the Criminal Code in its present form provides penalties for involving juveniles in sexual activity. A legislative package is being brought forward by the Government now to toughen the laws in the area of prostitution. A commission has been established as well, and its terms of reference should have the support of Hon. Members opposite. I encourage the House to support the work of that commission which has already begun. It will deal with some of the controversial aspects of prostitution, and propose solutions to the House for legislation.

TRANS-BORDER TRAFFIC IN CHILDREN

Miss Pat Carney (Vancouver Centre): Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Acting Minister. I

should point out that the report to which he refers will not even be reported back to the Minister until December, 1984. In the meantime Vancouver law enforcement officers have in their possession 7,000 pictures of young people, some as young as 13, involved in the "chicken hawk" ring, plus an address book containing the names of the victims. Since some of these youngsters are from B.C. and others are from Los Angeles, what is the Minister doing to stop these trans-border transactions in young people?

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General of Canada): Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member knows perfectly well that the type of activity she has just described is covered by the Criminal Code and that the enforcement of the Criminal Code is a matter within the jurisdiction of the Attorney General of the Province. From reports I have read in the media, action is being considered by the Attorney General in that area.

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THE ECONOMY

CONFERENCE BOARD'S GROWTH FORECAST

Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga South): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Acting Prime Minister. Could he tell the House what we are to make of the statement of the Minister of Finance in Winnipeg yesterday to the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, in which he said:

We are expected to have this year and next year the largest real growth of any of the summit countries.

The Conference Board release today indicated that growth in the United States this year will be 3.4 per cent and only 3 per cent in Canada, that growth next year in the United States will be 5.4 per cent and only 2.7 per cent in Canada, and that in 1985 it will be 3.1 per cent in the United States and 0.4 per cent in Canada. How do we justify this kind of misrepresentation by the Minister?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of State (External Relations)): I thought I got across yesterday, Madam Speaker, that one, or one set of statistics does not make the winter or the spring. I tried to convey the idea that one has to take his daily dose of statistics with a grain of salt. Today we have one indicating that job creation went down in August to 15,000 from 50,000 the month before. If we look at statistics for past years we find out that August is usually a static month. There is usually less growth of employment in August. I have my daily bread of statistics.

"Unless interest rates", says the Conference Board, "fall, recovery will peter out." That is one factor only. Inflation is coming down, and unemployment is coming down. They are other factors. This is why I feel a bit embarrassed to try to answer statistics in single file. The only way to assess the state of the economy in Canada is to put them all on a single page of paper. That is why I find it difficult to comment on only one.