



Canada. Parl. Senate. Special
Comm.on Sale and Distribution
of Salacious and Indecent
Literature, 1952.

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THE SENATE OF CANADA



PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Special Committee on Sale and Distribution
of Salacious and Indecent Literature

No. 1

TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 1952

The Honourable J. J. HAYES DOONE, *Chairman.*

WITNESSES:

- Reverend Paul Gay, Superior of St. Alexander's College, Hull, P.Q., and
Chairman of the Press and Cinema Service of the Archdiocese of
Ottawa.
- Mr. Vincent Kelly, Grand Knight of Knights of Columbus, Ottawa,
Ontario.
- Mr. A. Paquette, Member of the Press and Cinema Service of the Arch-
diocese of Ottawa.
- Mr. Wilfrid Grenier, Public Accountant and Member of the Press and
Cinema Service of the Archdiocese of Ottawa.

THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE ON SALE
AND DISTRIBUTION OF SALACIOUS AND
INDECENT LITERATURE

The Honourable J. J. Hayes Doone, Chairman.

The Honourable Senators

Bouffard,
Burchill,
David,
Davis,
Doone,
Duffus,
Fallis,

Farquhar,
Gershaw,
Lacasse,
McDonald,
McGuire,
McIntyre,
Pratt,

Quinn,
Reid,
Stambaugh,
Stevenson,
Vaillancourt,
Wilson.

20 members.

ORDER OF REFERENCE

Extract from the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Senate, Thursday, May 8, 1952.

"That a special committee of the Senate be appointed, authorized and directed to examine into all phases, circumstances and conditions relating to the sale and distribution in Canada of—

1. Salacious and indecent literature;
2. Publications otherwise objectionable from the standpoint of crime promotion, including crime comics, treasonable and perverse tracts and periodicals;
3. Lewd drawings, pictures, photographs and articles whether offered as art or otherwise presented for circulation.

That without limiting the scope of its inquiry, the committee be authorized and directed to examine into—

- (a) Sources of supply of the above noted items;
- (b) Means and extent of distribution thereof;
- (c) Relative departmental responsibility for entry or transmission;
- (d) Sufficiency of existing legislation to define terms in relation thereto;
- (e) Relative responsibility for law enforcement and effective legal measures of dealing with this problem.

That the committee have the power to send for persons, papers and records, and to secure such services and assistance as may be necessary for the proper prosecution of its inquiries.

That the said committee shall report its findings to this House.

L. C. MOYER,
Clerk of the Senate."

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

TUESDAY, June 3, 1952.

The Special Committee on Sale and Distribution of Salacious and Indecent Literature met this day at 10.30 a.m.

Present: The Honourable Senators:—Doone, Chairman; Davis, Duffus, Fallis, Farquhar, Gershaw, Lacasse, McDonald, McGuire, Stambaugh and Vaillancourt.—11.

The Committee proceeded to the consideration of the order of reference of May 8, 1952.

Mr. Henri Perrault, a sworn interpreter, was called.

A brief submitted by the Reverend Paul Gay was read to the Committee by the interpreter.

The following were heard:—

Mr. Vincent Kelly, Grand Knight of Knights of Columbus, Ottawa, Ontario.

Mr. A. Paquette, Member of the Press and Cinema Service of the Archdiocese of Ottawa.

Reverend Paul Gay, Superior of St. Alexander's College, Hull, P.Q., and Chairman of the Press and Cinema Service of the Archdiocese of Ottawa.

Mr. Wilfrid Grenier, Public Accountant and Member of the Press and Cinema Service of the Archdiocese of Ottawa.

At 12.10 p.m. the Committee adjourned until Tuesday next, June 10, at 10.30 a.m.

ATTEST.

JOHN A. HINDS,
Clerk of the Committee.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

THE SENATE

OTTAWA, Tuesday, June 3, 1952.

The special committee appointed to examine into the sale and distribution of salacious and indecent literature met this day at 10.30 a.m.

Hon. Mr. Doone in the Chair.

The CHAIRMAN: Honourable members, will you please come to order? Prior to hearing the delegation which is here today, I think it would be as well to place on the record a summary of the proceedings of previous meetings. I made a memorandum for that purpose and would be pleased to read it, if that is agreeable to the meeting.

Hon. Mr. McDONALD: I think that is in order, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: The report that I have is as follows:

In relation to the work currently before the Committee, I might advise that a letter under date of May 19th was addressed to representatives of religious groups, universities, provincial governments, municipal authorities, and social organizations in the following terms:—

I am sure you will be interested to know that a Special Committee of the Senate has been appointed, authorized and directed to examine into all phases, circumstances and conditions relating to the sale and distribution of salacious and indecent literature, publications otherwise objectionable from the standpoint of crime promotion, and lewd and unwholesome pictures.

The Committee is prepared to hear and report upon such representations and evidence as may be brought before it. Should you agree that a worthy work is in progress, and care to submit a brief to the Committee or to appear before it in person, or by representative, every effort will be made to facilitate a hearing.

It is only fair to state that the time factor and staff shortages are present disabilities which may limit the activities of the Committee during the present sitting of the House. However, it is intended to carry the investigation over any necessary adjournment so that a complete survey can be made and a full opportunity accorded to interested persons to be heard.

Please advise if interested, and be assured that your courtesy in this respect will be anticipated with grateful appreciation.

Replies have been received from individual members of the Clergy, as follows:—

His Eminence, Cardinal J. C. McGuigan,
Archbishop of Toronto;

The Reverend Dr. David I. Forsyth of the Board of Christian Education,
The United Church of Canada;

The Reverend Dr. A. H. Priest, Department of Religious Education,
The Church of England in Canada;

Dr. G. Fred McNally, President of the Baptist Federation of Canada;

The Reverend John H. McGoey, S.F.M. Assistant General, Scarborough Foreign Mission Society;
 Mr. A. Graydon Richard, The Full Gospel Publishing House;
 Mr. Everett C. Cameron, General Secretary, The Religious Education Council of Alberta;
 Colonel Rufus T. Spooner, The Salvation Army;
 Dr. J. H. Keble, President of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Canada;
 Most Reverend J. A. O'Sullivan, Archbishop of Kingston;
 Most Reverend Maxime Tessier, Auxiliary Bishop of Ottawa;
 Most Reverend P. A. Bray, C.J.M., Bishop of Saint John;
 Most Reverend Alfred A. Sinnott, D.D., Archbishop of Winnipeg;
 Most Reverend W. M. Duke, Archbishop of Vancouver.

Among the outstanding educationalists manifesting an interest and willingness to make a contribution to the inquiry are:—

Dr. F. Cyril James, President and Vice-Chancellor of McGill University;
 Dr. Norman A. M. McKenzie, President of the University of British Columbia;
 Dr. A. W. Trueman, President of the University of New Brunswick;
 The Reverend Adrien Paquet, M.A., C.J.M., Rector of the University of the Sacred Heart, Bathurst, N.B.

Provincial Governments expressing an interest include Ontario, New Brunswick, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, and Alberta. The Canadian Federation of Mayors and Municipalities has also indicated special concern. Social and Service groups offering support and co-operation include:—

The Service de Prese et de Cinema, Ottawa;
 The Archdiocesan Council of the Catholic Parent-Teachers Assoc., Ottawa;
 The Canadian Welfare Council of Ottawa;
 The Archdiocesan Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada, Toronto;
 The Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire;
 The Canadian Home and School and Parent-Teachers Federation, Toronto;
 The Kiwanis Boys & Girls Clubs of Toronto;
 The Canadian General Council of Boy Scouts Associations;
 The Federation of the League of the Sacred Heart, Quebec City;
 The Women's Christian Temperance Union, Edmonton, Alberta;
 The Holy Name Society of St. Patrick's Parish, Quebec City;
 The Decent Literature Crusade, Saint John, N.B.

Scores of individuals have written in demonstrating a nation-wide urge for a complete investigation. Many individuals and organizations have professed a willingness to submit briefs at later sittings of the Committee. Service groups, national in character, have requested time to secure detailed information from their several branches.

At the request of Senator Bouffard, the following letter was addressed to F. P. Varcoe, Esq., Deputy Minister of Justice:

Would you be kind enough to advise what special sections of the Criminal Code, and what Provincial laws are in effect respecting the importation, sale and distribution of obscene literature. Frankly, our interest is concerned more in the laws effective in the Provincial fields and the policies which the latter have developed in relation to this matter.

Your kind attention to this enquiry will be highly appreciated.

Mr. Varcoe's reply is submitted herewith as follows:—

I acknowledge your letter of May 19 in connection with the question of obscene literature. The only provisions of the Criminal Code that appear to be relevant in this connection are Sections 207 and 209. I am not aware of any provincial legislation relating to this matter other than Chapter 12 of the Statutes of Quebec, 1950.

On May 27 last your Committee convened at 2 o'clock p.m. to hear Mr. E. L. Dubois, President of General Motors, Hamilton, Ontario, and a Director of CCCJ. Mr. Dubois has been conducting a campaign against the sale and distribution of salacious literature and indecent pictures for the past five years. He had a fund of material to place before the Committee. He stressed the responsibilities of parents, of organizations concerned with the moral health of children, and of governments to take prompt and effective means towards a moral clean-up. Mr. Dubois felt that the so-called "Package Sale" was a contributing factor in the wide distribution of unwholesome books with indecent illustrations and advertisements of a virulent nature. A ban against such a sale's practice, he suggested, would prove restrictive and helpful. In addition, Mr. Dubois brought to the attention of the Committee the sale of records and films tending to the debasement of youth. A debt of gratitude is due Mr. Dubois for a masterly presentation, and is herewith offered as a matter of record.

Hon. Mr. McDONALD: Mr. Chairman, have there been many replies to your letters, from these gentlemen and organizations which you have mentioned?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes. I listed the replies from the different organizations in my submission.

Hon. Mr. McDONALD: All you have heard from?

The CHAIRMAN: There have been hundreds of individuals. There have also been organizations of a national character who have asked for time to contact their different branches. I have had not only received such requests by mail, but also by telephone. Each may have its own opinion in its special territory. As democratic bodies, national organizations must contact their different branches throughout Canada.

Hon. Mr. McDONALD: If it is agreeable to the members of the committee, Mr. Chairman, I should like you to address a letter to George Matthew Adams. I am a great admirer of him and his writing, and I think perhaps he could give us some valuable information; also, I should like to have a letter directed to Mr. F. B. Patterson, ex-President of Acadia University.

Hon. Mrs. FALLIS: Mr. Chairman, I should like to ask a question for my own information on the powers which the Dominion Government already has to deal with the matter now under discussion. On page 432 of the House of Commons *Hansard*, in answer to a question, Mr. McCann spoke of the power which the government has to prohibit the importation into Canada of books of an immoral or indecent character, under provisions of tariff item 1201. Does the term "books" include pamphlets such as we had displayed here the other day?

The CHAIRMAN: I think it would, but the difficulty is that plates are brought to Canada and the books published here.

Hon. Mrs. FALLIS: The great majority we saw the other day was printed in the United States.

The CHAIRMAN: I believe that is so.

Hon. Mrs. FALLIS: Were those samples of publications that are now being printed in Canada?

The CHAIRMAN: I did not look at them closely; but I believe some were published in Canada.

Hon. Mrs. FALLIS: The majority of them were printed in the United States. I wondered if under this tariff item, the Dominion Government does not possess the power to prohibit the importation of such publications.

The CHAIRMAN: I think it has, but what we are all wondering is how effective the system is. One of the functions of the committee is to bring about greater enforcement. I am a little doubtful as to how effective present enforcement is.

Hon. Mrs. FALLIS: If that was a sample of its effectiveness we saw here the other day, well—

The CHAIRMAN: Yes. I can readily see that some of these things are difficult to handle; nevertheless, I wonder what efforts are being put forward to deal with them. I think we are all interested in finding the answer, and I think before we are through we should have some member of the department give evidence as to what is being done; indeed, I think in fairness that procedure should be followed.

Hon. Mrs. FALLIS: It is only fair to the committee to know just what has already been done.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, fair to everybody.

If there are no further comments, I will introduce the delegates appearing before the committee this morning. I have the following letter from Most Reverend Maxime Tessier, Archbishop of Ottawa:

"With respect to yours of the 21st instant, addressed to His Excellency Archbishop Vachon, who is in Europe at the present time, I wish to state that the Reverend Paul Gay, President of Press and Cinema Services of the Ottawa Archdiocese, and Reverend Leo LeSage, P.P., Director, the Diocesan Holy Name Society, have been appointed by me to appear before the Committee of the Senate on Salacious and Indecent Literature."

In addition I have a communication from Mr. J. Leo K. Laflamme, Q.C., President of the Federation des Ligues du Sacre-Coeur, Quebec City, advising that Father Gay would speak on behalf of that body. Father Gay, is President of the Press and Cinema Services, which corresponds to the League of Decency in the United States, and for the past fifteen years has been devoting much of his time to the problem now before us. Father Gay will speak in reference to the moral issues involved.

I have pleasure in calling on Father Gay.

(A translation of the presentation by the Reverend Father Gay was read by the interpreter Henri Perrault, as follows:)

The growing multitude of magazines and periodicals of all kinds which flood Canada has undoubtedly lowered the intellectual and moral standards of the population.

I—The Moral Standards.

The conditions under consideration are not proper to Canada. It would seem that they are world-wide; the present world is losing its faith, not only its faith in God, but its faith in humanity, its faith in the principles which make honour and life worth while. The present world, bewildered by several wars, has now turned to the only thing which, materially, seems to exist for it: the instincts of the flesh. Moral licence then releases such unavowable tendencies, such dreadful instincts that the subconscious mind of our whole population is in danger of decay: moral impurity and cruelty are close kins.

But let us beware; moral licence, increased by the licentiousness of magazines may well lead man to the destruction of man. In other words, moral impurity can decimate a whole people just as thoroughly as war.

One understands, then, what is meant by obscenity. Obscenity is that which prompts man to consider in himself only the beast; it besets the mind,

a faculty which truly counterbalances the instincts that drive us to evil. Obscenity is that which grossly offends decency, the bulwark of man's dignity.

The February 1952 issue of "SIR" is typical example of an obscene magazine. Both the text and photographs are obscene.

Any magazine (periodical or book) is obscene which, on the whole, deals with the direct venereal act, prepares it and kindles it. In a word, the more a magazine offends decency, the more obscene it is.

Magazines that have no other aim than to paint debauchery, either to incite to licentiousness or to satisfy depraved minds, undoubtedly come under the penalty of the law in Canada.

The law (Section 207 of the Criminal Code) also aims at magazines usually featuring provocative nudes and carrying erotic articles.

But it does not aim at magazines, reviews or books, which, incidentally, include the odd voluptuous description or lewd picture, or which are known as "vulgar".

Nor, as a rule, do art publications come under the ban. But they should display authentic art and there should be no doubt that it was not the intention of perverting which prompted the publisher's choice. Moreover, they are not meant for children.

If that is obscenity, is it exaggerated to state that one-third of all magazines sold in Canada are obscene?

Evidently, it is an easy task to publish and to sell magazines appealing to man's lower instincts. It is a much more difficult one to produce a wholesome and interesting magazine.

Retailers who try to go against the current are carried away by what one might call the magazine trust; they are not free to make their own choice and their conscience protests.

Then there is the effrontery of those who republish, in Canada, pocket books whose entry into this country is forbidden by the Department of National Revenue. That is nothing but cynicism!

The honourable senators' attention should also be drawn to those "novelties" imported from Japan or elsewhere; these are often indecent.

II—*The Intellectual Standards.*

Not enough thought is given to the fact that far from instilling into children and adolescents a taste for books, the habit of reading comics exclusively tends to destroy this taste. That is the most serious aspect of the matter. A people who thrives on comics will never progress beyond the digest stage, and a nation of digest readers will never be a cultured nation.

It seems that the Senate committee should evolve from its present activities something positive. We must not be content with supervision and control; that is a purely negative approach. On the contrary we must make it a point to give publishers and their collaborators an exact idea of the lines along which they must work to renovate and make more wholesome published material of all kinds. To this end we make the following suggestions:

(1) Illustrations and text should respect science and natural history, and not be altogether contrary to verisimilitude. This desirable result can be achieved through intelligent effort much more than by force, by tending to dignified and unselfish ends, far removed from vulgarity and coarseness, from scenes of horror and torture, in the description of a peaceful and honest life.

(2) Characters should be endowed with a minimum of psychological verisimilitude; they should not be mere robots.

(3) Human life should be respected. The guilty parties should be punished by due process of law and not by the whim and fancy of the hero. Tracking down the villain should not be a sport but an ideal.

- (4) Dishonest persons should evoke pity or contempt, never sympathy.
- (5) The text should be well written so as to bring the child to turn, little by little, from comics to books.
- (6) The general tone of magazines should be optimistic and pleasant.

In this way shall we attempt to do away with this trash which degrades part of our people and shall we raise the intellectual and moral standards of our Christian society.

There remains to be found a system which will enable federal and provincial authorities to co-operate within their respective spheres so as to ensure the supervision and control of magazines throughout Canada. But this does not come within our purview. It is up to the honourable gentlemen who are at present in session, and whose talents may well be employed to that end.

PAUL GUAY,

Chairman of Press Committee of Ottawa
Archdiocese.

LEO LESAGE,

Director of Catholic Action in the
Archdiocese of Ottawa, English section.

The CHAIRMAN: Is there any comment or question you wish to direct to the witness? If not, we will call the next witness, Mr. Vincent Kelly.

Hon. Mr. STAMBAUGH: Do I understand that a copy of that magazine that you spoke of has been handed in?

The CHAIRMAN: It is here. Mr. Kelly is principal of St. Patrick's School, Ottawa, and will speak from an instructor's point of view. He is also a Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus, and will comment with regard to the drive which is being conducted by members of his organization.

Mr. VINCENT KELLY: Honourable Senator Doone, honourable Senators, reverend Father, ladies and gentlemen: This salacious literature problem has certainly given me a great deal of anxiety; and as principal of a school, I may say that we find it very difficult today to get any work out of the children. In the first place, their minds are filled with this material which they read in the magazines; their minds are away above the work you are trying to teach them; they have got into such a habit of reading illustrated magazines that textbooks are just boresome to them. I think that if this continues it will be necessary for all textbooks to be put in the form of comics in order to interest them.

That is our problem in school. The problem out of school is to get them to do any extra work, and of course it is a debatable point: there are people today who do not believe in any extra-curricular work for children. I am still a believer in it, because I think that the extra after-school-hour work is what teaches the child to work for himself. I can always pick in my classroom a boy who has come from an ungraded or country school, because that boy is accustomed to go out and work for himself, due to the fact that while he was in the ungraded school, when he was in Grade 5 the teacher may often have been instructing in Grade 8, so he had to work on his own. For the reason I have mentioned, I think homework is necessary. But today you cannot get any homework done, because the children have so many comic books and magazines to read, and of course there is also radio. So, as I have said, if this situation continues I think the only thing we could do is to put our text-books in the form of illustrated comic books, and then they might get some attention.

Regarding salacious literature, it is really disturbing when you find children of eight, nine and ten years of age with these filthy books. I know the case of a ten-year-old girl who had filthy sex magazines hidden under a

mattress in her bed. It goes to prove that the child knew she was doing wrong, or she would not have hidden them. I had occasion two years ago to take from a boy in school one of these little articles sometimes called "peep shows". The thing looks very innocent from the outside, but it contains a picture and a magnifying glass. This nine year old boy was carrying this thing around, showing it to the other children in the school yard. It contained a picture of two naked girls sitting in a room. Quite definitely that was not a picture of art. It was an obscene picture. As the father of five children I am very worried about this matter because the children do read these comic books. I do not object too strenuously to them reading some of the books, but when they have to be begged to put them down to come to their breakfast it is really a bad situation. In a household where this is not supervised it can lead to bad results. In our home we do supervise this to the best of our ability, and when my children trade comic books with the neighbours they bring them to us to look them over. We pick out what is not suitable and make them return them. My eldest boy is nine years of age and you would be surprised at what he brings in from trading magalines with little boys of his own age. You would certainly not want some of this stuff in your home.

Regarding the drive we have staged in Ottawa on salacious literature, as Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus I brought it up at an executive meeting on March 1st of last year, and the members were very interested and wanted to see something done about it. We felt that if we wanted to make any progress we had better secure the assistance of other similar organizations in the city. We went through the Catholic Action Society which embraces the Parent Teachers Organization, the Holy Name Society, the St. Vincent Society, and so on. There are many of them. We also wanted to embrace the Home and School Club which represents the public school children and their parents. We met with them and planned to more or less boycott—although we did not use that word because of the legal angle involved—stores that were selling salacious literature. We more or less formed a persuasion committee which would persuade people not to buy from these stores. The Home and School Club was most interested in this subject and they met with us, but they were not able to vote with us because they must have direction from their head office in Toronto. However, we did form a vigilante committee composed of ordinary people like myself to go around and drop into various stores. Where we would find this salacious literature we would tell them that we did not like it and that unless they removed it from their counters we would not give them any more of our trade, and that we would persuade other people to do likewise. This is being done throughout the city of Ottawa. I cannot speak for the entire city, but most parts of the city I have visited since this drive I have not seen any more salacious material on the counters or bookshelves of these stores that formerly sold this material.

Hon. Mr. McGUIRE: Is the material hidden?

Mr. KELLY: It is quite possible it is hidden but at least we are sheltering our children's eyes from it. Other people have told me that they have done the same thing, and we do know for a fact that the stores in certain parts of the city have been cleared of this salacious material. We have at least made some progress in having this material removed from the store windows. I know one store where they had a great display of half naked girls in the window, and they have turned these magazines around so at least you do not see them from the street any more. I attended the Knights of Columbus Convention in Windsor over the past week end and I had an opportunity to speak to representatives from all over Ontario on this topic. I told them about this committee which Senator Doone and you senators have set up here, and they expressed great interest and I know that you will be hearing from many of

them. They would like some information on just how to carry on this drive against salacious literature. They asked the Ottawa Council to prepare a brochure of how we undertook to do this work and what we have accomplished so far. They are extremely interested, as I say, and I am sure that if we all get behind this thing we can do something.

As I stated in a letter to the Honourable Senator Doone just recently, we are only fighting a small handful of people. We are the people of Canada, millions of us, and compared to our strength you could put in one hand those filthy-minded people who make a living by demoralizing our children. Are we not big enough to beat this handful of people?

Hon. Mr. McGUIRE: You appear to have got a lot of organizations in your own city interested in this. Do you not think that they could go to the various newsstands in the city that sell salacious literature and tell them that unless they get absolutely rid of this material—and not just keep it hidden—they will not receive any more of your trade? We have been given evidence that these people purchase this sort of literature because the distributors who sell proper magazines and newspapers tell them that they must take it along with the rest. Well, if they are told by the consumers that if they continue to sell these magazines the consumers will not buy the proper magazines, I think the distributors would soon quit forcing this material on our stores. You cannot expect to carry on this work in the country, but in a city of this size an intensive effort could be made.

Mr. KELLY: That is quite true.

Hon. Mr. McGUIRE: In my opinion, if you have an organization in a city such as Ottawa, representing all denominations, it would soon stop the dozen or more vendors of such obscene magazines from forcing them on the stores. I think Ottawa is a city that could be cleaned up.

Mr. KELLY: That was my object in the first place when I brought it up, and that was the plan I had in mind. We thought if we could go to enough of these vendors and say that we were not going to give them any more of our business unless they got rid of that material, they would band together and go to the distributors and advise them that they would not take any of their literature at all if they had to take the filthy along with the good.

Hon. Mr. McGUIRE: I am sure that some of the local news vendors would be glad to get rid of handling this material, especially if they thought that if they did not do so they would lose business.

Mr. KELLY: One vendor to whom I spoke some time ago was rather indignant after this matter was published in the newspapers. I walked into his store to get some stamps. I did not happen to be looking for magazines because I was in a hurry, but he walked up to me and said, "Are you looking for dirty literature today?" and I said, "Well, I don't happen to be but if you have any I'll take a look at it". However, he took me aside and he said "You people have gone about this in the wrong way. You are hitting at us, but we are not to blame". I said, "I grant you that". He said, "What we should have done is to go right to the distributors and put it to them in a nice way. They are good Christian, honest men". I said, "Perhaps they are, but they are not my idea of Christian men when they sell and distribute this kind of thing". I said, "As far as that is concerned, we have already taken steps in this and we intend to continue".

Hon. Mr. McDONALD: Do you know who those distributors are?

Mr. KELLY: We have here a gentleman who is a vendor and I am sure he will be glad to give this information.

Hon. Mr. McDONALD: It would be interesting to have a list of the distributors.

Hon. Mr. McGUIRE: We want to know their names and addresses.

Mr. KELLY: I am quite sure that you will get that information, sir.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Kelly.

The next witness will be Mr. A. Paquette, who has been interested in the suppression of this illicit trade for many years and has given much time to a study of the problem. He will speak to us from a factual standpoint.

Mr. AURIEL PAQUETTE: Honourable senators, Reverend Father, ladies and gentlemen, I am deeply grateful for your kindness in allowing me to appear before this honourable committee. For several years we have been studying this question of obscene literature in this district of Ottawa, and it is getting to be quite a problem. Last year our organization had to bring a court action against a magazine by the name of *Nifty*.

Hon. Mr. NICOL: What is the name of your organization?

Mr. PAQUETTE: The Press and Cinema Service of the Archdiocese of Ottawa. We took this action in the courts, and the National News Company, who had distributed the magazine, was fined \$100, the evidence having shown the magazine to be obscene. A few moments ago Senator Fallis mentioned that the Department of National Revenue prohibits the importation of obscene books. If I am not mistaken, I saw by the paper that a list of such books had been tabled here, or perhaps in the House of Commons.

The CHAIRMAN: I think it was in the House of Commons.

Mr. PAQUETTE: This list is in the customs house, and it is available, not for consultation but for advice. For instance, Father Gay on several occasions inquired whether certain pocket-size books that we had seen on the newsstands were allowed or not, and in January of this year we discovered on the newsstands thirteen pocket-size books that are actually banned by the Department of National Revenue. We have brought a few samples of these books here (showing books). Eight others that were banned were found on the newsstands. But there is a catch to this thing, as we pointed out to the chairman, Senator Doone, a few moments ago. All these books are marked "Printed in Canada". We found only one exception to that general rule, which is a book by Mae West under the title of *Diamond Lil*. That is the only one of these books we found which was printed in the United States and sold freely in Ottawa.

To guide ourselves in our task we follow a list of magazines submitted to us by the Legion of Decency. It is not what I would call the best guide, but nevertheless it is of considerable help. We followed this list and discovered that in January there were being sold on the newsstands thirteen books that were prohibited by the Department of National Revenue but were printed in Canada. We followed the same list in March and found thirty-three of these books prohibited by the Department of National Revenue but yet being sold here freely.

Hon. Mr. NICOL: Where can we obtain a list of those books prohibited by the Department of National Revenue?

Mr. PAQUETTE: I understand that list was tabled in the House of Commons a few weeks ago. But this is a list published by the Legion of Decency, and is only a guide so far as we are concerned. When we find a book which from its cover or its text we regard as a filthy book, Father Gay goes to the trouble of finding out whether it has been banned by the Department of National Revenue.

Hon. Mrs. FALLIS: Mr. Chairman, may I ask the witness if the material for these books is prepared in the United States and then sent to Canada to be printed?

Mr. PAQUETTE: Madam, as far as I know the department allows one copy to come in without charge, and after that copy is in it is published by the thousands. We have a law that stops these magazines from crossing the border, yet they can be printed in Canada and distributed by the thousands of copies.

Hon. Mrs. FALLIS: It seems reasonable that if one copy is allowed in they might as well allow free entry.

Mr. PAQUETTE: Yes.

This is what we call real cynicism.

Out of fifty-one comic books condemned as immoral by the Legion of Decency in January 1952, we found twenty-one. And then, as to pocket-size books, the following figures may be interesting. Out of twenty Avon publications condemned, two were found; out of thirteen Bantam publications condemned, two were found; out of ten Dell publications condemned, one was found; out of thirty Gold Medal publications condemned, two were found; out of twenty-seven Pocket Books publications condemned, five were found; out of thirteen Popular Library publications condemned, one was found; out of fifty-three Signet publications condemned, seven were found.

Out of 112 condemned magazines, we have found sixty-two, or more than half the number condemned. And out of five comics that were banned, we found three being sold. So we may say that in January more than half of the magazines condemned were being sold here in Ottawa.

Hon. Mr. NICOL: When you refer to publications as being banned, you mean they were banned by the department?

Mr. PAQUETTE: I am referring to the books shown as banned on the list published by the Legion of Decency.

Hon. Mr. NICOL: They were banned by the National Organization of Decency.

Mr. PAQUETTE: That is right. As I said, there were only thirteen books in January, and twenty-three in March which were banned by the Department of National Revenue.

Hon. Mr. NICOL: Thank you.

Mr. PAQUETTE: Gentlemen, if you will allow me to proceed I shall now pass on to another subject which we regard as a serious one, namely, the novelties that are being spread throughout Canada. There appears to be quite a flow of them at the present time coming for the most part from Japan.

We find, for instance, a particular type of playing card. You will excuse me if we do not have samples, but since the Ottawa Police Department have started their drive to clean up the city, the shelves seem to be quite clean today. These novelties have been submitted to the Ottawa Police for use in the trial that is pending. The 52 cards each have a picture of a naked woman. Some might not regard it as immoral, but the woman is absolutely naked. On other cards there is portrayed a naked couple. I have not seen anything that I would call art on any of these cards. To make it still worse, there are cards on which appear two women and one man, in the nude.

We have also what is called telescopic views; again, it is a picture of a naked woman. We find strip-teases for sale in the novelty shops, and of course they are sold to certain customers only. They consist of a folder with two pieces of cardboard; when one is inserted above the picture and another below it, there appears a picture of a naked woman. We have also the films which are used at stag parties, which is something to be alarmed at. There are also post-cards, photographs and pictures representing nudes.

There is a very common thing now being displayed in windows throughout this city, and possibly across the country. It consists of a set of beer mugs: The first one shows a woman with a dress on, on the second mug she is undress-

ing, on the third she is half dressed, and so on until she is completely nude, and on the last mug she is in the position of taking a dive into the beer. Thank goodness, this novelty was not thought up by any Canadian, but comes from Japan. Just last evening I was on Bank street, close to MacLaren, when I saw two sets of these mugs displayed in store windows. They are on the market, on Rideau street, and even in west Ottawa.

Hon. Mr. VAILLANCOURT: Do these things go through the customs?

Mr. PAQUETTE: Yes. Also we have lamps of a questionable make-up. It is getting rather fancy in Ottawa to exhibit in the electrical stores lamps which has as their base a nude woman. We even find some smoker stands so designed. We even find lures for fishermen shaped as a naked woman with the hooks on her. That is the last place I expected to see a naked woman. All these articles come from Japan.

Referring to the question asked by Honourable Mrs. Fallis, as to article 1201 of the Customs Tariff, it is plainly stated that:

Books, printed matter, drawings, paintings, prints, photographs or representations of any kind—

Those words I wish to underline.

representations of any kind of a treasonable or seditious, immoral or indecent character

One should also look at section 13 of chapter 30 of the Statutes of 1931, having to do with the Customs Tariff item referred to:

The importation into Canada of any goods enumerated, described or referred to in Schedule C of this Act is prohibited; and any such goods imported thereby become forfeited to the Crown, and shall be destroyed or otherwise dealt with as the Minister directs; and any person importing such prohibited goods or causing, or permitting them to be imported shall for each offence incur a penalty not exceeding \$200.

There is a great deal that I could say on this matter, gentlemen, but I have taken up enough of your valuable time. Thank you, Senator Doone and members of the committee. I am hopeful that this inquiry will bring about the results which it expects.

Hon. Mr. McDONALD: Mr. Chairman, may I ask the witness does he know who the distributors of these books are?

Mr. PAQUETTE: There are two firms here in Ottawa, the American News and National News.

Hon. Mr. McDONALD: They handle all of the supply that comes here?

Mr. PAQUETTE: I do not want to infringe on what my friend who knows something of the business may have to say. He will be able to give us more details about the distribution of these books.

Hon. Mr. VAILLANCOURT: According to your experience, is it more costly to publish a good magazine or a filthy one?

Mr. PAQUETTE: From our experience in the past we have discovered that an author who is not well known may come out with a filthy story. We have quite a few in mind, who have done that. They are unknown to the public, and suddenly they bring out a spicy story, and that is how they become known. They may bring out some educational matters too, of course.

Hon. Mr. VAILLANCOURT: It means that instead of gaining ground, we are losing.

Mr. PAQUETTE: I also submitted to the members of the committee two magazines.

Hon. Mr. VAILLANCOURT: We have the same thing in Montreal and Quebec; it is not only in Ottawa.

Mr. PAQUETTE: But right now all the shelves are clean on account of that drive that is in progress—the drive which is awaiting the decision of the courts.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Paquette. Before I call on Mr. Grenier, I believe that Father Gay would wish to supplement his brief with a few remarks.

Father PAUL GAY (Through the interpreter): In the name of the Archbishop of Ottawa and in the name of the Catholics of the provinces of Ontario and Quebec, I wish to thank the committee for the excellent idea you had of instituting this committee to investigate salacious and indecent matters. To a question that Senator Vaillancourt asked, whether it was more expensive to publish clean magazines than filthy ones, I would answer that it is not more expensive, but it is more difficult, it requires more intelligence. After six years of personal investigation we have found—and it is confirmed by the Massey report—that filthy literature is being distributed throughout Canada. I have been teaching in Canada for the past sixteen years, and according to my own experience I have found that the young person who has been fed on these crime comics and so forth will never be able to understand either Racine or Shakespeare. The main point is, not to annihilate those crime comics, but to ameliorate or improve them, because our population, either young or old, need them, but they have to be improved. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: Have you noticed any effect in the province of Quebec following the censorship which is in force under chapter 12 of the Statutes of 1950?

Father GAY: I believe that the act passed by parliament did a lot of good, but there is still too much tendency in this country to print magazines which exploit the lower moral instincts or sexual instincts of the population.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS: Could I add a little to the translation of Father Gay's remarks about the Massey report? I think he said that the object of the Massey report was to raise the culture of this country, and that these crime comics and other sexual books lower it. I think that point is essential in our evidence, and, with no reflection on the translator, it was not quite clearly brought out.

Hon. Mr. VAILLANCOURT: To continue with what Senator Davis was saying, four years ago we had some of these publications, and they were not filthy, but they were interesting, and instead of lowering morals they elevated them. Would it not be possible to have the same illustrated publications, which would not be filthy, now?

Father GAY: As I said the other day, and Senator Lacasse confirmed it a few days ago, today we are getting down to lower standards of morals and we are losing faith.

Hon. Mr. NICOL: There are many people who say that more people go to church nowadays. How can we say, therefore, that in the province of Quebec people are losing faith?

Hon. Mr. LACASSE: It is a trend. Mankind has been fooled in so many ways that he is inclined not to believe anything any more. I want to make it clear that I was not alluding to Quebec or Sherbrooke particularly.

Father GAY: The point is that there is a tendency for people to lose faith.

The CHAIRMAN: The next witness will be Mr. Wilfrid Grenier, who is a member and vice-president of the Ottawa Branch of the Credited Public Accountants. He is also actively engaged in the trade and will present for the benefit of the committee the vendors' position.

WILFRID GRENIER, Public Accountant and member of the Press and Cinema Service of the Archdiocese of Ottawa: Honourable Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, reverend father, ladies and gentlemen, I would rather give testimony than present a brief. I think I could answer your questions more to the point if I started to talk about distribution. I happen to be a public accountant but I also have a distribution point for these magazines.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS: Are you representing the distributors?

Mr. GRENIER: I am a retailer. I have not consulted the others to get their opinions, but I am speaking for myself as a retailer. In other words, I have a store.

Hon. Mr. NICOL: You are a retailer as well as an accountant?

Mr. GRENIER: Yes.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS: But you are not representing the retailers.

Mr. GRENIER: I am just speaking for myself.

The CHAIRMAN: He is representing the vendors' point of view only.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS: He has one store.

Mr. GRENIER: Yes. I want to make my position quite clear because somebody may say I have no authority to speak for them, which I have not. I am speaking on behalf of one representative and one retailer, myself.

The CHAIRMAN: I wonder, Mr. Grenier, if to open up the discussion you might state the position with regard to what has been termed the "package sale"?

Mr. GRENIER: Yes. Our store receives magazines from two distributors in Ottawa, the American News and the National News. The deliveries are made by each on alternate dates. For instance, one distributor will distribute on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and the other on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. The distributor will come in, let us say, on a Monday morning and give us a bundle which had apparently been prepared on Saturday of the previous week. That bundle will include most of the publications that the distributor handles. They are in varying quantities and you may have a sample of one book or twenty or thirty of another. When a bundle is made up it weighs possibly seventy-five pounds. It is brought to the retailer's store and thrown on his doorstep. This bundle is made up of all types of magazines. You may have *Time*, *Life*, *Newsweek*, *Quick*, *People*, *Eyefull*, *Girls*, *True Romance*, *Real Romance*, and so on. These books may be on knitting, crocheting or sports. There is a whole batch of them.

The CHAIRMAN: They are not delivered by reason of any order?

Mr. GRENIER: No, they are just piled up and we take the package in and place the magazines on the shelf. The normal procedure in our store is to remove last week's issue and replace them by this week's issue. These books and magazines are printed and dated two or three months in advance. We are now selling August magazines. This means that the people in Ottawa will read an August magazine now and when it is finished they will want the September edition. What has not been sold we are at liberty to return to the distributors, and they in turn can sell them in the North Pole in July and the magazines will still be current issues. That is the policy they follow. When we get these bundles we immediately place what we call the good magazines on the shelves. As to the ones we do not think are good, we have no alternative but to place them on the shelves or to place them underneath the counter to be returned to the distributor the following week. Incidentally, the distributors will not take back publications the same week. What I mean to say is, the distributor will not take back this week's magazine until next week. In other words, we have to hold them for at least a week.

Hon. Mr. NICOL: In your contract with them are you obliged to display these magazines?

Mr. GRENIER: No. We have no written contract with them. They can drop us today or we can drop them today. There is no binding contract, but we have to take the bundle, and if we take it we have to choose as to whether we are going to expose all the magazines and sell them or put them under the counter. If we have them under the counter we are faced with the difficulty of explaining to the people that we have not got them.

Hon. Mr. McDONALD: Would they not deliver to you the bundle of books that you wanted with the indecent books taken out?

Mr. GRENIER: I have requested that, not in writing but orally, but there has been no improvement. For instance, *Popular Science* is a good seller and I have a lot of requests for it, but I receive only four or five copies of that magazine as compared with thirty or forty copies of magazines of this type (holding up a magazine for display). They tell us "There is money in these magazines, but none in the other. Why don't you sell more of these?" So there you have the situation. We are not tied down to selling these books, but we have to receive a certain number of them in our shipments.

Hon. Mrs. FALLIS: If you do not sell any of this co-called indecent literature, you are at liberty to return it?

Mr. GRENIER: That is true, senator.

Hon. Mrs. FALLIS: And you are not charged for it?

Mr. GRENIER: No. We are charged for it in the first place at the wholesale price, and we get a credit for it at the wholesale price. But that involves the handling of the books, the possibility of depreciation or loss by theft, and all that sort of thing, for weeks. We are using in our store this list which is put out by the National Organization on Indecent Literature, but the list comes to us about a month late. However, we are doing our best to avoid the sale of indecent literature.

Hon. Mr. McDONALD: Is it true that a retailer makes more money out of the sale of indecent publications than out of decent publications?

Mr. GRENIER: Well, you will sell ten of these indecent magazines to one of, say, *Popular Mechanics* or *Reader's Digest*. So if you make one cent per copy, your profit will be ten times larger if you sell the indecent magazines than if you sell the decent ones. That is what I mean.

Hon. Mr. McDONALD: And there is more money for the distributors in the sale of indecent magazines?

Mr. GRENIER: Yes, sir, because they sell more copies of them. We received just lately a magazine called *Man*; it is the most gruesome thing I have ever seen, describing the war in Korea.

Hon. Mr. VAILLANCOURT: Could you not receive from the distributors more copies of *Popular Science* if you asked to have them sent to you instead of an equal number of indecent magazines?

Mr. GRENIER: It would be very difficult to have that done, sir. We might get one or two extra copies of *Popular Science*. I remember an instance of not long ago. The *Catholic Digest* published a good story on Monsignor Sheen, who had recently been created a Bishop. I wanted to get a considerable number of copies—I wanted one to keep for myself—and I was able to get only a single copy.

Hon. Mr. LACASSE: Who is responsible for the apportionment?

Mr. GRENIER: That is done by the distributors, the wholesalers.

Hon. Mr. NICOL: In New York?

Mr. GRENIER: No, locally.

Hon. Mr. LACASSE: Do you not think they are the ones who should be dealt with?

Mr. GRENIER: Yes. At present the onus of whether to sell or not to sell these indecent magazines is on the retailer, and I believe it should be shifted over to the distributors.

Hon. Mr. MCGUIRE: Where are the headquarters of the two distributors you have mentioned?

Mr. GRENIER: I believe, sir, that they are in New York.

Hon. Mr. MCGUIRE: But where are their Canadian headquarters?

Mr. GRENIER: I believe that the Canadian headquarters of both the National News and the American News are in Toronto. The American News is just a branch of American News of New York; it is the Dell Publishing Company, which calls itself the American News for distribution purposes.

Hon. Mr. LACASSE: Do you send your correspondence to Toronto?

Mr. GRENIER: No, we deal with the local office here.

Hon. Mr. MCGUIRE: Where is the local office in Ottawa?

Mr. GRENIER: The American News is at 60 York street, and the National News is at 465 Sussex.

As a practical point we are using the list published by the National Organization on Indecent Literature, 506 South Wasbush avenue, Chicago 5, Illinois. That list gives the publications found objectionable by the Decency Committee, and also the publications that are acceptable. We try to follow that list wherever possible. It is published a month late, because companies like the Dell Publishing Company change their books every month. Sometimes they change the name. I found one a couple of days ago called *Focus*, a very attractive publication that fits easily into the pocket and can be carried about on the train or plane or wherever you go, and a convenient means of spreading the disease.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS: Does the Legion of Decency publish that list?

Mr. GRENIER: It is published by the National Organization on Indecent Literature.

Hon. Mr. MCGUIRE: It is very important in the United States.

Mr. GRENIER: The address is 506 South Wabash avenue, Chicago 5, Illinois. The charge is \$1 a year, and the list is received monthly.

Hon. Mr. McDONALD: Is that an international organization?

Mr. GRENIER: I do not know the extent of its operations, sir.

Hon. Mr. McDONALD: The list is distributed throughout the United States and Canada?

Mr. GRENIER: Yes. It is an American list, published in the United States for Americans, and we apply it here.

Hon. Mr. BEAUBIEN: Mr. Chairman, I am not a member of the committee, but may I ask a question?

The CHAIRMAN: By all means.

Hon. Mr. BEAUBIEN: Suppose that out of a bundle of magazines you receive from the distributors you place a number under the counter and return them a week or so later, and you make a practice of doing that, would the distributors continue to send you a bundle every week or would they discontinue serving you?

Mr. GRENIER: In the last year and a half we have returned these indecent magazines every week consistently. The volume and type have changed a bit; for instance, we are not getting any more of *Eyeful*, or of certain others. That

may be because of the drive that has gone on here to ban these books, but in place of them we are getting others almost as bad. Does that answer your question, sir?

Hon. Mr. BEAUBIEN: No. The point I am trying to make clear is this. The retailer in Ottawa and in any other part of Canada is master of his own business and he can do a great deal to prevent or restrict the sale of these obscene and repulsive magazines, can he not?

Mr. GRENIER: That is true, sir, and we try to do that in our own establishment. But if Tom or John comes in and wants a specific book and we have not got it, he is going to go somewhere else to get it.

The CHAIRMAN: And he will go somewhere else for his other books too?

Mr. GRENIER: Yes. I will give an illustration. Two or three young married women come into our store. I spend only a few hours a day there, but I happened to be there one day when a young married woman, who had been married only about six or seven months, came in, and asked for *Real Romance*. I said to her, "Well, it would be second-hand, anyway, but in any event we have not got *Real Romance*; we are not selling it." She was very peeved with the store and said, "I will never come back here again." I have appeared here today of my own accord; nobody brought me here. I possibly shall lose a lot of business because of coming here, but I think the problem is important enough for me to appear, and that is why I have come.

Hon. Mrs. FALLIS: Mr. Chairman, I should like to ask the witness about this package that comes to him each day. About how many magazines would it contain, of such numbers as *Life*, *Good Housekeeping*, *Saturday Evening Post*?

Mr. GRENIER: There may be 60 or 70; maybe there are 25 of one kind, three of another and four of another.

Hon. Mrs. FALLIS: How many magazines would that represent?

Mr. GRENIER: It may be eight or nine different publications. For instance, we may get 25 of *Hopalong Cassidy*.

Hon. Mrs. FALLIS: I presume that a good deal of work is entailed in separating the magazines and deciding which should be kept and which will sell.

Mr. GRENIER: It is a big job for the retailers. I have a girl that is at that work all the time. She follows these lists, and she asks me "What do you think of this one?" She asks about all new publications, and we have to decide what we are going to do in each case; inevitably, some slip through and are put on the shelves.

Hon. Mr. LACASSE: Can you order additional copies of magazines of which you were short the week previous? For instance, if I wanted to get a copy of the magazine containing the photograph of Monsigneur Sheen, can I get a copy from you?

Mr. GRENIER: The *Reader's Digest* is the magazine to which you refer, and I was not able to get another copy.

Hon. Mr. LACASSE: You were cut off?

Mr. GRENIER: We got one copy; I had one for myself, and I had a few friends who wanted to get a good picture of Monsigneur Sheen, professor at Washington University.

Hon. Mr. STAMBAUGH: Do good magazines like *MacLean's* come in this package you speak of?

Mr. GRENIER: Yes, they do.

Hon. Mr. HOWARD: And does *Reader's Digest* come in the same package?

Mr. GRENIER: Yes. If we buy from American News, we get *Quick*, *Newsweek*, *Life*, *Time* and a few others. But they always put the good magazines at the bottom of the bundle. For instance if a customer asks for *Time*, we have to go through the bundle to get it.

Hon. Mr. LACASSE: In other words, it takes more time to get *Time*.

Mr. GRENIER: Yes; and you stop getting it too.

Hon. Mr. MCGUIRE: You would require a censor in every retail store?

Mr. GRENIER: It would amount to that.

Hon. Mr. LACASSE: Is there just one magazine by the name of "*Focus*", or are they all focuses of infection?

Mr. GRENIER: They are all "focused" to a certain extent. May I thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity of coming and testifying before you.

The CHAIRMAN: Has anyone any comment to make from the proceedings today?

Hon. Mr. LACASSE: I think, Mr. Chairman, most of our attention should be directed to the distribution agencies. From what we have heard this morning, the retailers are made victims and tools—in some cases unwilling tools—of the distributing agency. I think our attention should be focused on the agencies. Did not somebody mention at the last meeting having Mr. O'Brien appear before us?

The CHAIRMAN: We did not suggest his coming here, but his name was mentioned.

I may say that I received a letter from the Murray Pharmacy of Hamilton, offering the same type of testimony that Mr. Grenier has just given, to the effect that he could return books and was not penalized in any way for doing it, other than the inconvenience and temporary outlay of money.

Hon. Mr. LACASSE: Does Mr. Grenier know anything about the O'Brien agency?

Mr. GRENIER: No, I don't believe it is in Ottawa.

Hon. Mr. LACASSE: No, it is Toronto.

Mr. GRENIER: Toronto and Hamilton.

The CHAIRMAN: I may advise that there are two solicitors who wish to appear before the committee. One wishes to attend all meetings, but I do not think that is advisable, nor do I see the necessity for it. These two solicitors for distributors are Mr. David Croll, member of parliament and former mayor of Windsor, and Mr. Mannie Brown of Toronto. However we do not know exactly what the position is yet and what we may require of them.

Hon. Mrs. FALLIS: I think it would be very wise to defer calling them 'till we have further information.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS: According to your idea, Mr. Grenier, the American News and the National News are the two distributors in North America which control the situation.

Mr. GRENIER: I wouldn't go so far as to say they control the situation. I know them locally. I also know that they have branches elsewhere, but I don't know whether their field of action is international, or whether they are a monopoly.

Hon. Mr. McDONALD: They are the only distributors in Ottawa.

Mr. GRENIER: As far as I know they are the only major distributors in Ottawa.

Hon. Mr. McDONALD: I move we adjourn.

The CHAIRMAN: I wish to thank the members of the delegations who have appeared before us today.

The Committee adjourned.

The history of the United States is a story of growth and expansion. From a small collection of colonies on the eastern coast, it grew into a vast nation that stretched across the continent. The early years were marked by struggle and conflict, as the colonies fought for their independence from British rule. The American Revolution was a turning point in the nation's history, leading to the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. The new nation then faced the challenge of building a government that would unite the diverse states and provide for the common good. The Constitution was drafted in 1787 and put into effect in 1789, establishing a system of checks and balances that has endured to this day. The years following the Revolution were a period of rapid growth and development. The nation expanded westward, settling new lands and building a strong economy. The Industrial Revolution brought about significant changes in the way people lived and worked, leading to the growth of cities and the rise of a new middle class. The American Civil War, fought from 1861 to 1865, was a defining moment in the nation's history, as it resolved the issue of slavery and preserved the Union. The war led to the passage of the Emancipation Proclamation and the Reconstruction Amendments, which laid the foundation for a more just and equal society. In the years following the Civil War, the nation continued to grow and develop, becoming a world power. The Spanish-American War of 1898 marked the beginning of the United States' emergence as a global force. The nation's influence grew as it acquired territories in the Caribbean and the Pacific, and as it became a leading industrial and military power. The 20th century was a period of great change and challenge for the United States. The nation was drawn into two world wars, which tested its strength and resolve. The Great Depression of the 1930s was a time of economic hardship, but it also led to the passage of New Deal legislation, which helped to stabilize the economy and provide relief to the suffering. The Cold War, which lasted from the end of World War II until the early 1990s, was a period of intense rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union. The nation's leadership in the world was challenged, but it emerged as a superpower. The 1960s and 1970s were a time of social and cultural change, as the nation grappled with issues such as the Vietnam War, the civil rights movement, and the environmental movement. The 1980s and 1990s were a period of economic growth and technological advancement, but they were also marked by the end of the Cold War and the rise of new global powers. The 21st century has been a time of great uncertainty and challenge for the United States. The nation has faced a global financial crisis, a major terrorist attack, and a pandemic that has affected the entire world. Despite these challenges, the United States remains a leading power in the world, and its history continues to shape the future of the nation.

1952

THE SENATE OF CANADA



PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Special Committee on Sale and Distribution of Salacious and Indecent Literature

No. 2

TUESDAY, JUNE 10, 1952

The Honourable J. J. HAYES DOONE, *Chairman.*

WITNESSES:

- Mrs. J. D. Detwiler, M.B.E., F.R.S.A., National Vice-President, I.O.D.E., London, Ontario.
- Mrs. George Gould, President, Ottawa Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Parent-Teacher Associations.
- Alderman James McAuley, Member, Parent-Teacher Association, Ottawa, Ontario.
- Mr. Markland Smith, Chairman, Federation of French Speaking Parent-Teacher Associations of the Ottawa Area.
- Mr. C. O'Reilly, President of the Legion of Mary, Diocese of Ottawa, Timmins, Mount Laurier and Alexandria.
- Mr. Vincent Kelly, Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus, Ottawa, Ontario.
- Dr. F. J. McDonald, English Separate School Inspector, Ontario Department of Education, Ottawa.

THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE ON SALE
AND DISTRIBUTION OF SALACIOUS AND
INDECENT LITERATURE

The Honourable J. J. Hayes Doone, Chairman.

The Honourable Senators

Bouffard,
Burchill,
David,
Davis,
Doone,
Duffus,
Fallis,

Farquhar,
Gershaw,
Lacasse,
McDonald,
McGuire,
McIntyre,
Pratt,

Quinn,
Reid,
Stambaugh,
Stevenson,
Vaillancourt,
Wilson.

20 members.

Quorum 5

ORDER OF REFERENCE

Extract from the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Senate, Thursday, May 8, 1952.

"That a special committee of the Senate be appointed, authorized and directed to examine into all phases, circumstances and conditions relating to the sale and distribution in Canada of—

1. Salacious and indecent literature;
2. Publications otherwise objectionable from the standpoint of crime promotion, including crime comics, treasonable and perverse tracts and periodicals;
3. Lewd drawings, pictures, photographs and articles whether offered as art or otherwise presented for circulation.

That without limiting the scope of its inquiry, the committee be authorized and directed to examine into—

- (a) Sources of supply of the above noted items;
- (b) Means and extent of distribution thereof;
- (c) Relative departmental responsibility for entry or transmission;
- (d) Sufficiency of existing legislation to define terms in relation thereto;
- (e) Relative responsibility for law enforcement and effective legal measures of dealing with this problem.

That the committee have the power to send for persons, papers and records, and to secure such services and assistance as may be necessary for the proper prosecution of its inquiries.

That the said committee shall report its findings to this House.

L. C. MOYER,
Clerk of the Senate."

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Friday, June 15, 1951
8:00 P.M.

1. Roll call
2. Reading of minutes of the previous meeting
3. Report of the Secretary

4. Report of the Treasurer
5. Report of the Executive Committee

6. Report of the Finance Committee

- (a) Report of the Finance Committee
- (b) Report of the Finance Committee
- (c) Report of the Finance Committee
- (d) Report of the Finance Committee
- (e) Report of the Finance Committee

7. Report of the Finance Committee
8. Report of the Finance Committee

9. Report of the Finance Committee
10. Report of the Finance Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

TUESDAY, June 10, 1952.

Pursuant to adjournment and notice the Special Committee on Sale and Distribution of Salacious and Indecent Literature met this day at 10.30 a.m.

Present: The Honourable Senators:—Doone, Chairman; Burchill, David, Davis, Gershaw, Lacasse, McDonald, McGuire, McIntyre, Reid, Vaillancourt and Wilson—12.

Consideration of the order of reference of May 8, 1952, was resumed.

The following were heard:—

Mrs. J. D. Detwiler, M.B.E., F.R.S.A., National Vice-President, Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire, London, Ontario.

Mrs. George Gould, President, Ottawa Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Parent-Teacher Associations.

Alderman James McAuley, Member, Parent-Teacher Association, Ottawa, Ontario.

Mr. Markland Smith, Chairman, Federation of French Speaking Parent-Teacher Associations of the Ottawa Area.

Mr. C. O'Reilly, President of the Legion of Mary, Diocese of Ottawa, Timmins, Mount Laurier and Alexandria.

Mr. Vincent Kelly, Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus, Ottawa, Ontario.

Dr. F. J. McDonald, English Separate School Inspector, Ontario Department of Education, Ottawa.

A clipping from the *New York Times*, filed by the Honourable Senator David, was read by the clerk.

At 12.30 p.m. the Committee adjourned until Tuesday next, June 17, at 10.30 a.m.

JOHN A. HINDS,
Clerk of the Committee.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

THE SENATE

OTTAWA, Tuesday, June 10, 1952.

The Special Committee appointed to examine into the sale and distribution of salacious and indecent literature met this day at 10.30 a.m.

Hon. Mr. Doone in the Chair.

The CHAIRMAN: Honourable senators, shall we come to order? In opening the last meeting of the committee mention was made of certain church, social and civic organizations who had expressed an interest in the investigation now going forward. The names of such organizations were listed and formed part of the record. Since then the committee has received communications from further groups, and in conformity with our previous practice, I presume the latter should also be listed for publication. I therefore submit their names as follows: Rev. Dr. F. Scott McKenzie, Chairman of the Board of Education, The Presbyterian Church in Canada; Rev. R. H. Hamilton, President of Canadian Executive Board of the Free Methodist Church in Canada; Rev. F. J. Lynch, S.J., President of St. Mary's University, Halifax, N.S.; Most Rev. J. H. McDonald, Archbishop of Edmonton, Alta.; Most Rev. William Smith, Bishop of Pembroke; The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, Toronto, Ont.; Reverend Mother General, St. Vincent's College, Halifax, N.S.; Rev. Mother General, Providence Mother House, Kingston, Ont.; Training School for Girls, Galt, Ont.; Canadian Girl Guides Association, Toronto, Ont.; The Ontario Federation of Home and School Association Inc.; Holy Name Society, Milltown, N.B.; St. Ann's Church, Greenock, Ont.; Diocesan Committee Catholic Action, Montreal, P.Q.; St. Mary's Catholic Youth Organization, Kitchener, Ont.; The Dominion Anglican Young People's Association, Toronto, Ont.; The League of the Sacred Heart, Levis, P.Q.; Catholic Women's League, Hamilton, Ont.; The League of the Sacred Heart, Saint Joachim, P.Q.; Le Cercle Lecordaire et Saint Jeanne d'Arc, Saint Joachim, P.Q.; Holy Name Society, Guelph, Ont.; The Province of Prince Edward Island; Chamber of Commerce, Beauport, P.Q.; Board of Control, City of Toronto; Board of Control, City of Ottawa; Labour Progressive Party, Toronto, Ont.; Extension Department, University of Ottawa; The League of the Sacred Heart, Saint Urban, P.Q.; The Children of Mary, Saint Urban, P.Q.; La Fraternite des Tertiares, Saint Urban, P.Q.; Newspapers: Notre Temps, Le Devoir, and the Kitchener-Waterloo Record.

I believe today we have with us—

Hon. Mr. LACASSE: Excuse me, Mr. Chairman, but are all those communications favourable to the investigation?

The CHAIRMAN: All favourable. A great number of them have expressed a desire to present briefs. A few would like to do so immediately, but most have said that they would rather have time, that if there is a fall session they would prefer to present their briefs at that time. This morning we have with us the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire, represented by Mrs. J. D. Detwiler, M.B.E., F.R.S.A., National Vice-President, and by Mrs. O. M. Martin, National Educational Secretary. I would call first upon Mrs. Detwiler.

Mrs. J. D. DETWILER, M.B.E., F.R.S.A., National Vice-President, I.O.D.E.: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all I should say that the Order would

like to have had more time in order to prepare this brief, but we were glad to have the privilege of presenting one to this Special Committee. In the following pages I am going to outline the work done by the Order.

The Imperial Daughters of the Empire, with a membership of approximately 32,000, is organized throughout Canada in 932 local units known as chapters. As the largest women's patriotic organization in the Dominion it has served the country through peace and war and has expended many millions of dollars on its varied activities.

It has created two Educational War Memorials with a total capital of \$1,100,000.00 to provide

- (a) Bursaries for the sons and daughters of men and women of the Services,
- (b) Scholarships (overseas) for brilliant students, graduates of Canadian universities, for the purpose of providing leaders in all spheres of Canadian life.

The Order's expenditure on Education alone amounted to \$167,384.15 this past year.

The Order is a body of voluntary workers, guided by aims and objects among which are the following: "To forward every good work for the betterment of their country and people; to assist in the progress of art and literature; to draw women's influence to the bettering of all things connected with Canada and the British Commonwealth and Empire".

Realizing that the strength of a democracy lies not in the hands of the intellectuals, but in the hands of the average citizen, the Order through its regular Educational program concentrates on the development of the average child. For this reason it is anxious to present a Brief to this Special Committee of the Senate because its members are convinced that the sale and distribution of salacious and indecent literature are not in the best interests of Canadian people.

The steps taken by the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire in an effort to eliminate the so-called "comic" are set forth as follows:

(1) In November 1945 resolutions from the province of Quebec urged the "elimination of undesirable comic books", and the "importation of children's magazines from Britain." These were referred to the Educational Committee for study.

(2) In April 1946 a resolution asking for a thorough study of literature available to children was received from the province of Saskatchewan. This was also referred to the Educational Committee.

In order to deal intelligently with these resolutions, a Dominion-wide survey of available reading material for children and young people was undertaken in 1947 by the National Educational Committee. Questionnaires were sent to all provinces and the information gathered was tabulated as follows:

- (a) There is no actual scarcity of suitable reading material for children and young people but they seem to prefer the so-called "comic" and the cheap sensational type of magazine.
- (b) Opinions are divided as to the availability of suitable reading material at low cost. Two provinces say "no". Two felt there is an adequate supply at reasonably low prices but these books are not attractive and children choose the "comics" in preference.
- (c) There are approximately 125 "comic" books published, with types too numerous to mention. One newspaper editor in the United States examined 108 "comic" books and found seventy per cent altogether undesirable. A survey committee in Victoria, B.C., estimates that less than ten per cent of the "comics" are at all desirable.

Few and deadly dull are the comics that even pretend to be comical. The humour has disappeared. Instead we have Superman and gangs of thieves, G-men and sadistic murderers who carve their way through the "funny pages" talking plain talk, and giving people "the works".

- (d) Comics are on sale at all news stands, many shoe-shine parlors and tobacco shops. They also are stocked in pool rooms and children go there to make their purchases. Book stores refuse to stock "comics" because children, coming to buy, handle and soil other merchandise.
- (e) The "comic strips" however, are mild in comparison with the "escape literature" of today. Just to look at the gruesome cover pictures on a news-stand is enough to make one's hair curl. Yet apparently people, including children, read it, and in fact demand it. The "bad" versus the "good" is the theme nowadays and the ugly chatter of machine guns and the wham-wham of black automatics are altogether commonplace.

(3) In May 1948 following the report on the survey of comics the following resolution was passed at the National Annual Meeting in Halifax.

Whereas there are available in this country, published here or brought in from the United States, magazines and books poor in literary style, and vulgar, suggestive, and obscene in content, and

Whereas the members of the National Educational Committee have carefully examined some of these publications, and are unanimous in the opinion that indulgence in such magazines and books not only constitutes a great waste of money and time but destroys in the reader his strength of character and social efficiency which ultimately tends to injure the moral tone of the community.

Therefore be it recommended that the federal authorities be made acquainted with the situation and urged to take steps to provide remedial measures.

An acknowledgment was received from the Prime Minister's office.

(4) In the autumn of 1948 other women's organizations, several church denominations, as well as a few City Councils were approached regarding their attitude toward "crime comics" and various types of salacious literature. It was found that very little positive action had been taken, although all indicated much concern over the problem.

However the drive against unwholesome literature has done much to arouse public opinion. "Comics" are now being banned from drug stores by the British Columbia and Manitoba Provincial Drug Associations, Teacher, Trustee, and Church organizations are passing resolutions, and the National Federation of Home and School, the National Council of Women, and other nationally organized groups have requested the revision of the Criminal Code in respect to this type of literature. A statement by the Hon. J. L. Ilsley, then Minister of Justice, that he had drafted an amendment to the Criminal Code was heartening, but nothing came of it.

The Church of England has had considerable success from time to time in having a particular book or magazine banned but unfortunately others, just as bad, soon take their place. The General Secretary's opinion is, "that pressure by law is ineffective, and that the remedy lies in arousing public opinion".

The teachers and education leaders in Fredericton N.B. prohibit "comics" on school premises because (i) pupils exchange them and this type of reading is considered detrimental to good oral reading, preparation of homework, and the appreciation of good literature, (ii) pupils will spend lunch money, carfare, and money given by parents for school supplies to get another "comic" since most "comics" carry "to be continued" series.

Nevertheless, banning is not enough. Something positive is needed as a counter attraction. This is being met in various ways. Two publications "Catholic Comics" and "Classics Illustrated" are now available. The former contains serials like "Treasure Island", "The Life of St. Paul", "Stories of Explorers", etc., while the latter features stories of the world's greatest authors, including such writers as Alexandre Dumas, Sir Walter Scott, Charles Dickens, Lewis Carroll and William Shakespeare. Both magazines are illustrated in regulation "comic" style.

However, the first step toward real control of "comics" has been taken by the publishers themselves. Fourteen of the leading publishing houses (with a combined monthly circulation of fourteen million) agreed to a clean-up campaign of their own. They set up a voluntary association and adopted a "comics code" pledging good, wholesome entertainment or education. It also promised to see that none of its members publishes material "that may in any way lower the moral standard of those who read them".

Letters of commendation were sent from the National Executive Committee I.O.D.E. to the Association of Comic Magazine Publishers, to the British Columbia and Manitoba Retail Drug Associations, and to the Canadian Pharmaceutical Association concerning their action on salacious literature.

In addition, the Order, through their provincial representatives, contacted the Provincial Retail Drug Associations of Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia asking them to take action regarding salacious literature, similar to that taken in British Columbia and Manitoba. Nothing came of this effort.

(5) In 1949 Bill 10 (Fulton Bill) was passed. Though severely criticized for making the retailer responsible for determining whether what he sells is lawful or not, at least it has put a stop to the sale of publications which focus juvenile attention on the subjects of murder, arson, and bank robbery.

The fight, however, is by no means over. Both Canadian and American Comic Industries are bringing pressure to bear on the Federal Government to have the restrictions against the distribution of such books relaxed. Moreover another type of "comic" has appeared on the market—the "Sex Comic", the so-called "passion" literature. This type is being promoted to compensate for the loss of the "crime comic" book trade. It is a flouting of the good intentions of Bill 10 (Fulton Bill).

(6) In May 1950 a resolution was passed at the National Annual Meeting in Montreal urging (1) that the Crime Comics Act be enforced; (2) that each member of the Order approach her Federal member asking his or her support in this matter; (3) that each member make it her personal responsibility to watch for any infringements of the Crime Comics Act, and to bring such infringement to the attention of the proper authorities.

The problem of obscene, unwholesome literature was debated in the House of Commons a year ago, but no further action has been taken by the Federal Government.

(7) In the spring of this year (1952) several articles regarding obscene or undesirable literature have appeared in the press.

To support a police survey, following in the wake of a flood of complaints from the citizens of London, the crown attorney promised, if the findings warranted it, that Ottawa would be pressed for more definite legislation to curb the distribution of these low-grade publications. During the first week in June the London Police Commission passed a resolution urging "vigorous prosecution for infractions of the Criminal Code", dealing with salacious literature.

(8) Since a democratic society makes exacting moral demands on all its members, a great responsibility rests on educators with respect to morals and values. If Canadians are to have that habitual vision of greatness, without which, as Professor Whitehead said, moral education is impossible, then Canadian children must no longer soil their minds with lewd unwholesome trash. In other words, why read about a sewer when you can read about a garden?

The fight is far from over. Now, more than ever, the concerted action of all decent citizens is needed, if the menace of low-grade literature is to be effectively wiped out. At the present time, apparently because of the difficulty in defining salacious literature, it is practically impossible to enforce the law.

Therefore the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire submits the following recommendation to the Special Committee of the Senate:

That the Federal Government take steps to have a Censor Board or Censor Boards set up, similar to the Motion Picture Censorship and Theatre Inspection Branch, to define what literature is unwholesome and obscene, and what is not.

The CHAIRMAN: Does any senator wish to make enquiries with respect to this presentation?

Hon. Mr. BURCHILL: You referred to some publishers who had banned themselves together to refrain from publishing certain books. Are they Canadians?

Mrs. DETWILER: No; they are Americans.

Hon. Mr. BURCHILL: I was interested in a remark you made about the Church of England being successful in banning some books. Do you know what books they have banned?

Mrs. DETWILER: Actually, I could not give you the names of them. I got this report from the General Secretary, and he simply stated when he wrote that they had been successful from time to time in having a book banned, but that in about six months another book came into being, and it was just as bad or worse than the first one.

The CHAIRMAN: Mrs. Martin, have you anything to tell us?

Mrs. MARTIN: I do not think I have anything to add to Mrs. Detwiler's presentation.

The CHAIRMAN: I am sure honourable senators will agree that Mrs. Detwiler has submitted a superlatively fine presentation, and I extend to her my personal thanks and the gratitude of the committee.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS: May I be permitted to pose a question? Your final summing up, Mrs. Detwiler, was a suggestion that the Federal Government institute a censor board on the same basis as the provinces operate.

Mrs. DETWILER: I said censor board or censor boards. I know that in the motion picture industry the censorship is carried on provincially. But there might be a way of handling it from the federal down. I am not sure.

Hon. Mrs. WILSON: Censor boards are in existence in British Columbia and Manitoba, is that right?

Mrs. DETWILER: Only as far as the provincial drug associations are concerned, and they ban from their stores this type of literature.

The CHAIRMAN: I believe there is a statute in Quebec—chapter 12 of 1950—which requires that publishers submit their names and come under the regulation of the censor board. Have you any comments on that?

Mrs. DETWILER: No; I have no recent communications. I had some in 1951, but not from Quebec.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS: What about the comic strips in the newspapers themselves?

Mrs. DETWILER: Well, actually, I did not go into that. I cannot see, however, how any child will develop into a better citizen by reading the comic strips in a newspaper, but I did not go into that matter. Actually, I have been concerned with the cheap books that school children are securing.

Hon. Mr. DAVID: Madam, have you any figures on the volume of the imports from the United States compared with the production here in Canada?

Mrs. DETWILER: No, I have not.

Hon. Mrs. WILSON: I note your concern about the decline of scholarship students.

Mrs. DETWILER: Actually, I think we could trace a good deal back to what the children are reading today. They learn to be careless and indifferent. We offer scholarships and bursaries, and some won't bother to apply for them even when they are available. There seems to be a tendency today to just get by, and if they get by that is all that is necessary.

Hon. Mr. DAVID: Do you confirm the evidence that was given here last week—and I am sorry I was not present, Mr. Chairman—that even in our schools today it is hard to retain the attention of young children with the kind of books that are provided, because there are no comics in them.

Mrs. DETWILER: I think it is true. Of course, I am not a school teacher.

Hon. Mr. DAVID: But from your information.

Mrs. DETWILER: I would think that that is the tendency. The good authors are being illustrated as comics; these books just look like comics. To me, I am not sure that I approve of that step, but at least the reading material is satisfactory.

Hon. Mr. LACASSE: It is a kind of concession.

Mrs. DETWILER: It is a concession to our times.

Hon. Mr. DAVID: Do you know anything about these famous publications in France . . . a publication that comes regularly every week, and has to do with historical and other matters?

Mrs. DETWILER: I think I have seen one or two of them. There is a company which has undertaken to produce historical stories, in comic style, and children get their history that way.

Hon. Mr. DAVID: If children are very much attracted by murder, even in history, they will find it.

Mrs. DETWILER: Yes.

Hon. Mr. DAVID: Mr. Chairman, I have here a clipping from the *New York Times*, which the Secretary might read, and which I would like to have form part of the record. I think it is quite illuminating on the whole subject. Will you please mention the date, etc.?

The CLERK OF THE COMMITTEE: The heading is "Convict Lashes Radio Crime Programs As Most Crime-inducing Factor in U.S."

Hon. Mr. DAVID: Allow me: this is from the *New York Times*.

The CLERK OF THE COMMITTEE: (New York Times Service).

Weatherfield, Conn., March 13, 1951.—An inmate of Connecticut State Prison, in an article in the prison's publication, the "Monthly Record," today assailed radio and television crime programs as "the most blatantly debasing and the most crime-inducing factor with which the American listening public has to contend."

"If there is anything on the air that is a worse insult to American democratic intelligence I fail to find it," the article said.

Crime programs, the anonymous inmate wrote, "are making the public so crime conscious that the prisons of the nation are being filled, crammed, and jammed with kids, who usually got their criminal ideas by listening to those half-witted crimebuster programs."

The article said that teen-agers listen mostly to these "how-to-do-it crime programs." "I get glassy-eyed with anger and my trigger finger jerks spasmodically every time I think of how the radio crime presentation industry operates its debasing crime schools, teaching our teen-agers the latest methods on how to get rich quick, I indict the whole filthy, stinking, degenerating racket, the radio crime presentation industry."

"It undermines your homes and our nation," the writer said, "Why do you allow them to commit more than 15,000 false and criminally degenerating murders a year on the air for your kids to imitate?"

"There are tens of thousands of persons behind bars in this country who developed their criminal idea after listening to, and being instructed by, these socially seditious how-to-do-it programs," he wrote.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any other questions as far as these two witnesses are concerned? I again thank you, Mrs. Detwiler and Mrs. Martin.

I think we will now call upon the other delegation which is before us today, and which is headed by Mrs. George Gould, President of the Ottawa Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Parent-Teacher Associations. Associated with Mrs. Gould are Alderman James McAuley, a member of the Parent-Teacher Association; Mr. Markland Smith, President of the French-speaking Division of the Ottawa area; Mr. C. O'Reilly, President of the Legion of Mary, Diocese of Ottawa; and Mr. Vincent Kelly, Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus, who appeared before us on a previous occasion.

Mrs. GOULD: Honourable Senator Doone and Honourable Members of this Committee: We are here this morning to discuss with you a problem which we feel is of grave concern to all Canadians. We wish to express our appreciation for the opportunity of appearing before you and trust that our presentation will prove valuable to all Canadians.

As the title of our brief states, we are concerned about the distribution in Canada of salacious literature, indecent publications, lewd pictures, and obscene articles. May we emphasize in the beginning, that we raise *no* objection to what is usually regarded as true literature. Works of literature are things of beauty and do not depend on pornographic front cover displays or suggestive titles. However, magazines and booklets which rely for their sales' appeal on display of leg, bosom, or torso, of some non-draped or little draped curvaceous female or on pungent, racy, sensual and sexy descriptions are offenders against good taste and sound morals. They are also destructive to the character and intellectual well-being of our youth. It is against such demoralizing pictures and printed matter *that we object*.

Now, ladies and gentlemen, to be specific, may we enumerate some of the objectionable articles to which we refer?

- (a) Pocket editions of so-called popular novels which are definitely filthy and offensive, and which suggest that the author and the publisher are pandering, for commercial gain, to the moronic mentality of the community. We might cite as examples: "A Rage to Live" by John O'Hara and "His Eye on the Sparrow" by Ethel Waters. Such books are not literature in any sense of the term.
- (b) Illustrated periodicals of which you have, no doubt, seen many copies. Many of these are merely collections of photographs, sketches, drawings, and highly coloured illustrations of would-be provocative nudes which appeal to the baser animal instincts of humans.

- (c) Salacious playing cards, depicting in photographic form, the repulsive forms of sex perversion.
- (d) Teen-age records, sold to teen-agers for teen-age parties, which are, to say the least, rankly suggestive and intended to accompany the "Smooch Session" when the lights are low. At this point, I ask your indulgence while we play, for your edification, one or more of the milder versions of teen-age party records.

The CHAIRMAN: I think we can—to use a word which is commonly employed in our legislative business—"dispense". We may take that for granted.

Mrs. GOULD: Well, if that is the way you want it. We have the records, and also a list of the titles of the records. To resume: These records were, we may add, purchased over the counter at one of our leading music stores in Ottawa. If such as these are available over the counter, what may we surmise are "under the counter"? We may add that we are not unaware of the filthy films and records purveyed to adult audiences; but of these we prefer not to speak here.

Hon. Mr. REID: I do not like to raise a point of order, but I have heard mentioned before that phonographic records of this kind are for sale, and if the committee is to go thoroughly into this matter I think we should hear them. They have been offered in evidence. How else are we to know what is going on? The witness is good enough to say that she has them.

Mrs. GOULD: Honourable senators, the records are very suggestive, and you have ladies on your committee. I will leave you the records, and you gentlemen can play them,—together, if you wish. I am willing to go ahead with them, but I think it might be embarrassing to the lady senators.

The CHAIRMAN: Perhaps I was at fault in making the statement which I did to Mrs. Gould, but my reason—thinking quickly—was that if the records were played here the press report might carry a certain atmosphere of levity, and I think that should be avoided if possible, because levity should not enter into the serious matter before us. We are concerned, not to gratify anybody's curiosity, but solely and entirely to try to make this country a better place for children to live in. That was my idea. I may have been wrong. It is up to the members of the committee to decide whether they want these records played and their titles published.

Hon. Mr. McDONALD: I think you have given a wise decision.

Mrs. GOULD: May I express an opinion, honourable senators? I do think in view of the work we are trying to do that it would perhaps be better to advertise these records as little as possible and that the honourable senators hear them in camera. A lot of the work we have done would be defeated if the titles to these records were made public.

The brief continues:

- (e) The lewd cocktail glasses and beverage steins which have sculptured nudes in disgusting positions calculated to arouse lascivious emotions.

These are but a few of the many types of obscene and erotic stimuli which pervert the minds of youth today. Can we wonder that violent crimes of a sex nature are so prevalent?

If we consider it necessary to safeguard the physical well-being of our children, is it not natural that their minds, which should control their bodies, must be given even greater protection?

To conclude, Honourable Members of the Senate, we wish to formally submit to you the resolution passed by our Council on May 28, 1952.

Resolution: Resolved, that the Ottawa Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Parent-Teacher Associations, after making a survey of book-stores and literature, wishes to go on record as being deeply shocked and concerned by the number of salacious and lewd books and articles which are being circulated.

We would recommend to the Committee, which has been set up to investigate this matter, that legislation, or other measures which are found to be necessary, be introduced to control the growing volume of filthy literature circulating in Canada. We also recommend that the Committee examine all phases of the sale and distribution of "salacious and indecent literature, publications otherwise objectionable from the standpoint of crime promotion, including crime comics, treasonable and perverse tracts and periodicals and lewd drawings, pictures, photographs and articles, whether offered as art or otherwise". That the Committee be empowered to examine the source of supply, means and extent of distribution and whether existing legislation is so worded as to include such publications. That they determine what Government Department is responsible for controlling the transmission of such literature and where the responsibility for taking legal steps lies. That the Committee attempt to clarify and define the meaning of the word "obscene" as used in existing legislation.

BRIEF concerning salacious literature, indecent publications, lewd pictures and obscene articles presented to a committee of the Senate of Canada by THE OTTAWA ARCHDIOCESAN COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATIONS.

June 10, 1952.

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P. J. Kennedy,
J. Meighn
J. M. Ranger,
L. McCarthy,
Robt. A. Gates,
J. Frank Williams,
Ald. J. McAuley,
Markland Smith,
Chairman of the
French Speaking Federation;
Chas. A. O'Reilly,
President of the Legion of Mary;

Vincent Kelly,
F. J. McDonald,
Veronica Houlahan,
President Ontario Eng.
Catholic Teachers Ass. Dist. # 1;
Mrs. Denis Bergin, Diocesan
President of the Catholic
Women's League;
Ethel Gould, President,
The Ottawa Archdiocesan
Council of Catholic
Parent-Teacher Associations.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mrs. Gould. Are there any inquiries on the part of the committee?

Hon. Mr. REID: I am wondering if your association had made any investigation into the number of these books and magazines which are taken into the homes by the parents themselves? I say this advisedly. We are talking about the children, but I am wondering just how many of these publications are brought into the homes by the parents themselves?

Mrs. GOULD: We do know that a great number of parents bring these publications into their homes. One has only to travel on the street cars to see men reading comic books and so on. We are aware that a large number of parents bring this literature into their homes, but we do not know what the percentage is.

Hon. Mr. REID: I know from travelling around the country that grown-ups are buying this literature which should not even be printed. Many of them are married people and they take this literature into their homes where their children can see it. How are we going to protect our children if this sort of thing goes on? I think we are overlooking the parents in this inquiry.

Mrs. GOULD: I do not think the number of parents taking this literature into the homes can even be compared with the number of teenagers doing so.

Hon. Mr. REID: Possibly not.

Hon. Mr. DAVID: Mrs. Gould, you mention here that the committee should be empowered to inquire into the source of supply. Has your association made any investigation to find the source of supply in Canada? Let me put it this way: Are the majority of publications sold in Canada printed in this country or elsewhere?

Mrs. GOULD: That is a rather difficult question. I understand that the names of two publishing companies in Canada are already on record.

Mrs. DETWILER: About 50 per cent are published in Canada.

Hon. Mr. DAVID: Then, we are not better than the United States.

Mrs. GOULD: Of course, we are not.

Hon. Mr. LACASSE: I think we should follow the same principle as they do with the income tax, and start at the source. Then even the parents could not take this literature into the homes because it would not exist.

Mrs. GOULD: That is just it. If it did not exist nobody could take it home.

Mrs. DETWILER: May I ask a question?

The CHAIRMAN: Certainly.

Mrs. DETWILER: Can anyone here tell us whether the provinces have jurisdiction over printing? I have been given to understand that the provinces do control printing and that the federal government controls the importation.

Hon. Mr. DAVID: That is right.

The CHAIRMAN: That is true to a degree, but the provinces would only have jurisdiction within the confines of their own territory.

Hon. Mr. DAVID: That is right.

The CHAIRMAN: For instance, the province of Nova Scotia could not have anything to say about printing in Quebec or Ontario, and to that extent the provinces would have no jurisdiction.

Hon. Mr. DAVID: You are perfectly right, Mr. Chairman, but the provinces would have the right to stop the sale of this literature in newsstands in, say, Montreal or Quebec. They could stop the sale of anything that they thought was unwanted.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, they rely on sections 207 and 209 of the Criminal Code, but a number of provinces feel rightly or wrongly that the law is not quite sufficient and that the word "obscene" is not defined. There are certain other limitations. I know there seems to be a reluctance to go ahead. When

I was in the provincial legislature in New Brunswick it was intended to exercise control at that time, but our law officers informed us that there were certain difficulties in implementing our plans. The result was that temporarily in that province the government had to back away from the idea, but I have the assurance of the Premier that the matter is still under study. I have received letters from some other provinces—a letter from one province in particular just reached my desk this morning—informing me that no intensive study has yet been given to the matter, and for that reason it was not prepared to make a submission at present. Other provinces state they have made submissions with respect to changes, and I believe that some of these submissions will be presented to us before our investigations are concluded.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS: The provinces do censor motion pictures at the present time, do they not?

The CHAIRMAN: Every province has a Board of Censors.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS: Is the work of those boards restricted to motion pictures alone?

The CHAIRMAN: I can speak for the province of New Brunswick alone. The fact is that the Board of Censors came under my jurisdiction while I was Provincial Secretary, and I know exactly how it operated. The board consisted of four members, one of whom was chairman, and one censor was always present when pictures were being shown for inspection. If there was any question as to the propriety of showing a certain picture, the censors generally called in member of the clergy, of the different denominations, to get their view. That was not an obligation on the part of the censors; it was a voluntary and precautionary action by them. Of course, the names of the clergy called in were not recorded in any decision, so they assumed no real responsibility; they were brought in merely in an advisory capacity in order that the censors might ascertain their views. If it was decided that the picture was unfit to be shown, the board made a ruling accordingly. Following that, the producer had the right to appeal to the County Court Judge, whose decision was final. During my period of office very many pictures were cut, and some pictures were banned entirely. I do not say that we had 100 per cent efficiency, nor that we had 75 per cent efficiency. Nevertheless, there was a wide measure of control, and I think a great deal of good was accomplished through the investigations and the actions of the Board of Censors. I believe that boards of censors operate in a similar way in other provinces, and that there is an appeal from each of them to a court.

Hon. Mr. McDONALD: That was good work Mr. Chairman. Do you think that the Board of Censors is doing as good work in your province today?

The CHAIRMAN: My modesty compels me to say that they are probably doing better work.

Hon. Mr. REID: Mr. Chairman, do you know whether pictures that are banned or cut in one province are sometimes shown without alteration in another province?

The CHAIRMAN: I do not know.

Hon. Mr. REID: I am wondering how widespread the censorship would be.

The CHAIRMAN: Each Board of Censors has control in its own province only.

Hon. Mr. REID: I realize that, and I am just wondering whether a picture that was banned in, say, Nova Scotia, might be shown in British Columbia nevertheless.

The CHAIRMAN: The board in British Columbia would not be bound by any action taken by the board in Nova Scotia. Similarly, a decision in a legal matter in a provincial court would not be binding in other provinces; it would be instructive only.

Hon. Mr. LACASSE: When I invoked the principle of censorship here at a previous meeting it was challenged. The conclusion of the presentation that we have just heard seems to favour censorship, and as a matter of fact I am wondering why we are here unless we have censorship in view.

The CHAIRMAN: I may say at this point that we have a resolution from the Canadian Womens' Temperance Union of Edmonton, Alberta, also suggesting censorship. I shall read that into the record at our next meeting. Some people steer away from censorship; they complain that censorship of idea formation is not proper. My own personal view is that censorship which decides what is decent and what is indecent is a far different thing from censorship over, say, isms of different kinds. I think there is a wide difference between what some people regard as censorship and what others regard as censorship.

Hon. Mr. LACASSE: Taking for granted that we feel we should solve the problem by resorting to censorship, my next question is: are we not facing a conflict between federal and provincial jurisdictions?

Hon. Mr. DAVIS: I do not think we have to meet that question yet. I suggest we leave that point until a little later. The question I put to the chairman was whether censorship was limited to films in the provinces, and I would suggest that we leave for consideration at a later date the question whether censorship can be applied on a federal or provincial basis.

The CHAIRMAN: I think that is a matter for future study.

Hon. Mr. McINTYRE: As I understand it, I presume there is a board set up, and if it disallows certain literature or pictures the author has the right to appeal to the County Court?

The CHAIRMAN: Are you speaking of pictures now?

Hon. Mr. McINTYRE: Anything that the Board of Censors does not see fit to pass. The author can appeal to the County Court, as I understand it. Would it not be better to give an appeal to the Executive Council, so as to have the view of more than one person?

The CHAIRMAN: Even though it is not so stipulated in the Act, there is always an appeal to the Executive Council in the provinces. That appeal has always existed.

If there are no further questions I shall thank Mrs. Gould, and call on the next witness.

Hon. Mr. BURCHILL: I do not want to appear to labour this question, but Senator Reid brought up a point that it seems is most important, that of the position of the home. Perhaps we can discuss that later, but it strikes me that the parents have a tremendous responsibility in this matter. I was wondering if perhaps Mrs. Gould and her organization did not recognize that. If there is no demand for such literature, it is not going to be published and will not be sold. Where does the demand come from? Are these pieces of literature allowed in the home?

Mrs. GOULD: We realize that it is the responsibility of the parents to a great extent. We represent the Catholic P.T.A., and have the very best teachers and parents in our organization, which represents thousands of people. Let us hope that the good parents are in the majority, and are doing our best to reach the other people. However, if such literature were not so readily available, it would not fall into the hands of young people. We can't very well stop adults from reading whatever they like, but our concern is that these things are being made available to our youths and teenagers. For instance, these books which are here today were easily procured after the police had made a cleanup of the city. Then there are the records: I hope that some importance

will be attached to them, for they are sold right over the counter. A teenager who is throwing a party can walk in and get them, even if he doesn't know their title.

Hon. Mr. BURCHILL: Would the fathers and mothers allow them in the house.

Mrs. GOULD: Well, right-thinking fathers and mothers would not.

Hon. Mr. DAVID: Fathers have very little to say nowadays.

Hon. Mr. REID: I have a further thought with respect to the Parent-Teachers Association in my province. Whilst they have done many laudible things and are doing a great deal of work they have presented resolutions which, in my opinion, are detrimental to the welfare and moral development of children. For instance, they came out flat-footed and wanted no more homework to be done by school children. I was brought up on homework, and in my opinion this was a retrograde step. These people were forgetting about the energy and strength of youth. I know I am old-fashioned, but in my day our homework and some other chores kept us well occupied. Now in my province the Parent-Teachers Association wants no homework, but it does not follow through and say what the child should do in his leisure hours. But, of course, I speak only for my province.

Mrs. GOULD: May I ask what province you come from?

Hon. Mr. REID: British Columbia.

Mrs. GOULD: I understand that the British Columbia Parent-Teachers Association is the equivalent to our Home and School Association. Is that not the association connected with the public schools?

Hon. Mr. REID: Yes.

Mrs. GOULD: Then you will have to take back what you said, because I represent the Catholic P.T.A., and in this province those connected with the public schools are called Home and School Associations. I don't know what its policy is, but I have every respect for the association, and I know the executive personally. Certainly, our P.T.A. never advocated no homework. Most of us think there should be more.

Hon. Mr. LACASSE: Is it not the policy of the Department of Education in our province to have less and less homework?

Mrs. GOULD: Yes, but what this gentleman said practically put the Parent-Teachers Association to the test—

Hon. Mr. REID: No; if you will read the record tomorrow, you will see that I pointed out that I was speaking only for the province of British Columbia, and I cast no aspersions on your association at all.

Mrs. GOULD: You said the Parent-Teachers Association—

Hon. Mr. REID: Of British Columbia.

Mrs. GOULD: But not until I asked you from what province you came.

Hon. Mr. REID: Some of the organizations here are advocating the same thing, no homework.

Hon. Mr. LACASSE: It is the Department of Education of Ontario.

The CHAIRMAN: Senator Reid's remark was directed to the trend all across Canada. The senator has asked if, in your opinion, you consider it right or wrong?

Mrs. GOULD: I am also old-fashioned, and I like the old curriculum.

The CHAIRMAN: Mrs. Detwiler, in her address, spoke of mental discipline. I refer to an address which she made recently, according to a press report, in Niagara Falls, before her association. I do not say that Mrs. Gould or Mrs. Detwiler are old-fashioned, but Senator Reid and I are, and we believe in mental discipline and feel that homework should not be discontinued.

Mrs. GOULD: As you know, our whole organization is made up of parents and teachers, who discuss these problems together. Numerous teachers have told us that they find it very hard to get through to some children: the latter cannot concentrate any more because their minds are so full of comic books and stuff like that.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS: Mr. Chairman, might I return to ask a question of Mrs. Detwiler, in view of her having spoken before her association at Niagara Falls? Do you consider that television will accentuate the problem?

Hon. Mr. LACASSE: Absolutely.

Mrs. DETWILER: May I say that I am afraid to think about television.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS: I was recently in the United States, and there I found the situation with respect to television just terrible.

Hon. Mr. LACASSE: I come from a district in Ontario which has had television for three or four years, and I know what it is.

Hon. Mr. REID: What is your idea about some of the soapy plays we hear over C.B.C.? I have complained about them and many organizations have criticized them, but the manager just says that the people want them. What do you hear on them: Just some woman sobbing and a man chasing another man's wife. And they say that is educational. These are the things that are invading our homes.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS: What about *Stage 52*?

Hon. Mr. REID: There is nothing we can do about C.B.C., but just mention it.

Hon. Mr. DAVID: Mr. Chairman, would it be possible to have before us next week a list of the radio programs, to find out how many murders there are included in that list. Among others I have in mind is a program called *Suspense*. We will find out exactly where we stand on this radio program question.

Hon. Mr. VAILLANCOURT: Can you tell me for what reason we have so many publications dealing with lewdness, murder, and so forth, particularly when the majority of people agree that this is a very bad thing, and why it is that we cannot control this condition? Is it less expensive to produce obscene literature than to produce good literature and pictures?

Hon. Mr. DAVID: It is much cheaper.

Hon. Mr. VAILLANCOURT: Probably it is cheaper because it does not need a very great intellect to produce this kind of thing. So publishers continue to produce it and traders circulate it.

Hon. Mr. DAVID: Madam, I suppose that your association has investigated, at least in a general way, the mentality in the home. Is it not a fact that family life has declined perhaps fifty per cent in the last twenty-five years?

Mrs. GOULD: Well, I don't know whether I can actually go back twenty-five years.

Hon. Mr. DAVID: Well, I am not speaking for you, I am speaking for myself.

Mrs. GOULD: Well, I mean—

Hon. Mr. DAVID: Let us say, ten years.

Mrs. GOULD: If I were to go back twenty-five years I would have to quote someone else's opinion. I would not like to make a statement covering that length of time, because I have been in this work for only twelve years, but it has been a concentrated effort in those twelve years.

Hon. Mr. DAVID: Well, what have been the reports of the teachers in the schools as far as the influence of these books, radio programs and the rest, is concerned?

Mrs. GOULD: I would say, from my own personal viewpoint, I feel that since I was a teen-ager and a young person growing up, we have degenerated, and to a great extent. I really believe that.

Hon. Mr. DAVID: Do you put the fault on the insanity of the century in which we live, or the insanity of the home itself?

Mrs. GOULD: You are asking me personally now?

Hon. Mr. DAVID: I am asking you personally.

Mrs. GOULD: That is, just my personal opinion?

Hon. Mr. DAVID: Yes.

Mrs. GOULD: Well, I will put it down to the decay, or the insanity of this age we are living in; secondly—and I hope I won't be sued for this—to the laxity of the government to find out and make certain that the Customs Department is conducted in such a manner that these things cannot be brought in from other countries. I also would put it down to laxity on the party of our parents—a lot of the parents—certainly not the teachers, but a lot of the parents, and I would not blame them too much, because of the strain of two world wars coming so close together, and the need of mothers, in order to make ends meet, going out to supplement the family funds to keep body and soul together. Of necessity these mothers, with the fathers overseas, had to leave the children to secondary care, to the care of others who certainly would not have such personal interest. I think every one of us is to blame to some extent for what has been allowed to happen, and I believe that every one of us some day will be held responsible if anything happens to our youth.

Hon. Mr. DAVID: If you will allow me one more question. We are facing a situation which, as everybody claims, and rightly, is absurd, and degrades the people daily more and more. Do you think we can moralize through legislation?

Mrs. GOULD: You cannot moralize through legislation. I believe it is going to take a long time to completely undo the wrong that has been done, but I do think you can assist groups such as ours by changing or amending legislation or making sure that the legislation already in existence is enforced. After all, some of the laws were made a long time ago. If they are not adequate to cope with the changes in life in these modern times, let them be amended.

Hon. Mr. HOWARD: Bring them up to date.

Mrs. GOULD: Bring them up to date, yes. That would help a lot. All these organizations are doing a very fine work, but there is, I feel, a great need for a very serious program.

Hon. Mr. BURCHILL: But must it not be educational rather than legislative? That is the point I am getting at. Can you legislate people to make them good?

Mrs. GOULD: No.

Hon. Mr. BURCHILL: We tried that under prohibition.

Mrs. GOULD: I know you can't, but at the same time, an effective control of all this subversive and salacious literature would certainly help a lot.

Hon. Mr. REID: We can help to some extent. I was going to ask one further question. Has your organization taken notice of these picture shows of a cheaper kind which open up on Sunday evening at half-past eleven and show pictures from 12 o'clock to 2 o'clock on the Monday morning? I notice no grown-ups, but youth of anywhere from twelve to eighteen standing in long lines from 11 o'clock on a Sunday night, waiting to get into a picture show. I

realize—and in this I agree with you—that something can be done by legislation. I may be wrong or old-fashioned in my opinion, but I think these children should be home and in bed at that time. After all, there are six days for picture shows. It is not the bigger establishments which are open at these hours, but the lesser ones. Go down the streets of Ottawa on a Sunday night and you will see long strings of people waiting to go in, and they are there until half-past two. Surely we could close up these shows. We do not need them. They are catering to a certain mentality which is not the best, and they are open six days a week. It is like putting a piece of cheese in a trap; the mouse does not have to walk into the trap, but the cheese is there. And when you have these shows open at that time it attracts a certain type of youth. I realize that the law can go only so far, but it seems to me that you can do an awful lot by law to remove a certain amount of temptation.

Mrs. GOULD: There is no law in this province that governs that kind of thing. In Quebec a child of twelve is not allowed to go to a show.

Hon. Mr. DAVID: No, he cannot go before he is sixteen.

Hon. Mr. REID: But they are evading the law here. In Ontario, as in British Columbia, picture shows are not allowed to be open on Sunday, so they wait until a minute past twelve, but they open their doors at eleven and you can walk in and see the show a minute after midnight. That amounts to an evasion of the law. I wondered if your organization had taken notice of that.

Mrs. GOULD: We are a very young organization, and we have not taken that up yet. Right now we are on salacious literature.

Hon. Mr. REID: Yes; I realize that.

Mrs. GOULD: No doubt it will have attention.

The CHAIRMAN: I did not have time to read it, but there was an item in the *Christian Science Monitor* last week to the effect that this matter was being discussed by the representatives of the different nations. They claimed that some countries were being flooded with objectionable literature by other countries, and that this constituted an infringement of national rights.

Hon. Mr. McDONALD: Before we get through I think we should commend the people we have heard today and at the last meeting for the splendid educational work that is being done. I have gathered the impression from attending these two meetings that a splendid job in the educational field is being done in Ottawa. I am wondering if this educational work is being done so well outside of this city?

Mrs. GOULD: It certainly is in Hamilton.

The CHAIRMAN: Oh, yes. I think the Imperial Daughters of the Empire are also doing marvelous work all over Canada. In New Brunswick there is a crusade going on at the present time. It was initiated by the Most Reverend P. A. Bray, C.J.M., Bishop of Saint John, and is under the sponsorship of the Lieutenant-Governor, the Minister of Education, the Mayor of the City of Saint John, the Chairman of the Board of Trade, by members of the Ministerial Association, and by many other organizations. I notice on their letterhead the list of organizations runs a full page. So there is an intensive program going on in that area. Frankly, I believe that the Parent-Teacher Group, The Home and School Association, the I.O.D.E. and other organizations have been awake to this problem much more fully than we have been. I feel rather a sense of humility in discussing the matter with these witnesses or in questioning them, because I feel they have been away ahead of us. That is always true, of course. The public is generally a little ahead of the representatives of government. After all, the representatives of the government have to take their stand from the lead given by the general public. The letters which are

flooding in expressing the sentiment of heads of families, of teenagers, of members of the clergy and of various organizations, indicate there is a terrific public demand that we as a body and the government of Canada should recognize.

Hon. Mr. McDONALD: As bad as the situation is, it would be very much worse if it were not for the splendid educational work that is being done.

The CHAIRMAN: There is no question about that. Our next witness is Alderman McAuley.

Alderman JAMES MCAULEY, Member of Council of Catholic Parent-Teacher Associations: Mr. Chairman and ladies and gentlemen, I do not want to add much to what our president, Mrs. Gould, has said. The Parent-Teacher organization is endeavouring to educate the parents through their different units. They undertook this work some time ago and are meeting with success, but you will realize that it is only the better parents who will attend our meetings. We feel that you gentlemen can do much in removing this salacious literature from our midst because it is going to the children who will be the parents of tomorrow. It will be a long process to educate our people, but it is something that is well overdue. The I.O.D.E., the Parent-Teacher Associations and other educational groups are interested in not only bringing this question before our legislators but also before our parents. However, we shall need your co-operation in removing the temptation from our teenagers, and with your co-operation and with the help of these organizations I feel we will make the necessary strides in the future.

Hon. Mr. REID: May I ask the alderman if the city of Ottawa has prepared a report on this matter?

Mr. MCAULEY: We have, and I believe it will be submitted to your committee.

The CHAIRMAN: It will be here next Tuesday. Our next witness is Mr. Markland Smith, Chairman of the French-speaking Parent-Teacher Association of the Ottawa area.

Mr. MARKLAND SMITH, Chairman of the French-speaking Parent-Teacher Association of the Ottawa area: Mr. Chairman and honourable senators, I have come here this morning to support Mrs. Gould. I represent the French-speaking Federation of the Parent-Teacher Association, which covers the French-speaking parents and families of Ottawa and district. I have heard Mrs. Gould's report and feel that she has presented a good brief, and I want to support it wholeheartedly. There is one point I should like to bring out. A question was asked as to what control there is over the parents in the matter of purchasing this salacious literature. It must be realized that we are parents ourselves and therefore have no particular control over other parents—parents to parents. You have a number of good parents who are endeavouring to protect their children against temptation, and trying to work together to clean the atmosphere that we are breathing. If there are parents who let their children go to shows at midnight and who let them take anything into the homes, we cannot feel responsible for that. We shall try to do our best to bring those parents into our associations and help them. The point is that we want to be able to protect our children who go to stores on errands and so forth and are faced with this indecent literature. We feel that we are entitled to protection from the government in this matter. Both Catholic and Protestant organizations have met together to discuss this problem, and we feel that the government should do something to clear the air. This goes for films, literature, books or anything else in that realm. I have not much more to add, but I want to say there are at least sixteen different associations and about thirty schools in the city of Ottawa that want something done about this problem as soon as possible. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN: I will now call on Mr. C. O'Reilly, President of the Legion of Mary, Diocese of Ottawa, Timmins, Mont Laurier and Alexandria.

Mr. C. O'REILLY: Mr. Chairman and honourable members of the committee, as to the brief submitted by Mrs. Gould, we second that. We cannot add anything to it, but I perhaps might explain whom I represent. As the Chairman has told you, I am President of the Legion of Mary, which is a religious association among the laity in the Catholic Church. This association, which is spread throughout the world, has as its objects, first, the putting of your own house in order—moral rearmament, some people call it—and the helping of others by means of charity, good works, and example. We are heart and soul behind the control of what teen-agers and children do, and our association does a great deal of work in a moral way to induce both parents and children not to read these undesirable publications. In fact, some of our junior members have gone into stores and offices and persuaded the proprietors not to take on certain publications. They have even suggested substitutes, and have been successful in many instances. That is a form of action by what might be called education rather than by legislation. You have probably read of the Legion of Mary in the press, because we are under persecution in China—and, incidentally, we are all very proud of that. We are a world-wide organization, with a little different set-up from that of the organizations which you have had before you today. I merely want to say that we are back of the recommendations that have been made to you, and as representing the Ottawa area I am glad to lend my support to them.

Hon. Mr. REID: I was astonished the other day to hear it stated here that merchants are obliged to take a certain proportion of filthy literature if they want to be sure of being supplied with decent magazines by wholesalers. Have you in your investigations and contacts come across any complaints like that?

Mr. O'REILLY: Yes, indirectly. We have not had any direct report on it, but I have been told indirectly that certain dealers have to take a number of publications of an undesirable type or they will get none at all.

Hon. Mr. REID: It seemed to me that if that situation exists the committee could probably do something to put a stop to that kind of practice, which is in restraint of trade. If the practice were stopped it might prevent the distribution of some of this salacious literature, because it seems that some merchants who are now selling it prefer not to sell it.

Hon. Mr. DAVID: From your association with parents have you learned whether some of them bring into their own homes books of a type that should not enter any home where children are? I think a question along this line was put by Senator Burchill.

Mr. O'REILLY: We have no official or special information on that, sir, because our organization deals with a great many other aspects of moral life besides reading matter. We have nothing on that point other than casual observation.

Hon. Mr. DAVID: It is pretty hard to ask a young boy or girl not to read indecent literature, when it is brought into the home. A child is an imitator.

The CHAIRMAN: I do not think we started our investigation soon enough; it should have been begun twenty-five years earlier.

Hon. Mr. HOWARD: That's the answer.

Hon. Mr. DAVID: It would have been exactly the same. May I ask you, Mr. O'Reilly, if you remember the famous saying of a French writer, Xavier de Maistre, that the education of a child ends on the knees of his mother, when he is seven years of age? Do you believe that is right?

Mr. O'REILLY: Yes, I do. I have read that, but I could not have named the author.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any other questions? If not, I will now express the thanks of the committee to Mr. O'Reilly. Next we are to hear Mr. Kelly, who was before us the other day.

Mr. VINCENT KELLY, Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus, Ottawa: Honourable senators, there is not a great deal that I can add to what I said last week, except that I corroborate the statement of Mrs. Gould that these indecent books are demoralizing the children and their ideas of study and literature. Children no longer aim to get 100 per cent or 90 per cent in their studies, but are satisfied if they get a pass. I would go so far as to say that this is true of more than 75 per cent of our children in the schools today. In fact, they will come to you and ask frankly "What is a pass?"

Hon. Mr. DAVIS: What do you mean by a pass?

Mr. KELLY: A pass mark.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS: Not a railroad pass.

Mr. KELLY: The children are not interested in trying to get 90 or 100 per cent, as we did when we were going to school. If they can get a pass, 50 per cent of the maximum, they are satisfied.

Hon. Mr. LACASSE: You mean they are satisfied with the minimum?

Mr. KELLY: Yes. Homework has been mentioned, and I might point out that the Ontario Department of Education does recommend homework. Dr. McDonald, one of our Separate School Inspectors, is here, and could tell you about that. However, very little homework is done. Children in the higher grades are assigned homework, but we have come to the opinion that in many cases it is more harmful to give them homework to do than not to give them any, because when they are given work to do at home they get it through in a rush so that they may have time to listen to the radio or read comic books. In many cases the work is scribbled down rather than written properly.

Hon. Mr. LACASSE: I think it is a capitulation.

Mr. KELLY: As to the bringing of undesirable books into the home by the parents themselves, an instance was referred to in this committee last week. Mr. Grenier said that a lady, who had been married only about six months, came into his store and asked for a copy of *True Romance*. Now I feel sure that if she reads *True Romance* and such books six months after her marriage she will be reading them and having them in her home after her children are born. I might cite a case of my own personal experience along a slightly different line. Some years ago I belonged to a book-of-the-month club. The reason I joined it was that I wanted to build up a proper library in my home. However, after a few months I found that the books they sent me were so filthy that I had to return them and ask that others be substituted. I do not mean that these books were completely filthy, but, like many other modern books, they had enough filthy chapters to incite those who are looking for that kind of thing to buy these books. The substitutes they sent me were not any better, so finally I had to write and tell them that if they could not furnish me with better books I did not want any from them at all. They replied that authors found it necessary to include a proportion of smut in their books in order that the books might sell. I burned those books in my furnace, because I certainly did not want them lying around to be read by my children when they grow up. After some comment was raised some years ago in the United States, concerning salacious literature, one man proceeded to write a book as a guide to authors. In effect he said: If you are in New York or Chicago where this drive is taking place, you can't get away with it, but if you are a few miles out of New York, you can include as much as 20 per cent smut in your literature, and you have to do it if you want to sell your books. That is all I have to say.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Kelly. We will now call on Dr. McDonald.

Dr. F. J. McDONALD: Mr. Chairman, I am a Separate School Inspector with the Department of Education, at Toronto. I am a civil servant.

I was much intrigued by some of the questions asked by the senators, particularly Senator Reid, whom I was particularly pleased to hear speak about the educational system in British Columbia. We have considered the British Columbia system rather progressive over the past few years. Our regulations regarding homework go back to the time when the Honourable G. R. Ferguson was Minister of Education, at which time the directive was that an hour and a half a day should be given in the school to supervised study. Homework is generally now given in the senior grades in Ontario. As to the problem of homework, we have not to my knowledge had any universal protest on the part of parents, although there has been some individual criticism. But the problem is that the homework that is assigned is very often done by the father, and it is quite often incorrectly done.

I was most pleased to hear reference made to the position of the home. It would appear that this is now being regarded as an educational problem. Ontario is now going through the process of a curriculum revision, and it has been rather generally agreed by educationalists in Ontario that reading habits have much to do with many of the failures in high school. In many cases we have programs for remedial reading; we have them in such large centres as Toronto and Hamilton. We spend a great deal of time in attempting to get good reading habits instilled in our children. At no time in the history of this province has there been more direct action on the part of educationalists to stimulate the activities amongst Home and School associations and Parent-Teachers associations. It is only logical, that parents and teachers should work together for the welfare of the children.

There are many reasons why we have peculiar problems before us today. Twenty years ago—yes, and much less, even in the war years—it became quite the thing for soldiers to have pin-up girls. That was a national custom. In that case very often the type of art became more suggestive. To my mind we are more or less influenced by the fact that if a thing is shown often enough, one no longer is shocked by it. Even today our street car advertising is such that would have shocked us ten years ago. In other words, we are perhaps—

Hon. Mr. LACASSE: Getting emancipated.

Dr. McDONALD: Perhaps so. I think moral standards are degenerating. The school, however, is attempting to and is doing a good job.

For instance we are at present revamping our curriculum for the schools. A conference will take place in June at which we will have workshops set up. We will have many parent groups working with us, and the school people are most anxious to have suggestions from parents. In that way we have the ideas of businessmen and parents generally who will influence what is to be taught to children.

In our own system we are attempting to adopt the philosophy that education is for Christian social living. If we analyze what appears to be a lack of appreciation of morals, we will readily see that the principles of Christianity are not being lived up to. Certainly, we are attempting to do our best. In our workshops at the coming conference there will be three forums on the curriculum in the home, from which will come no doubt a number of suggestions as to what type of reading should be encouraged in the home.

The question was raised as to censorship. Perhaps instead of calling it censorship, it should be called control. For instance, when we advocate new text-books for use in the schools throughout the province, it does not go out without approval; instead, it is read carefully, and if anything is wrong, it is not printed. The reading habits are being formed by the type of periodicals

that are available, and in this respect it seems to me some type of control is absolutely necessary. Further, it is notable that the news companies which purvey this literature, when threatened by a police drive, formed their own board of censorship and removed from their shelves all questionable literature before the police arrived. So there is a type of control at the present time. One does not find this questionable type of literature in such places as the cigar counter of the Chateau Laurier or in the T.C.A. office. However, these are government institutions, and someone is controlling the matter by some means.

However, as parents we have a responsibility to do all we can to improve the home. That is why Parent-Teacher Associations and Home and School Associations are out to encourage improvement in the home. The general moral quality of the country will be improved if the parents themselves improve.

One point was raised in the meeting which might bear repeating. I think it was Mrs. Gould who was asked about the number of mothers who are working outside the home. I recall a survey that was made in our schools recently as to the juvenile delinquency problem. One of the members of the board who came from Toronto visited my schools, and I asked him if he had ever made a survey as to how many mothers worked. He said he had not. We made a quick survey in a 600-pupil school and found that 46 per cent of the mothers of the pupils worked.

I recall reading recently that some 47 per cent of all the married women in the United States work. The family needs the controlling influence of the mother, if it is to have the proper reading habits and supervision.

Hon. Mr. HOWARD: You are referring to those mothers who work outside the home?

Mr. McDONALD: Yes. Many of our problems are economic problems. They are also: lack of Christian principles, lack of religious training, and economic pressure, whereby both parents, mothers and fathers, have to work to meet the high cost of living. I am raising a family myself, and I know. It is a big job for one man on a civil service salary.

Hon. Mr. DAVID: No doubt you believe that the school and the state cannot take the place of the mother and the father in the home?

Mr. McDONALD: Definitely. I was very much intrigued by this senator's remark that the education of a child is finished at the age of seven.

The CHAIRMAN: It was Senator David.

Mr. McDONALD: In Czechoslovakia, before the Iron Curtain descended, they had a "School of the Mother's Knee".

Hon. Mr. DAVID: They had the same in France.

Mr. McDONALD: I agree with the senator to this extent, that the habits that are formed before the age of seven, or even before the age of five, regardless of how good the teacher is, or the school system, and whether those habits are good or bad, are impossible to eradicate. But I think that perhaps we could direct the attention of our parent-teacher organization more to that return to the mother's knee. I believe the old idea of telling the children bed-time stories has gone. One reason probably is the present housing conditions. At a conference we had here it was suggested that there should be a periodical which could carry from the school to the parent a series of stories, stating "Here is your model; tell your child the old bed-time story as your parents used to do". It is out of vogue now. One reason is that the parents have not a model to go by, and if they have to tell a story on the spur of the moment they find it difficult.

Hon. Mr. REID: Men find it easier to tell their wives a story than to tell their children.

Mr. McDONALD: Yes, but the same idea still prevails. I do not want to labour this talk.

The CHAIRMAN: What you are giving us is fine.

Hon. Mr. BURCHILL: I am very much interested in your observation about the type of reading. What about our teachers today? Perhaps you do not want to make any statement.

Mr. McDONALD: I don't mind.

Hon. Mr. BURCHILL: If you do not want to, it is perfectly all right. But some of us have the idea that some of our modern teachers are different from the old type of teacher that some of us went to school under, in just that one feature, namely the type of reading that they do. Is the modern teacher reading literature of the standard that it is desirable that our young people should read?

Mr. McDONALD: Well, I can only speak for my own staff. I have over two hundred teachers under my jurisdiction here, and am familiar with their work, and in my opinion at no time have we had more outstanding teachers, with a higher degree of ability, a greater degree of personality, and more incentive for improvement. I can say that from my own experience. We are working on a curriculum. The teachers are divided into committees; and every last one has contributed to this curriculum, which is based on Christian social living. They went through the English course and every other course to see what is good for these children. At no time in our history have we had more teachers working on extension courses, taking their degrees and improving their scholarship. Certainly by their reading habits, in my opinion, are much higher than they were twenty years ago, when I started to inspect. One reason is that we have many more schools; we have more teachers who are taking music, art, arts and crafts, in summer schools than at any other time. So I think the modern teacher is superior to the type usual in earlier times.

Hon. Mr. BURCHILL: I am glad to hear that. I hope it is true of all over the nation.

Mr. McDONALD: Mind you, we are passing through a very difficult stage, because there is a scarcity of teachers. A great many from this vicinity who left us during the war to go into government service did not come back. This is particularly true of Ontario, but the conditions are pretty general. If you refer to the C.E.A. educational report you will find that there are thousands of teachers now who are unqualified. We had to take fourteen hundred in the province of Ontario in order to get the schools open. Previously there was the requirement of Grade 13 standing, which is over school. Now our minister, in order to try to provide more teachers, is allowing children from Grade 12 to go into normal school, with the stipulation that they must return to normal school for second year normal. He is giving them a summer course in order that we can staff the schools with teachers.

Hon. Mr. McDONALD: They are teaching under temporary licence?

Mr. McDONALD: Yes. Then, after the 1st of July, if the school board could not find a qualified teacher, the inspector was allowed to give a letter of permission, and that teacher, after she had had five months, had to go into summer school. But remember, we are trying to do the best we can under the circumstances; and of course, remember that at no time have we had more new schools than at the present. In our reading program in Ontario we are spending over two million dollars a year to give children text books. We are paying grants to boards of at least \$3 per pupil so that there will be free text books. Certainly that is a positive antidote to this bad literature,—at least, in my opinion. At no time has the educational budget of every province been greater than it is now. In Ontario, particularly, we are spending more money in education, and we are hoping, in spite of our difficulties, that the end-product, which is the citizen, will be better.

Hon. Mr. REID: What is the reason, in spite of the two-million-dollar expenditure, that parents are not able to purchase books?

Mr. McDONALD: As a matter of fact we are following the example of most of the western provinces and getting away from the idea of an authorized text. Years ago we used to put out one authorized text, and then the government would subsidize the publishers. That went on for some time. Now, in order to get more diversity, the children do not read just one text—the fourth or fifth book, or whatever it was when we went to school; they read a multitude of texts. In our Grade 1 classes the better pupils read up to as high as twenty to twenty-two books—small books, of course. There are four or five in the other grades. An approved list comes out and these books are very expensive, so the government is paying a grant to the boards who in turn buy the books. Are there any questions?

Hon. Mr. DAVID: If I did not know you to be a man of culture I would not even make this remark, but you said in your opening comments that art was becoming more and more suggestive. Can art in itself be suggestive if it is the representation of beauty?

Mr. McDONALD: It depends on the individual interpretation.

Hon. Mr. DAVID: Commercial art may be suggestive, but art in itself cannot be. Take the Venus de Milo. There is nothing less suggestive and yet it is a nude.

Mr. McDONALD: Yes, that is true. On the other hand, I would not go so far as to say what some individuals may think. After all, even that type of art may be suggestive to some individuals.

Mrs. GOULD: I should like to ask whether copies of today's proceedings can be forwarded to our association? We would appreciate it very much.

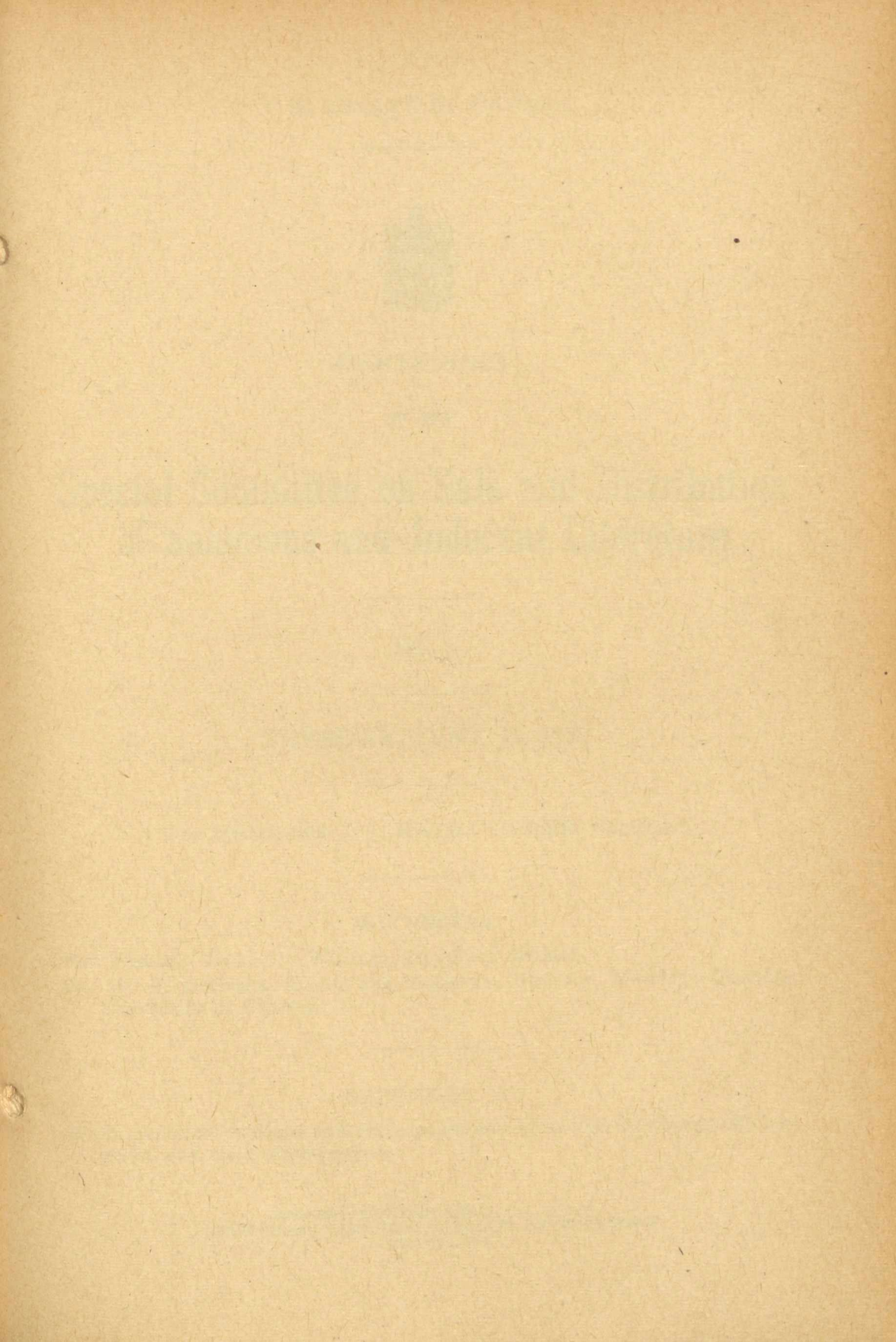
The CHAIRMAN: We shall see that that is done.

Mrs. GOULD: On behalf of my organization I should like to thank you, Senator Doone, and the honourable senators for having allowed us to take up so much of your time, and for having been so gracious.

The CHAIRMAN: We have been most happy to have had you with us, and we want to thank you for appearing before our committee.

Hon. Mr. REID: I move that we adjourn.

The committee adjourned.



1952

THE SENATE OF CANADA



PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Special Committee on Sale and Distribution
of Salacious and Indecent Literature

No. 3

TUESDAY, JUNE 17, 1952

The Honourable J. J. HAYES DOONE, *Chairman.*

WITNESSES:

Her Worship Charlotte Whitton, Mayor of Ottawa.

Mr. W. E. O'Meara, Editor and Assistant Director, Marriage Services,
University of Ottawa.

APPENDIX "A"

Briefs, recommendations and correspondence submitted by church officials,
social and civic organizations.

THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE ON SALE
AND DISTRIBUTION OF SALACIOUS AND
INDECENT LITERATURE

The Honourable J. J. Hayes Doone, Chairman.

The Honourable Senators

Bouffard,
Burchill,
David,
Davis,
Doone,
Duffus,
Fallis,

Farquhar,
Gershaw,
Lacasse,
McDonald,
McGuire,
McIntyre,
Pratt,

Quinn,
Reid,
Stambough,
Stevenson,
Vaillancourt,
Wilson.

20 members.

ORDER OF REFERENCE

Extract from the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Senate, Thursday, May 8, 1952.

"That a special committee of the Senate be appointed, authorized and directed to examine into all phases, circumstances and conditions relating to the sale and distribution in Canada of—

1. Salacious and indecent literature;
2. Publications otherwise objectionable from the standpoint of crime promotion, including crime comics, treasonable and perverse tracts and periodicals;
3. Lewd drawings, pictures, photographs and articles whether offered as art or otherwise presented for circulation.

That without limiting the scope of its inquiry, the committee be authorized and directed to examine into—

- (a) Sources of supply of the above noted items;
- (b) Means and extent of distribution thereof;
- (c) Relative departmental responsibility for entry or transmission;
- (d) Sufficiency of existing legislation to define terms in relation thereto;
- (e) Relative responsibility for law enforcement and effective legal measures of dealing with this problem.

That the committee have the power to send for persons, papers and records, and to secure such services and assistance as may be necessary for the proper prosecution of its inquiries.

That the said committee shall report its findings to this House.

L. C. MOYER,
Clerk of the Senate."

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

TUESDAY, June 17, 1952.

Pursuant to adjournment and notice the Special Committee on Sale and Distribution of Salacious and Indecent Literature met this day at 10.30 a.m.

Present: The Honourable Senators: Doone, Chairman; Burchill, Davis, Duffus, Fallis, Gershaw, Lacasse, McDonald, McGuire, Reid, Vaillancourt and Wilson.—12.

Consideration of the order of reference of May 8, 1952, was resumed.

The following were heard:

Her Worship Charlotte Whitton, Mayor of Ottawa.

Mr. W. E. O'Meara, Editor and Assistant Director, Marriage Services, University of Ottawa.

Briefs, recommendations and correspondence received by the Chairman from church officials, social and civic organizations, were ordered to be printed as Appendix "A".

At 12.15 p.m. the Committee adjourned until Thursday next, June 19, at 10.00 a.m.

Attest.

JOHN A. HINDS,
Clerk of the Committee.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

THE SENATE,

OTTAWA, Tuesday, June 17, 1952.

The Special Committee appointed to examine into the sale and distribution of salacious and indecent literature met this day at 10.30 a.m.

Hon. Mr. Doone in the Chair.

The CHAIRMAN: Honourable members, will you please come to order? I think we have a quorum.

In conformity with the practice previously adopted, I am submitting a list of the names of church dignitaries, of service clubs and other organizations who have written in since our last meeting, and I am also submitting written briefs which have come forward and recommendations from various communities throughout Canada. I am passing these to the Clerk for recording.

(The Chairman then handed to the Clerk of the Committee a number of typewritten documents numerically indicated as pp. 1 to 53 consecutively.)

We have with us today Miss Charlotte Whitton, Mayor of the City of Ottawa, and a social worker of some years' standing. Miss Whitton has just returned from Rochester, where she has received a degree. I believe this is the fourth distinction she has received from various universities. Miss Whitton is also the holder of the—O.B.E.? No, I am told it is the C.B.E.

Miss WHITTON: The C.B.E. is as much above the O.B.E. as the Senate is above the Commons!

The CHAIRMAN: These distinctions indicate the esteem and regard in which Miss Whitton is held. I am sure all of us will be most interested in hearing from her in relation to the matter before us.

Miss Charlotte WHITTON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have not prepared a brief. In other times when I have appeared before parliamentary committees as a social worker I have prepared a brief and submitted it, but since I have been in the political field I have learned that it is on paper evidence that you are hanged, so I prefer to dispense with a written presentation. Also I feel that you want such evidence as I may give partly from the municipal field and partly from my own background of experience, and that if I were filing a definite statement it should go through the Board of Control and the Council. But I come with the authorization of the Board, as their representative in this matter, and I would prefer to outline three or four of the angles as I have seen them or as we have encountered them in our present situation in the city, and then submit, sir, to such questions as members of the committee may ask and which I shall attempt to answer.

The problem in so far as it refers to the distribution of salacious and indecent literature is only one angle of a general problem which is rather intricately and nastily interrelated, as I know it in a long period of years both in the Social Service Council of Canada, which was an inter-church council, and later in the Canadian Welfare Council, and generally. I may say that one part of the more detailed knowledge which led to my more determined interest in the matter was gathered in the trial through which I passed in the province of Alberta in 1947 and 1948. The charge of conspiracy to libel, which was levelled against

the editor of "New Liberty" and the publisher, and against myself as providing the basis of the story in question, brought into evidence there material which I think would be of value to this committee in regard to the tight control of the distribution of periodical literature. I suggest that you might apply to—I imagine it would be—the Registrar of the Supreme Court of Alberta for that evidence, because it showed how the avenues of distribution were controlled and in fact dictated right down into the smallest villages in which books or periodicals were sold at all. It also showed that right from the Lakehead roughly to the Pacific Coast there were only about—if I recall correctly—either five or six outlets. The area was zoned. For instance, if a dealer in Wetaskiwin, Alberta, were carrying so many of one of our own monthly magazines, so many of our fortnightlies, so many of our weeklies, and were carrying different United States periodicals, weeklies, all of a reputable character, then he must handle a certain proportion of what we would call undesirable literature and a very large proportion of pulp magazines.

The problem is related—I think one can say it with considerable certainty, and regret—to certain evidences of a general deterioration and decadence in the standard of morality and of our western civilization itself. I am not going into history, but if you consider the history of the Assyrians, the Babylonians, the Egyptians, and other classical civilizations in connection with the development of pornography for its own sake, both in literature and art, which deteriorated into a tiltivation and stimulation of the senses, you find those civilizations then beginning on the down-grade.

That, I submit, is related to and partly caused by the exploitation of these tendencies, and I think that is a consideration we should face. In this, as in the control of alcoholic beverages and similar matters, it has been my conviction that the more self-control that can be developed within people the less state control one has to bring in. But that is qualified, in my judgment, by the fact that you have interests, powerfully organized, to exploit these weaknesses, and that they must be controlled. And in this question of salacious literature I think you will find that there are certain things co-related. There is the manufacture of the most objectionable and disgusting type of films. I am not talking of what is offered through the commercial and ordinary distribution channels. Your two systems of provincial censorship, and of the classification into adult and general showing, have done much to improve inexpressably the general quality of the films shown in the ordinary theatre across Canada. That is all in conjunction with the development of the film review principle, through the Catholic League of Decency and the Board of Review in the United States, the Educational Committee of the Daughters of the Empire and the Catholic Women's League in Canada, and various educational groups who make available each week in advance a list of good pictures which are coming in, and then post them. Also there is the development of the neighbourhood theatre, which is on a sort of a community basis, where your exhibitor is working with his community. It is not the ordinary commercial channels of distribution to which I refer, but it is the type of film that is brought in, perhaps one copy and then copies made; and then there is the definite business of having these at special showings. The development of the small projector has made that possible. But you will find in different gatherings and conventions—I say this, sir, without any reflection—generally of a "stag" nature that some of this stuff is being shown. When you have adults supporting such a traffic it is just nonsense and hypocrisy for us to say that we are trying to protect the teenager. The teenagers who get this material would not have enough money or means or demand in their groups to support it. The control of this is definitely, in my judgment, in our own import of films, and these films that are brought in presumably for educa-

tional and scientific purposes are generally manufactured outside the country, and the copies are made after they come in. This is related also to another far more vicious thing than the mere publication itself, and that is the development of records that will later be related to television. These records are in very few cases manufactured in Canada, but must come in. The machines which operate them come in. Within the last month there have been conferences in this city at which these records have been played. They have just been small groups, but the equipment has been brought in for this purpose. Well, we are not going to get very far just going after this one phase, unless you deal with these related phases. I have not had the time to completely follow the evidence taken before this committee but this literature is also distributed in pocket book form and in magazines and periodicals, and here you find one of the most vicious things—the “lonely heart” columns and the encouragement of correspondence through similar columns. The stories appearing in these magazines would themselves naturally find their response in persons to whom these columns would appeal. You will find, if you look in the ads of these magazines, anonymous correspondence addressed to Box “X” or some given address. Those who write in are placed on a mailing list. There is no doubt that if you pursued this matter through the resources open to you—the police forces and so forth—you would find a definite tie-up between this sort of thing and commercialized prostitution. These magazines also advertise pamphlets or articles on personal hygiene, feminine hygiene, and so on. It will be found in small towns and villages that one or two teenagers in a whole group will send for this literature, and within a short time an entire group of teenagers within a school or a community may be polluted. To me this is the most objectionable of many objectionable features in this type of periodical.

During the hearing in Alberta one of the women’s organizations from a small Saskatchewan town wrote to me about these magazine columns, and I took the subject up with the Department of National Revenue, and the censor, who was then Mr. Arthur Merriam—whom I would suggest this committee should associate itself with because I think he is the best informed person in Canada on the intricacies of this whole unfortunate problem—and we found that these magazines were being printed in Toronto. The pulp plates were brought in as to about 75 per cent of the contents. They were brought in as semi-manufactured photo engravers plates, and so on, which did not come through for censorship. At that time there were several of these being published all within a block and a half roughly on one street in Toronto, an area known to any social worker of hygiene clinic, and to a lesser degree in Montreal. Therefore, through some of the groups with whom I had association we interested the Attorney General of Ontario in the matter of prosecution, and the Attorney-General of Ontario, through Mr. Magone of the Attorney-General’s department—and I think this committee might find it desirable to get the records of that trial—took action and lost on the deficiencies of the Criminal Code. It was through the result of that trial that this material was found to be coming in in part to Canada, being produced in Canada and being shipped out from that area to the rural areas in Saskatchewan, and it was clear that it tied in with this mail order business and this other literature that was simply polluting. That led to the strong representations through the House of Commons which resulted later in the amendments to the Criminal Code. It is not possible, however, to obtain prosecutions largely because our own Attorney-General departments in several of the provinces are no more active in prosecuting or initiating prosecutions in this matter than they are in bingos and other things which are directly contrary to the Code. It is not a question of law enactment; it is the question of responsible law enforcement. It is a

question of whether the law is enforced as the law stands or whether the law bows before what is represented as a majority public opinion. I think we have got to go into that fundamental thing. Is the law to be enforced? Has it the support of public opinion behind it? If so, then it is not going to do much good to go on amending federal legislation unless the provinces are going to be active in laying charges and prosecuting.

Within the last year or so the situation has become extremely aggravated and this type of printed material is being offered more and more for sale in your little corner grocery stores where the youngsters go for their pop and where the small neighbourhood requirements are sold. And they are also on sale in the small cigar stores. I have here a book that I am going to leave with the committee. It was left with me by a medical woman, whose husband is also in the medical profession. This is one of the most vicious things that has appeared, but I will not give the title of it. She says "The enclosed was bought yesterday at a local store where young folk gather. I thought it would be nice to have the...in a small edition, but since glancing through it, have decided that though adults might read it if they wished, it certainly is not recommended fare for people such as my twelve year old son who might just as easily have been the one who bought it. The turned-down pages will give you an idea of what I object to, as reading matter for youngsters. Of course many of the tales are fine stories, but—! I suggested to the storekeeper that he should avoid selling this book to minors. He had no idea it had anything salacious in it."

Now this book has been on the supplementary reading list for the schools of Ontario for years, and this copy in the cheap edition is presumably an unexpurgated edition. It is the most vicious thing that can happen to a young person who comes in to buy something that is on the supplementary reading list at school and goes out with a filthy book like this.

Well, because of the unrestricted pouring of this sort of literature into our neighbourhood stores in Ottawa, we decided within the board of control and the City council to attempt to test the law. We were certain of having the public opinion of the city behind us, and we were prepared to push the matter to the limit in court, to determine whether the law was adequate and the enforcement effective. As you may know, we have had a round-up of practically tons of this material, and a selection is being made from it. The senior magistrate, who is also chairman of the police commission, has taken it on his own responsibility to distinguish between what is—as you will find in, say, Shakespeare—the incidental and salty statement of contemporary life, the humour that is broad, and that type of literature which is definitely designed to stimulate improperly and to exploit. The case is going forward now. The magistrate has adjourned the hearing, and whether he will refer it to a higher court rests with himself. We shall push it through to the limit as a test case, in order to determine whether the law is effective. We feel that if we can do that we shall be doing a useful service.

The problem is related to that of certain films, certain records, and definitely to the broad and absolutely illegal sale of all types of contraceptives, and of these magazines that are referred to, and these box numbers and so on. You will find it is tied up to the sale of aphrodisiacs, and it all leads into a nasty conglomeration. I myself do not think that we have fully effective legislation in the Criminal Code, even if we can expect full and vigorous enforcement from the Provincial Attorney General's Department. I say that because of the onus of proof.

If I might digress; we had the same situation with regard to the Criminal Code in some phases of welfare problems during the years. For instance, as to family desertion, the Criminal Code made it a criminal offence—I am not speaking in legal terminology, but generally—a criminal offence for a man to

leave his wife and children without proper maintenance. Well, year in and year out we lost case after case that we took before the courts. Say a child of two years old was left in an empty house, in 10-below-zero weather, without fire or food: the charge against the parents was dismissed because a milkman going his rounds at four in the morning heard the child crying, went in and took it to a convent, and by the time the case got to trial the child was in better health than it had ever been before.

In one case that I recall a sick woman was left in a shack on what is now highway No. 7—it was not No. 7 then, Senator Fallis—and a trapper coming through found her, cared for her, put her on a sleigh and took her to one of the small hospitals in the Haliburton district, so her health was absolutely improved as a result of her husband's desertion. Since those days we have built up over the years a series of provisions in the Criminal Code, so that a person who leaves any member of his family without food or shelter or the means of providing it can be successfully prosecuted under the family desertion section.

Then there was a situation that developed during the First World War, when some men went and lived in common-law relationship with the wives of absent soldiers, and there were a number of test cases before the courts, including the Supreme Court of Canada, over the years from 1919 to 1934. Finally there was an amendment put in the Code to deal with sexual immorality or adultery under the charge of contributing to delinquency of juveniles. In these cases our principal aim was not to have any man prosecuted, but rather to get the individual situations cleaned up and the homes held together. We wanted to make it possible for the social agencies to work with the home and have it reconstructed by the time the soldier returned home. We lost our first test case because we could not prove that the sexual immorality had actually taken place in the home. Certain amendments were made to the Code, and then we lost a Saskatchewan case that was carried through to the Supreme Court, because the children were asleep at the time of the alleged offence. Then an amendment was made whereby it did not matter whether at the time of the offence the child was actually present or, if he was, whether he knew what was happening. Finally we were instrumental in getting an amendment so inclusive that it does not matter whether the offence actually takes place in the home of the child, whether the child is of an age to know what is going on, and so on.

I mention these things to indicate what I think is the line that will have to be taken in dealing with the distribution and offering for sale of this objectionable literature. We are going to have to put more onus on the dealer in connection with what he sells. True, this is interfering with individual liberty, but we have that situation entirely across Canada, and particularly in this province, as it is related to the offering of food for sale. We control the offering of food that is putrid or deleterious; we control the druggist who must offer death-dealing drugs under proper conditions, and be properly licensed to do so. To me the same requirement should be placed upon the printing of material that is so putrid as to be poisonous. We must bring about a measure of inspection and control of it, and place the onus on the purveyor of such literature.

To my mind the control should be somewhat like the provisions we have to prevent contributing to delinquency. Persons over 21 years of age are deemed to be capable of looking after themselves, and they can go to hell in their own way, if they choose to; but to exploit those persons who are deemed not to have full responsibility, is the area of protection that we should aim at. Our concern should be for the early adolescents, the teen-agers. We find that in many ways the older ones are much more sophisticated and experienced today than many an average citizen who was raised in a smaller town or rural area. We should direct our control against the sale and distribution of literature of a type and nature to be deleterious, whether the persons having such them are deemed to be of an age or nature to suffer therefrom.

Such control as I suggest would have to be most carefully drawn. I do not think we can possibly hope to dictate or control the output of this type of literature at every stage where it originates, whether by import or printing. I served for some years on the related committee of the League of Nations, and it is my opinion that with the destruction of much of the market for undesirable literature in Europe in the old and rather effete civilizations, that it has transferred itself in a great part to this continent. I believe that Canada is an absolute open field for such publications, with its large population of young people, and in areas where this type of literature has been heretofore unknown. I believe that we are today at the end of a sewer, as it were; that we are a new market replacing a lost market.

I have seen in Ottawa material comparable to that which I saw at the League of Nations in the period from 1928 to 1936. A division of the commission on which I sat at that time had to do with the traffic of women and children, and I believe that literature now being distributed in Canada is definitely related to that which I saw then. One can go down Bank Street any day and see such articles displayed as beer mugs and the like, created in the most suggestive distortions.

I think this whole affair has a much more serious aspect than the League of Nations felt it had. It spells the destruction of a fundamental principle of western civilization, namely the sanctity of the individual spirit and body. I mean that, and the whole basis of democracy is gone, for there is in each person something of the spirit of God. That is why, unlike many other civilizations, we do not smother our human deformities at birth; we do not gas the old and the useless; we do not dispose of our thoroughly crippled and handicapped people who are just lying breathing. We have a regard for human life. Now, if we break down the regard that we have for the sanctity of the human body and the fundamental relations between man and woman we are destroying our civilization. I have before me this cardinal edition of Pocket Book Incorporated, from the International Building, Rockefeller Centre, New York. What better address could anybody who was uninformed be given? Some of the finest material printed is coming from International Building in Rockefeller Centre. There is a note on this little book—which I will leave with you as an exhibit—which states more blatantly than I have seen, what it exactly does:

When Sir Richard Burton's translation of the Arabian Nights first appeared, the western world was shocked by its frank treatment of sex and sex perversions. For western customs and ideals sharply differ from these of Islam, and this robust classic immediately became notorious. Here is the heart of the original Burton translation with all the exuberant and vigorous fancy of Moslem folklore intact—a fascinating picture of a society whose interest in things of the flesh is completely outside our own Christian tradition.

I should say that this is a travesty of the Moslem faith; it is a reflection on the tremendous spiritual content of Islam and it definitely has an undermining influence.

Those are the remarks I wished to make, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: May I ask you one question about the Alberta Court proceedings to which you referred. What was the name of the case?

Miss WHITTON: It was the *King vs Whitton, Cooke and Dingman*.

The CHAIRMAN: Did it go to one of the Superior Courts?

Miss WHITTON: Nineteen days before three Supreme Court Judges. I would suggest that you write to Judge E. D. Feir one of the Supreme Court Judges at Lethbridge.

The CHAIRMAN: I am sure the case would be reported, and would be available in the Library.

Miss WHITTON: Yes; but for the full docket of evidence and the particular section and the examination of the distributors, you could write to the Judge. Many of these distributors were decent fellows, and they gave evidence as to how many magazines of this and that type they had to take, and if they did not display them and sell them they did not get the others. What was most disturbing to us was that in some smaller place, like Milk River, a boy of 12 or 14 would be selling magazines, and he also would have to take the undesirable with the desirable, and sell them.

Hon. Mr. BURCHILL: Mr. Chairman, I am sure we are all very much indebted to Mayor Whitton for her remarks. I have listened with great interest, as I am sure every member of the committee has, to what she has had to say. The Mayor has had such a training and experience in this sort of thing that I was just wondering if she would care to sum up her remarks, say under two or three heads, as to the direction in which she would suggest this committee should work, to be most effective. You suggested, Miss Whitton, one or two things as you went along. We want if possible to make some real contribution to the problem, and we might be helped if we had your suggestions as to the best road to take.

Miss WHITTON: Well, Mr. Chairman, if I might venture, having had some experience as secretary to a Dominion Minister in other years, and knowing something of committees, as well as being the head of a council of a municipal government unit, I would suggest that you should consider very carefully continuing this committee and giving it secretarial service during this recess of parliament. I think you will find that you have taken hold of something that is very intricate and extended. I remember, when in Saskatchewan during the drought years, having heard the story of a man who stopped to pick up a cowboy's hat apparently half buried in the sand. He then saw a man's head and shoulders under the hat, almost engulfed in the sand. So he threw his groundsheet down and prepared to swing his lariat to get it under the arms of the man and try to pull him out of the sand, when the cowboy he was trying to rescue said "You don't know the half of it; there is a horse underneath!" I think, sir, that is about what you are going to find as you go further into this matter. Therefore, if I can say so without presumption, I think you will have to make a general report more or less on the surface, or you will have to provide or add to your secretarial resources, for the purposes of a thorough inquiry, somebody who knows something of the details of this field. Then, if you are going to be effective, you will have to relate the inquiry to general pornographic material in various forms. There is this type of film I have mentioned. I want to be most explicit in stating that I am not referring to the general film industry, because I fought in this cause years ago as strongly as anybody, and I would say an improved public opinion and a greatly increased sense of public responsibility have led to co-operation from the motion picture distributors and exhibitors all across this continent, in giving us a much finer type of recreational film. But what I have in mind is the type of film which is salacious and so definitely related to this literature, what is manufactured within Canada; what is semi-manufactured, and what is imported; the question of where the existing resources, let us say, for control fell down; and attention may be paid to the case now pending in the city of Ottawa, which may possibly be of great assistance. Another thing to be considered is the relationship to procurement and to commercialized prostitution. The whole nature of this thing has changed in recent years in most communities on this continent. Instead of being confined to districts—I will not use the word "regularized", because theoretically, under

our Criminal Code, such a thing is not possible, though it is possible in practice—there is nowadays a promiscuous individual prostitution which works out from restaurants, dance halls and the like. A social worker in one of your major cities in the field of family protection, particularly teen-age work, connected with one of these agencies, can give you a listing in one of your big metropolitan cities as to different strata in which these things operate. The police and the agencies and the clinics attempt to exercise control, and to some extent it is effective. One of the deplorable ramifications of this business can be illustrated by a case which occurred in one of the western provinces. Possibly the Canadian Welfare Council has the court record on one of its old files. It revealed practices which are utterly devilish; I can find no other word to describe what goes on. There is a type of publication which carries "Lonely Hearts" or correspondence columns of that description. For years the *Toronto Globe* ran one of the most valuable institutions in Canada—The Circle of Young Canada. In small villages and towns are many young, imaginative boys and girls; they may be in the upper forms of the high school, going on to their matriculation. One of the most constructive activities on their behalf is through some of the church papers and similar schemes for carrying on correspondence. But the type of magazine I mentioned exploits the desire for companionship of both young and old. For instance, in a pleasant little community of about a hundred people they will get the address of some young girl who may be looking for a correspondent. A woman in Saskatchewan sent me some of the material which her young daughter got by writing to one of these publications. She was so horrified that she took it to her mother. In this particular case, two or three weeks later a young chap arrived in the community—quite dapper, and driving a new car. He may be taking subscriptions or selling some commodity or other. My sex, like your own, is attracted by a particularly well-dressed person coming newly into a community. Remember in the small villages when the bank boys used to come in, all dressed up; the lads one had been going with to hockey games did not compare with the fellow with the patent leather shoes and the store clothes from Ottawa. That is what happens, the "city slickers" come in. I do not want to be an alarmist, but this whole matter is related. These fellows will even go through a form of marriage with some of these girls and bring them down into the city. To make a long story short, over a period of three to four months about seven girls from that area of the province were brought down and into the trade in that big city. Another thing was that they advised girls in this particular area—it was the most terrific thing I had seen—that they could get jobs in the city if they would write to the employment service. The girls registered with the employment service and then this man and his wife, who had a fine residential home, would go down and ask for girls whom they could train as superior housemaids. That sort of thing was cleaned up in that city, but it was appalling to discover that this sort of thing could go on through our employment service. However, that cannot happen now through our employment service which has long since been established on a national basis. I would also suggest amending the Code so as to make the act of contributing to delinquency or an act that would likely contribute to delinquency an offence, and I think that the onus of proof should be on the person or persons who purvey these goods.

Hon. Mrs. FALLIS: Before Dr. Whitton leaves this question I should like to ask her a question. We have been intensely interested by what we have been told, but there is one thing that puzzles me a little. Dr. Whitton, you describe about placing the responsibility on the dealers.

Miss WHITTON: Yes, right along the line.

Hon. Mrs. FALLIS: I wonder how that can be carried out? You compared it with the selling of putrid foods and that sort of thing. Of course, we have pure food laws which supervise this sort of thing, but if you put the onus on the dealer as to what he can sell, who is to decide which literature he can sell and which literature he cannot sell? I believe you mentioned that the dealer who sells that stuff has no idea what it contains?

Miss WHITTON: Yes.

Hon. Mrs. FALLIS: Obviously a dealer cannot read all these books to decide which he should sell and which he should not sell. Who would decide this?

Miss WHITTON: When I said the distributor I meant all the way through.

Hon. Mrs. FALLIS: You said dealer.

Miss WHITTON: I meant the distributor and right through. I would start at the "Pocket Books Incorporated". This is printed in the U.S.A. This is definitely one source.

Hon. Mrs. FALLIS: I was wondering about the placing of the responsibility on the dealer.

Miss WHITTON: I was careless in using that term.

The CHAIRMAN: I think Mayor Whitton changed it to "purveyor".

Miss WHITTON: Yes, I changed the term later. I would place the responsibility right along the line, to everybody who handles this sort of thing. From what I have seen in Ottawa I would say that 90 per cent of the cheap little sheets are obviously trash on the face of them.

The CHAIRMAN: That is right.

Miss WHITTON: When the folder or the cover shows a woman who is stripped to teasing you know that it is not a treatise on the monastic life. This is also obvious from the headlines on the cover of the book, but the man who unpacks these magazines cannot get a copy of one of our very reputable magazines. For instance it is likely that he cannot get the *Ladies Home Journal* unless he has some other lurid things for ladies who are at home for other purposes.

Hon. Mr. REID: In your investigation in this city did you find any definite evidence from the retailers to the effect that they had to take a certain amount of this literature or otherwise not be supplied with reputable magazines.

Miss WHITTON: I quoted the evidence taken in Alberta because I cannot refer to the Ottawa case, it being before the courts.

Hon. Mr. REID: I understand that.

Miss WHITTON: The police have told me that since large quantities of this cheap literature has been stored in the police station, they have not had the same trouble with the rats. Apart from anything else, the paper is very poor and the odour from it is terrific when it is placed anywhere there is a little dampness. Whether it is that or whether the rats have taken too much sulphide, it seems to have solved part of our problem. The evidence in Ottawa is in the hands of the court.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, and you cannot discuss that.

Hon. Mr. REID: During your splendid dissertation you mentioned having had experience with the League of Nations many years ago. I am wondering what steps other countries are taking to curb this distribution of salacious literature? When you were relating the difficulties you encountered before the courts I had every sympathy with you, because I feel that sometimes there is a little too much law and not enough justice. I am wondering what steps have been taken about this subject in other countries.

Miss WHITTON: The commission only got going on broader terms in 1928. We started off with the very serious problems of traffic in women and children, and the world study of that by the commission showed a terrible and

organized traffic in the procuring of youngsters as early as six and eight years of age. They were given good educations and pseudo-adoptions in certain groups and found themselves in a trade which moved throughout Europe and across North and South America and Asia. We were concentrating on that and trying to bring it under the control of international and central authorities. From that we studied the traffic in drugs and related matters. We were only getting our teeth into the latter about 1936.

And then of course we were dealing with other matters—the war came on—and that old commission disappeared. We were trying to work along two lines there. One, which I have not dealt with at all, is the fundamental line of using every constructive educational force and influence in the church and school to develop wholesome interests in good literature. It is that kind of action that is cleaning up the motion picture situation. It has been proved that if you will provide and make known attractive pictures, the public will patronize them and they will be more successful than those objectionable types. The other line of attack is by the making of international convention for protection. In the days when all these things had to go through the mail you had better control. They do not have to go through the mail now; they are shipped by truck and other means. I am told, though I have had no reason to verify it, that some of the motor boat traffic that at one time was not unprofitable at certain border points in Ontario, now is used to handle some this material. At the League we were trying to get agreements among groups of nations, as was done in dealing with the white slave traffic, and establish controls by bilateral conventions. I should say that line of attack is absolutely essential here between Canada and the United States. We are just like a house with open windows. Canada, with its 14 million people, beside the United States, with 150 million people speaking the same language and having much the same outlook, cannot without a bilateral convention hope to control the situation here. That was what we were working on, and there may be some of the conventions in draft form at the Department of External Affairs.

The CHAIRMAN: I am putting in for the information of the committee a clipping from the *Christian Science Monitor* which states that this feature is being discussed by UNESCO.

Miss WHITTON: Our commission disappeared in 1940 or 1941, and this work is distributed over two or three divisions of the United Nations, most of it being in UNESCO.

Hon. Mr. GERSHAW: Mr. Chairman, could we revert for a moment to that Alberta case? I may say that the people of Alberta feel they owe Miss Whitton a great debt for working up that case. I would like to ask her now if she recalls what class of purveyors or dealers gave evidence to the effect that they were obliged to take some undesirable literature in order to get the desirable kind.

Miss WHITTON: I forget the exact names, Senator Gershaw, but there was the Northern Alberta News Agency, the Southern Alberta News Agency, and the nice little chap with the glasses there who has his own office right beside the Palliser. He sold around southern Alberta. He was scared out of his wits when he found himself involved in this. The other one served from Lethbridge eastward to about Moose Jaw. They were rather railway divisions of distribution. These men who provided the Alberta market were responsible citizens. The one in Edmonton was a nice chap, quite active in one of the service clubs, and there was terrific resentment when a summons was served on him as well as on us outsiders. I could get you those names, Mr. Chairman, from my own legal counsel at that time.

I would say, sir, if I might do so, that I think you have the complete mechanism at hand, if you can use it, in the Combines Investigation machinery, administered by the Department of Justice. There is no doubt whatever that there is an absolutely organized distribution system, outside of which you cannot get supplies of literature, and I would suggest that you might be able to deal with this if the Combines Investigation machinery were placed at your disposal.

Hon. Mr. GERSHAW: Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN: If there are no more questions, I will express the thanks of the committee to Miss Whitton.

Miss WHITTON: I felt that you would prefer an informal presentation of such knowledge as I had rather than a formal presentation. In the Board of Control and City Council we appreciate the work that the Senate Committee is doing in this matter. You have the detachment which is valuable for the purpose. May I say that in recent years I have been more interested in the reform of the House of Commons than in the reform of the Senate. As I study constitutional history I feel that the analyses of various matters by a body such as this, presented to a busy Cabinet, are one of the important services that we receive from our present double-barrelled system. We in the city administration certainly appreciate the fact that you have taken hold of this matter, and as our case progresses we shall make all the information available to you. I would suggest also that you might find it useful to have one or more members of your committee attend the hearings before the magistrate. Senator McGuire, for instance, an eminent lawyer, could certainly keep you informed as to the legal angles of the case—and perhaps in a matter of this kind he would not charge his usual Supreme Court fee.

The CHAIRMAN: Well, Miss Whitton, we are grateful to you for coming here this morning and giving us this interesting presentation. You will have noted the general interest of the committee in it, and I do not need to tell you that it will be of great help to us.

We are to hear now from Mr. W. E. O'Meara, Assistant Director, Marriage Services, University of Ottawa.

Mr. W. E. O'MEARA: Mr. Chairman, and ladies and gentlemen. I feel that following Miss Whitton's presentation I will be pretty much an anticlimax. At the outset of her remarks Miss Whitton said that she was not supplying her material in printed form because of the hanging possibilities involved. I happen to have my presentation in the form of a brief, so may I invite you to the hanging when it takes place. Perhaps I will be allowed to read my brief at this time.

Perhaps, at the outset, it would be well if I were to explain the purpose of our work at Marriage Services of the University of Ottawa. The Catholic Centre is an extension department of the University of Ottawa, established as a sort of laboratory where we study social problems and seek to find solutions. Thus, an investigation some fourteen years ago, revealing among young people a very great lack of understanding of what marriage is all about, resulted in a course of preparation for marriage that has since been followed by more than 75,000 students on this continent alone; other editions have been prepared in Portuguese (for Brazil), in German, French and Spanish. These are operating in their own countries.

Since we undertook to help prepare these young people for marriage, it is obvious that we would have to follow up on this work, helping them with the problems that arise in family life. Hence, we have been giving some thought to this problem that is now before this Special Committee and we consider it our privilege to pass along the results of this thinking for whatever help it may afford.

Last Thursday, June 12, an Associated Press news report told how an escaped convict, making a desperate effort to seize a get-away car, stabbed a nine-year-old girl hostage to death while her mother looked on helpless. There is no doubt that those who read the story were struck with horror. On the other hand, we have ample reason to believe that a similar metaphorical situation is occurring daily, the escaped convict being the literature that has self-liberated itself from moral principles, seeking to capture minds and souls in its dangerous grasp, ruthlessly stabbing at the characters of children, while the parents can only look on helplessly.

By contrast, the Royal Bank of Canada in its monthly letter of last December pointed out that "among the many problems pressing upon us in these days is one that is above all others important: preservation of our family way of life." Here is our top-rank social institution, and it is at the same time the nearest many of us come to that "heaven upon earth" that the philosophers talk about. It is, of all our social necessities, the most necessary.

The family holds its preeminent place in our way of life because it is the only possible base upon which a society of responsible human beings has ever found it practicable to build for the future, and maintain the values they cherish in the present. If the family were to be swept away, the world would become a place of regimentation, chaos and desolation.

In the cultural life of the family, the parents' role is twofold. There is the duty of education, leading the way along the path of culture and learning while at the same time protecting the members of the family against regressive or dangerous outside influences.

Government, (whether on the municipal, the provincial or national level) may be described as the elected and selected representatives of the families within their respective domains, and legislating on a correspondingly broader scale for the welfare of these families in matters that are too complex or too vast for the individual families to cope with themselves; and so, government may be considered not as usurping the place of parents, but as supplementing and aiding their efforts to maintain stable family life, providing help in the matter of education, and supplying the necessary protection which the parents themselves would provide against dangerous outside influences but which they have entrusted to their elected and selected representatives.

At the present time, a problem has arisen as to which shall prevail: the parents' conscientious efforts to protect and expand the development of their children supernaturally, spiritually, culturally, morally or the agencies that through indecent literature or other such means are, deliberately or otherwise, counteracting the parents' aims, desires and efforts.

As an example of this disregard for the moral and cultural welfare of the family today, may I quote from an article that appeared in a writers' magazine as an extract from a book: "How to Write for Money":

The average writer forgets that even if *he* does not go to church, a lot of Americans do. A sex novel is largely shunned by Catholics, orthodox Jews, Christian Scientists, and the large Protestant Churches. Yet all of these will read a novel with purple sex passages in it if the novel, as a whole, is full of dull material that sounds hellish highfalutin. The protection against Sumner is simple. As I say, he has lost nearly every case against a book that he has ever tackled. He depends today on his nuisance value in harassing book publishers. You can ignore him if you live far from New York and have never heard of him, but New York publishers cannot ignore him because they are in his legal jurisdiction. To circumvent him you merely pile up the real or pseudo

literary value of a novel to such proportions that the publisher can make out a good case for the theory that sex is incidental. In this event Sumner has never, lately, tackled a book. A New York judge put him down for the count on this about ten years ago when he tackled *Ulysses*, by James Joyce. A decision was rendered to the effect that a book whose primary purpose is literary may contain ever so much diddling and still be classified as literature. It is hard to give an exact summation of this sex business in novels; but, roughly speaking, if about ten per cent of your novel is aphrodisiac, you can be sure of being safe. You might even get by with twenty per cent. An established Big Name might get by with thirty! However, with ten per cent of sex you can do a lot of passion spreading around the premises. Preface it by a certain amount of dull literary junk, and follow it by some equally hoity-toity prose and you can, in your novel, write seventy-five hundred words of a sex scene that will start the dog howling out in the back yard.

Obviously, if all our efforts on the part of parents and the vast expenditures that are annually made in this country to provide our people with better education are to be of any avail, then something must be done to end the flood of indecency flowing from minds guided by such sordid ideals as the above extract would indicate. Surely our children, our family life and our national culture are to be valued at more than thirty pieces of silver!

No one will dispute that it is the right and duty of parents to see to the proper education of their own children, and this applies in a special manner to sex education. It is the parents' responsibility to decide the time best suited for the instruction of each individual child in this matter, to determine the best circumstances for each individual child, and the best manner for each individual child.

In the matter of sex education, the parent is usually the one best fitted to give this instruction but, under current circumstances, this right and duty of parents is being wantonly torn from them and usurped by the publishers, manufacturers and retailers of pornographic material. What some children used to learn surreptitiously around the corner from the wrong sources of bad companions, this generation seems to be learning, still from wrong sources—sex novels, magazines, etc.

It seems to us that responsibility for correcting the present situation resides on three levels:

(1) *The national level:* On this level, legislation obviously is necessary to prohibit the importation or publication or manufacture and distribution of any literature, advertising, or product of a salacious or suggestive nature, so that a check may be imposed on those novels, magazines and newspaper with nationwide circulation, and the manufacture and distribution of indecent products may be curbed. This would seem to be the first essential step for reducing the problem to a point where it could be further dealt with on other levels.

(2) *The local level:* After the first essential step, national legislation, has been taken care of, there could then be effected, on the local level, what might be called "the responsibility of good taste". While most and, probably, all of our Canadian newspapers recognize, as the *Ottawa Journal* pointed out last week, that "a newspaper really cancels its right to freedom when it shuns its responsibility", recognition of this responsibility must go right down the line to include even a newspaper's juvenile readers, taking into account the quality of advertising accepted, the material of its comic strips, and the working of movie advertisements. It is unfortunately true that some good family newspapers are reduced to mediocrity by the type of movie ad supplied to them and printed by them. The responsibility of good taste would seem to call for closer editing

of many of these movie ads. May we suggest a further responsibility of the press: while it is a newspaper's right to report what it finds, it would seem to us that a newspaper also has a duty to omit certain facts in the content of the news that it reports. For example, the details concerning *how* crimes are committed might well be deleted; otherwise, news columns may easily become a manual of instructions for budding criminals on how to commit certain crimes according to tried and proven methods and what to avoid if you don't want to get caught.

Still on the local scene, there is a responsibility of good taste that devolves upon manufacturers of such things as book matches, calendars, glasses, playing cards, etc., to see to it that their products measure up to standards of decency. It might be surprising to such manufacturers to realize how frequently their advertising backfires on their own products by reason of the many people who will not patronize the stores where their products are sold or displayed. This is not prudery on the part of such choosy customers; rather it is a form of revolt expressed more positively by a Canadian writer a few years ago when he wrote an article entitled "I'm Sick of Sex." There is a further responsibility on manufacturers in the matter of good taste in their billboard advertisements. In this latter category, we might also mention the responsibility of good taste that falls upon the local advertiser concerning his window displays, local newspaper's ads, and streetcar or bus ads.

(3) *The family level:* There is the responsibility of the family itself to determine what literature or other material may enter the home. As a standard by which to measure, may we suggest the following: "The kind of characters or conduct that conscientious people would not tolerate in person in their homes has no reason for being tolerated just because it enters in the form of print or so-called art, to mingle and 'converse' with their children." And it should be noted that indecency does not restrict its influence to children only. If an adult is swayed perversely by indecent reading or illustrations, then by the fact that the family is a social unit, it is just a matter of time before the effect is felt throughout the entire family circle.

On the other hand, since it is obviously impossible for parents to personally censor all novels, magazines, comic books and movies, it is equally obvious that any legislation banning all material of a salacious nature will simplify considerably their task of protecting their families against this onslaught. As matters now stand, it is not only a question of prohibiting this material from entering the home; regardless of where one may go and regardless as to whether the individual wishes to see these indecent pictures and articles, they are thrust into his view so repeatedly that there is danger of coming to take this sort of thing for granted. Consequently, to simplify the parents' task, national legislation—or, the enforcement of whatever adequate laws we have, or may have—is required to protect and foster family culture and national culture.

May we suggest also that *after* this legislation is defined and we *then* come into the realm of the responsibility of good taste, newspaper publishers and magazine publishers in Canada, in cooperation with church leaders, Parent-Teacher Associations, and Home and School Associations, draw up for themselves a national code of good taste. A similar code might be drawn up in like manner by manufacturers regarding their advertising. On the local scene, a similar code might be prepared for and by local stores and advertisers.

To distinguish between these publishers and proprietors who show themselves ready to cooperate each year and those who are not particularly interested in cooperating in such a worthwhile venture, an emblem could

be designed by a joint committee of church leaders, Parent-Teacher Association, and Home and School Association groups, to be awarded on an annual (or semi-annual) basis to the former class of publishers and proprietors, with permission to reproduce this emblem in their advertising or in their store windows. In this way parents and those interested in clean literature would have some assurance that the publications that will enter their home, and that the stores that they themselves will patronize and to which they send their children to make purchases, have been approved by responsible organizations.

In any effort to raise our cultural level, much of our success or failure depends upon the teamwork between the home, the church, and the school. All three are teaching bodies—and the teacher can only teach what he knows. Of the three, the parents are the first teachers. In dealing with this matter of salacious literature and indecent products, we must keep in mind that the child of today, formed so largely by his environment, whether good or bad, is the parent, the home-maker and the teacher of tomorrow's children. As the parent of tomorrow, the teacher of his children, if his mind is filled with nothing higher than carnal thoughts and concepts, then for his children there can be only the beginning of a new cultural Dark Ages, because it is common pedagogy that you can't teach what you don't know.

The CHAIRMAN: That has been a very fine presentation, Mr. O'Meara.

Hon. Mr. REID: I want to ask this witness a question that I have asked others who have appeared before this committee. To what extent do you find, in your contact with parents, that the parents themselves bring this literature into their homes where their children can easily get hold of it?

Mr. O'MEARA: I am afraid my answer to that particular question would have to be largely theoretical. I think the present situation regarding this material is so widespread that even among the more popular magazines we frequently find that while the articles may be of a very high calibre the advertising is rather suggestive. Therefore, it is an almost impossible problem to segregate the articles from the magazines.

Hon. Mr. REID: I think I could agree wholeheartedly with you that legislation is necessary to prohibit the importation of publications on a national level. The question I am trying to solve in my own mind is this: Who will say which is which? I will give you an illustration without naming the book. A few years ago a writer put out a book on the life of Robert Burns. I think I can say safely that the great sale of this book was due to the salacious nature of the writing, because in it the author portrayed all the love scenes of Robert Burns. Now, there have been hundreds of books written about Robert Burns. I was presented with a volume of this particular book and I just hid it after I read it. Here was a book written about the life of a poet, and yet many of the passages were written in extremely lurid terms. Who is going to decide what is good and what is not good? We might have different ideas entirely on this matter.

Mr. O'MEARA: I realized when I was preparing this brief that this would probably be a very great problem—what would be the standard of judgment. The only standard that I could find for myself, and the one that we apply in our own family lives, is the one where I suggested that the kind of characters or conduct that would not be allowed into the home should not be allowed in just because it comes in the form of print.

Hon. Mr. REID: My reading of history has shown me that laws were laid down to prevent this sort of thing long before people could even read. You will find that in the time of Moses the death sentence was provided for this sort of thing.

Hon. Mrs. FALLIS: Do we not already have in the Criminal Code the very thing that this brief seeks in section 1 on page 4, legislation to prohibit the importation? We have that on the statute books now under the Criminal Code, but not pertaining to publications in Canada, as I understand it.

The CHAIRMAN: We have that to a degree. There are two questions to be resolved. First of all, what is obscene? That is one of the problems. There should be a definition of obscenity. The second problem is: Who does the censoring and, correlated to that, how well qualified are they to censor and are they doing their duty at the present time? Those are all questions with which we might as a committee very well engage our minds. I am not saying that the law at the present time is not adequate. We have not made any finding on that. We may in our deliberations before we are through with this investigation find that the law is adequate, but it is not properly enforced. If I may recapitulate, first we have to find out whether the law is sufficient, and then we must find out whether in the case of importation the federal authorities are enforcing the law, and whether in other cases the provincial authorities are enforcing the law. I think Miss Whitton raised that question most effectively. That was the basis of part of her argument.

Hon. Mrs. WILSON: As the witness has said, some magazines of a reputable standing publish high-class articles but the advertising may be suggestive.

The CHAIRMAN: A most admirable editorial appeared in the *Saint John's Telegraph* on June the 10 which dealt with this whole situation. The writer commented on the fact that this country was gradually reaching a period of moral decadence and that while no one is normally a favour of controls on what we may read, the situation in this particular instance is developing to such a degree that something in the nature of controls will have to be imposed whether we like it or not. I do not suggest at all that that is what our committee will find, but it is a suggestion made in this editorial. The writer's contention was that the line between decency and indecency should not be hard to define, and I quite agree with him on that point. What the public would reasonably find offensive should not be difficult to determine.

Mr. O'MEARA: May I make a suggestion here? It seems to me that we have a great many speakers all stressing the danger confronting democracy and our western way of life, but as a parent I would say that looking at the national picture in the same way as I would look at my home life, I would rather err a little bit on the side of severity, if the situation is so dangerous, than to err on the side of laxity. I would rather that my child, for example, be controlled a little as to what he reads, rather than be allowed a free choice that might prove dangerous for him.

Hon. Mrs. FALLIS: That is perhaps easy to follow out, in so far as children are concerned, but when you are dealing with adult literature you have something else again. In another committee that we had it was generally understood that the great need was to have public opinion behind any steps taken, and I had thought that one of the things this committee was going to do was to arouse public opinion. It would be a very brave person who would attempt to dictate to adults what they should read.

Mr. O'MEARA: May I clarify the point there? I do not mean that there should be dictation, but that we should try to find a middle course, and if we erred perhaps a little bit towards severity in following that middle course it would not be rigid severity. I would try to find a middle course between honesty and prudery. We cannot pin the thing down definitely for every individual case, but I suggest that we could perhaps be a little on the strict side in framing our laws so as to avoid loopholes that might be taken advantage of.

Hon. Mr. REID: Has your organization made an investigation into the possible effects of television on children across the land? We are now faced with the likelihood of televised broadcasts in the Montreal and Toronto districts at least, and many people feel that these things may not be an un-mixed blessing. From my own limited experience I know that many people view with alarm the possible effect of television broadcasts, sponsored by advertisers, and received in thousands of homes.

Mr. O'MEARA: Our study on that began about a year ago. As I mentioned in the brief, we have had a great many students in the United States and they have written to us asking if we cannot find a solution for this problem. These students are scattered all over the states, and they write to us as a central organization that is perhaps a little bit detached from the problem at present. Last fall when I was in Chicago, and later down in the border cities, I noticed that when we went to visit many of our friends and relatives, whom in some cases we had not seen for four or five years, the visit was rather disappointing. We spent the time looking at the television set, and interruptions to discuss what had happened in the intervening four or five years were not particularly welcome.

The CHAIRMAN: May I ask you one question? Do you think that the C.B.C. is, like Caesar's wife, above reproach?

Mr. O'MEARA: Well, Mr. Chairman, I have not really made any particular study of any one network. I did not deal with radio in this brief, because it seemed to be a different type of problem. With literature we have some control over what we bring into the house, but radio is thrust upon us, and by the time we can turn it off the damage may be done.

Hon. Mr. REID: Not only is it thrust upon us, but we have set up a body which thinks that it knows better than members of the Senate and House of Commons or the public what is good for people to hear.

Mr. O'MEARA: The words of some of the recordings, for instance, that are put on the air are such that if we could know before hand that they were to be broadcast over a certain station we could turn the station off. Just at present there is a fairly popular song with the title "Love me today and let the devil take tomorrow." I do not relish the thought of that idea being drummed into my child's ears and mind and heart, at a time when he is most impressionable, because these things can easily become life principles. But when I turn on the radio and hear that kind of thing, it is sometimes impossible to turn it off before the idea has already been put across.

Hon. Mr. REID: It will be worse when television comes here, because then the children will both see and hear these things.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. O'Meara, on behalf of the committee I wish to thank you very much for coming here this morning and presenting us with this excellent brief.

Mr. O'MEARA: Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I thank you for listening to me so courteously.

The committee thereupon adjourned until 10 a.m. Thursday, June 19, 1952.

APPENDIX "A"

In conformity with the practice previously adopted, a list is herewith offered for public recording of church officials, social and civic organizations, who have written in since the last meeting expressing their sympathy and interest in the legislation now being conducted by your committee into the current trend in literary and art expression:

Most Reverend Wm. J. Smith, Bishop of Pembroke, Ontario.
 Canadian Association of Social Workers, Ottawa, Ontario.
 Reverend H. C. Mayer, St. Mary's Rectory, Kitchener, Ontario.
 Most Reverend R. H. Dignan, Bishop of Sault Ste. Marie, North Bay, Ont.
 Rev. F. W. Haskins, The Baptist Union of Western Canada, Edmonton, Alta.
 Knights of Columbus, Beupre, P. Q.
 Missions Department, The Pentecostal Assembly of Canada, Toronto, Ont.
 Rev. Sister M. Cornelia, Parent-Teacher Association, Mt. St. Joseph, Peterborough, Ont.
 Mrs. T. C. Fairley, The North Toronto Family Group, Toronto, Ontario.
 St. Ann's Society, St. Francis Xavier Church, Carlsruhe, Ont.
 Hillcrest Home & School Association, Hamilton, Ontario.
 Most Rev. James Boyle, Bishop of Charlottetown, P.E.I.

Anglican Societies, Hamilton Ontario:

The Women's Auxiliary,
 The Ladies' Guild,
 The Men's Club,
 The Church of the Good Shepherd.

The Christian Social Council of Canada, Department of Social Services.

The Canadian Council of Churches, Toronto, Ont.

Units Represented:

The Baptist Federation of Canada.
 The Churches of Christ (Disciples)
 The Church of England in Canada
 The Evangelical United Brethren Church
 The Presbyterian Church in Canada
 The United Church in Canada
 The Salvation Army
 The Society of Friends
 The National Council of Y. M. C. A.

Studio Publications, Toronto, Ont.

The Holy Name Societies of—

St. Agathe Parish, St. Agathe, P. Q.
 Milton, Milton Heights and Trafalgar, Ont.
 St. Lawrence, Hamilton, Ontario.
 Holy Name Church, Hamilton, Ont.
 St. Patrick's Parish, Guelph, Ontario.
 St. Clement's, Preston, Ont.
 Hanover, Ontario.
 Canadian Martyr's Parish, Hamilton, Ont.
 Mildmay, Ontario
 Sudbury, Ontario
 Drayton, Ontario.
 Paris, Ontario
 Greenock, Ontario
 Sacred Heart Parish, Guelph, Ont.

The Catholic Women's Leagues of—

St. Lawrence Church, Hamilton, Ontario.
 The Caledonia Sub-division, Hamilton, Ontario.
 Walkerton, Ont.
 Drayton, Ontario.
 St. Ann's Parish, Hamilton, Ontario.
 Canadian Martyr's Parish, Hamilton, Ont.
 St. Joseph's Parish, Hamilton, Ontario.
 St. John's Parish, Hamilton, Ont.
 Hanover, Ontario.
 St. Joseph's Church, Malton, Ont.
 Greenock, Ontario.

The League of the Sacred Heart—

St. Ambrose, Lorretville, P. Q.
 Mildmay, Ontario.
 St. Lambert, Levis, P. Q.
 St. Samuel de Gayhurst, Frontenac County, P.Q.
 Ville Montmorency, P.Q.
 St. Charles Garnier, Sillery, P. Q.
 Beaupre, P. Q.
 St. Come, Beauce, P. Q.

The Legion of Mary—

Sacred Heart Parish, Walkerton, Ontario.
 Mildmay, Ontario
 Knights of Columbus, Ottawa, Ontario.
 St. Mary's Scout Mothers, Kitchener, Ontario.
 Catholic Youth Organizations, Greenock, Ontario.
 Grey-Bruce, Walkerton, Ont.
 Mildmay, Ontario.

Christian Mothers' Society, St. Agathe, P.Q.
 Catholic Ladies Club, Mildmay, Ontario.
 St. Theresa's R. C. Married Couple Club, Elmira, Ont.
 Jesuit Seminary, Toronto, Ont.
 Hanover Separate School Board, Hanover, Ont.
 North Toronto Peace Association.
 Toronto and Suburban Separate School Board.

Parent Teachers Associations,

Lindsay, Ont.
 St. Margaret's Marys Parish, Ottawa, Ont.
 Trenton, Ont.
 Hamilton Diocesan Council.
 St. Peter's Parish, Sudbury, Ont.
 Sacred Heart Parish, Peterborough, Ont.

The Citizens League,

Notre Dame des Anges, Portneuf Co., P.Q.
 International Conference Defence of Children, Toronto, Ont.
 St. Lawrence Church Auxiliary, Hamilton, Ont.

Altar Societies,

Church Immaculate Heart of Mary, Winona, Ont.
 Church Christ the King, Hamilton, Ont.

- Les Scouts Catholiques du Colege de Levis, P.Q.
 L'Association des Cercles de Fermiers,
 Liniere, P.Q.
 Loretteville, P.Q.
 L'Association de la Jeunesse Ouvrière Canadien-Français, Plessisville, P.Q.
 L'Association Catholique, Plessisville, P.Q.
 La Fédération de l'Association de parent d'instituteurs de la région
 d'Ottawa, Ont.

Specific refinements in governing legislation have been recommended by a number of Social and Church groups, in the following terms:—

Our Ligue requests that the Senate Committee propose a Bill defining the word "obscene" because the word "obscene" is not officially interpreted and because presently it is quite easy to evade the law.

Our Ligue also requests an amendment to the Criminal Code so that the re-printing in Canada of books and magazines prohibited by the Department of National Revenue would be illegal.

Our Ligue also requests that distributors be prohibited from imposing their magazines to retailers without leaving to these retailers the liberty of accepting or rejecting such magazines or periodicals.

Subscribers to the above quoted recommendation are listed as follows:—

- Notre Dame League of the Sacred Heart, Levis, P.Q.
 St. Charles Grenier League of the Sacred Heart, Sillery, P.Q.
 St. Come League of the Sacred Heart, Beauce, P.Q.
 The Chamber of Commerce, Beaupré, P.Q.
 L'Association Cinematique Anti-Alcoolique Lacordaire, Quebec.
 Les Scouts Catholiques du Colege de Levis, P.Q.
 Le Cercle Lacordaire Sainte Jeanne d'Arc, St. Joachim, P.Q.
 The League of the Sacred Heart,
 St. Joachim, P.Q.
 St. Samuel, Frontenac County, P.Q.
 Christ the King League of the Sacred Heart, Levis, P.Q.
 Jeunesse Indépendante Catholique Féminine, St-Sauveur, Québec, P.Q.
 The League of the Sacred Heart, Sainte Urban, P.Q.
 La Commission Scolaire, Plessisville, P.Q.
 La Fraternite des Terteanes, Sainte Urban, P.Q.
 La Association, Baie-St.-Paul, P.Q.
 The Children of Mary, Sainte Urban, P.Q.
 L'Association de la Jeunesse Ouvrière Canadienne-Française,
 Plessisville, P.Q.
 L'Association de Cercle de Fermiers, Liniere, P.Q.
 La Cercle des Fermiers, Loretteville, P.Q.
 La Cercle de Fermieres, Plessisville, P.Q.

The Christian Social Council of Canada, Department of The Canadian Council of Churches, 3 Willcocks street, Toronto 5, Ontario, have requested that the following letter in the nature of an interim brief be brought to the attention of the Committee:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Christian Social Council of Canada (Department of Social Relations of the Canadian Council of Churches), we wish to congratulate the Senate on its appointment of a special committee to deal with the serious problem of objectionable publications and pictures.

From the motion which the Senate passed setting up this special committee, of which you are the Chairman, we understand that your task is to examine into all phases, circumstances and conditions relating to the sale and distribution in Canada of salacious and indecent publications and periodicals.

The churches and religious bodies which are represented in our Council are deeply concerned about the tide of pornography which has flooded the book-stands of this Dominion during recent months. Lurid-covered love stories and love comics, many of them extremely objectionable, can be purchased in all kinds of stores. Some months ago, referring to these publications in the House of Commons, the Minister of Justice said: "They have no redeeming features of any kind; no distinction of conception or style; certainly no idealism; not even any genuine realism; nothing but hack-worth filth seeking filthy lucre."

An editorial writer in *The Ottawa Citizen* says that the sole theme of these books "is the unsavory experience of sneak thieves, drug peddlers and prostitutes. Such publications pervert the minds of children and adolescents. They are not literature. They are, instead, unhealthy excrescences of the publishing trade. They can probably best be described as pornography for profit.

Across Canada, home and school associations, parent-teacher organizations, service clubs and churches have raised their voices in protest against this evil. There is a wide-spread feeling that something should be done to meet and overcome the menace of salacious and obscene publications.

Our Council is aware of the difficulties which your committee will have to face in attempting to deal with this matter, since the problem of what to do about these publications is not quickly resolved. It is extremely difficult to secure a ruling in a court of law as to what can be considered obscene. Then there is the difficulty of drafting a law which will not injure legitimate literature, and yet be broad enough to eliminate filthy periodicals. It is true that not all books dealing with sex and crime are obnoxious or obscene. Some of the world's greatest artists have dealt with these subjects. Nevertheless, the fact remains that much of the so-called literature flooding the bookstores of Canada today can "best be described as pornography for profit."

The churches in our Council insist that freedom of speech must be maintained, yet at the same time there must be a proper emphasis placed upon the curbing of legal infractions. Properly enforced legislation has always had a place in the democratic system of government under which we live. We do not desire a police state, yet action must be taken to prevent the exercise of licence by the few who would destroy morals for monetary gain.

Thousands of dollars of the tax payers' money are spent every year on youth centres and places for recreation. Week after week loyal and devoted Sunday school teachers seek to train their scholars in the art or right living. Yet all the while this tide of indecent publications is allowed to pour its poison over all the land. It would seem as though the time has come to put teeth in our legislation.

Having set these few simple facts before you and your committee for your consideration, we would go on to assure you that our Council is conscious of the fact that good legislation, desirable as it is, cannot adequately meet the situation. The problem confronting us is fundamentally moral and spiritual. The whole moral tone of the nation must belifted to a higher level. In our homes, schools and churches,

we must give our children the social, moral and spiritual "facts of life" as well as the physical, and we must tell them of the grace of God and of its availability in Jesus Christ our Lord.

The churches in our Council are endeavouring to carry out their all-important task of instilling personal convictions concerning moral and spiritual values in the minds and hearts of the people to whom they minister.

We stand ready to be of assistance to your committee in any way possible.

Will you be good enough to bring this letter to the attention of your fellow committee members, at your convenience.

The Units represented by the Christian Social Council of Canada are:—

- The Baptist Federation of Canada,
- The Churches of Christ (Disciples),
- The Church of England in Canada,
- The Evangelical United Brethern Church,
- The Presbyterian Church in Canada,
- The United Church of Canada,
- The Salvation Army,
- The Society of Friends,
- The National Council, Y.M.C.A.

The Most Reverend James Boyle, Bishop of Charlottetown, P.E.I., in protesting against the sale and distribution of objectionable books, suggested the classification of reading material. His Excellency's letter with attached list of writings regarded as unwholesome is herewith submitted.

I am greatly pleased to be informed by your letter of May 21st, that a Special Committee of the Canadian Senate has been appointed to investigate the matter relating to the sale and distribution of salacious and indecent literature. This problem is too big to be left to local governments and social agencies. Whatever plans and procedures have been attempted on a local scale have always been thwarted by the ingenious method of the purveyors of filth.

It is therefore promising to learn that the Canadian Senate is going to seek a solution on a Canada-wide basis.

Attached there is tabled a list of comics, pocket books, and other types of popular reading which should definitely not be available for public reading. These are now on sale at all newsstands in our city and are easily available for those who wish to obtain the same. These vary as to the extent of indecency but each has some particular aspect which merits condemnation.

It seems that a banning of these books will not be a solution to the problem. Experience shows that the same type of material when condemned, is simply published under another title. The publishers in this way can continue to avoid being persecuted and still keep indecent literature on the market.

The only solution that would seem plausible would be to classify the reading material. A classification of the type of material unfit for reading should be prepared, and in this way improper reading could be condemned without a consideration of the title. A board should study this problem and classify improper reading. When this is done the problem could easily be solved.

We submit this brief analysis of the problem and trust that it will be helpful.

Comics

Adventure into the Unknown
Lovelorn
Romance Adv.
Romantic Confessions
Young Love
Romantic Secrets
Sweetheart
Complete Love

Crack Western

Diary Loves
Love Diary
Life Story
Love Experiences

Romances

Intimate Romance
Personal Romances
True Experience
True Love Stories
True Romance

Magazines

Modern Romances
Real Romances
Real Story
Revealing Romance
Secret
True Confessions
True Story

Magazines—Cont'd

Confessions
Fun
Fun Parade
Gags
Glance
Grin
Hit
Hollywood Romance
Night and Day
Pic
Picture Show
Romance Adv. Thrills
Unusual Romance
Vue
Wink
Art Photographer
Photography Handbook
Flash
Hush
Pan Books
Cind Love?
Jungle
Romantic Marriage
Mod. Romance
Candid Confessions
Universal Books
American Photo
Modern Photo
My Story
Photography
See
U.S. Camera

Specific Resolutions were also received, and submitted for the record.

Women's Christian Temperance Union, Edmonton, Alberta—

Whereas we find our country confronted with the problem of juvenile delinquency, and, believing that immoral books in circulation contribute greatly to this evil, we, parents and members of the Edmonton District Women's Christian Temperance Union in convention assembled respectfully request the Federal Government to appoint a Board of Censors comprised equally of women and men to review manuscript of all fiction that has been accepted for publication to prevent the publication in Canada of any more salacious reading material.

Board of Control of the City of Toronto—

The Board of Control on June 3, 1952, had before it a communication from the Crown Attorney for the City of Toronto and the County of York, advising, in answer to a request of the Board, as to his interpretation of salacious literature and obscene pictures in magazines and other periodicals from the standpoint of law enforcement and as to any action that may be taken to stop or curtail the distribution and sale of such magazines and periodicals. The Crown Attorney pointed out that

Section 207 of the Criminal Code creates offences relating to the making, printing, publishing, distributing, selling, exposing for public view or having in possession for any such purpose, obscene or immoral books or pictures; that Section 209 creates offences relating to the making improper use of the mails for the distribution of obscene or immoral books or pictures; and that "Obscenity" is interpreted by judicial decisions as follows:

The test of obscenity is this, whether the tendency of the matter charged as obscenity is to deprave and corrupt those whose minds are open to such immoral influences and into whose hands a publication of this sort may fall.

A publication may be technically obscene, yet it is only when it tends to corrupt morals by inflaming the passions and incite to immoral conduct, it is punishable.

The Crown Attorney further pointed out that the Departments of Post Office, and Customs and Excise have wide powers to prevent the importation of foreign obscene or immoral periodicals; that if this authority is or cannot be exercised, the police, whether the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Provincial Police, or locally, the Toronto City Police, may institute proceedings against one or more individuals for one or more of the offences to which the Crown Attorney referred; and that, in making a decision as to whether it is a proper case in which to prosecute, the assistance of the Crown Attorney's Office is available to the police but, unfortunately, prosecutions of this nature have in the past been generally unsuccessful, for the accused, as he has a right to do, takes a trial by jury and influenced by motives unknown, a jury almost invariably acquits.

The Board considered that action should be taken to prohibit the printing, publishing, distributing, circulating, selling, exposing for public view, or having in possession obscene or immoral books or pictures or other periodicals, and therefore decided to request the Minister of Justice to review the matter with a view to more effective enforcement of the Criminal Code. The Board directed that types of material available to the public in Toronto, which appear to be salacious, be forwarded (by separate mail) to the Minister of Justice, and that the Minister be asked to advise the Board of Control as to what steps might be taken under The Criminal Code to prohibit the continuance of the distribution of such material.

The Board further directed that a copy of this communication be forwarded to the Special Senate Committee regarding Salacious Literature for its information.

The Dominion Anglican Young People's Association, Toronto, Ontario.

At a recent meeting of the Dominion Council of the A.Y.P.A., the members wholeheartedly endorsed a resolution of encouragement to your committee, in connection with your efforts to investigate and suppress salacious literature.

The importance of choosing reading material by Christian standards is constantly stressed among our membership and we are taking action at this time to urge our members to do their part in endeavouring to have indecent printed matter removed from the shelves of book stores and newsstands.

Parent-Teacher Association, St. Margaret Mary's Parish, Ottawa, Ontario.
(President—Mrs. Alice Goodwin):

Resolved, that the Parent-Teacher Association of St. Margaret Mary's Parish recommends to the "Committee", which has been set up to investigate the circulation of salacious and lewd books and articles; that legislation, or other measures which may be necessary, be introduced to control the sale and distribution of "salacious and indecent literature, publications otherwise objectionable from the standpoint of crime promotion, including crime comics and periodicals and lewd drawings, pictures, photographs and articles".

That the "Committee" attempt to determine where the responsibility for controlling the transmission of such literature lies, and who is responsible for taking necessary legal action. That they attempt to clarify the meaning of the word "obscene" as used in existing legislation.

Many letters of outstanding merit have been received by your Committee. One of superior excellence was provided by Rev. Frederick J. Lynch, S.J., President of Saint Mary's University, Halifax. Offered as the view of an educationalist of unqualified standing, it is submitted as follows:—

I appreciate the honor of being asked to submit a brief to your special Committee of the Senate. Unfortunately time does not permit me to prepare an orderly statement of my views on the important task assigned to your Committee. What I suggest has to do rather with the basic approach to the serious question of salacious and indecent literature and lewd and unwholesome pictures.

My views on this and relevant problems are summed up in part in the enclosed extract from the *Intelligence Digest*. Unless your Committee has a conviction that such problems have moral implications, the only solution will be by way of palliatives and vague sanctions.

The deliberate and recognized policy of editors of many publications on our newsstands and of producers of entertainment is professedly pagan and directed to what is sensual and sensuous. It is not far removed from organized gangsterism, as recent investigations in the United States have shown. We Canadians are permitting ourselves to be victimized by indecent literary importations and coercive distribution by agencies.

If your Committee can achieve a solution that is founded on clear cut standards of liberty, of liberty of press, of decency and of Canadian independence in literary publications and sales, you will render a great service to the people of Canada. Unless you agree on aims, you cannot define a policy. I wish you every success in your important assignment.

EXTRACT from *Intelligence Digest*, March 1952, p. 9, in reference to the scene in England.

DECLINE OF MORAL FORCE

"Hopes of national fame and fortune have declined in almost exact proportion of the decline in religion, and over exactly the same time period.

Our observer says that it is the Government's inability, except in war, to appeal to duty as opposed to mere personal interest, which is its severest handicap. This is certainly true. Yet the moral note is almost ever heard in a ministerial speech. The Government itself often encourages the very materialism which is its most dangerous enemy, and which, at every turn, makes its task so hard as to be almost impossible.

There is also a difference between the older generation of politicians and the modern. The former, on the whole, felt they had to answer to God for their activities—the latter, on the whole, think they have to answer to posterity.

The one code is rather more potent than the other, and it certainly has an effect on conduct. But very few British statesmen have any conviction that they may personally have to account to the Creator for their actions.

All these factors are beginning to apply with equal force in America. They have long operated in very many European countries. They are, at the very least, matters for vital consideration, and are at the very root of the present situation.

Many observers are coming to the conclusion that the politician is almost helpless. He can do little beyond the almost desperate application of palliative treatments, until the masses are stirred by a revival which creates a new urge.

PRESENT CRISIS A MORAL PROBLEM

If this were to come, there would not be the slightest reason why all the economic problems should not be solved swiftly. They are not physical problems at all, they are moral. The natural resources, manpower, transport, and all other physical means are there. It is the human factor which causes the entire crisis in almost every country.

At the very root of the entire contemporary crisis in Britain lies a profound moral problem; a problem which, although supreme, is seldom, if ever, mentioned by politicians or the secular press. The ignoring of this vital factor has reached the proportions of a phenomenon, concludes our observer.

It is almost incredible that a country, the economy of which is in ruins, should spend over £600,000,000 a year on gambling, as Britain does, plus another £1,400,000,000 on various indulgences. Half of these sums, spent on the development of Commonwealth territories, and a tithe of them given to devout causes, would, in a single year, make a vast difference. In ten years it would transform the British Commonwealth into a community the like of which has never been seen." •

Reverend L. W. SMITH, of the Editorial Department of the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, in expressing his views, made the following notable contribution:

I take this opportunity to express keen interest in the aims of the investigation committee in the matter of licentious literature being, at the present time, displayed without censor of Canada's newsstands.

Mr. E. L. Dubois' personal apprehension of the moral future of Canada, certainly expresses his views of many other citizens. I know you must appreciate such wholesome backing in your work. Therefore I sincerely trust that this present move shall culminate in legislative action by Parliament. It is alarming that to date, millions of copies of this unbridled, crassly immoral reading matter have already reached the hands of the buying public. In Toronto alone, it is beyond mental conception. I do not need to mention the titles of publications to you in detail. Dear sir, this matter has reached the proportion of utter lawlessness. The press was never granted such liberty. Surely it cannot be a Canadian press, but rather an infiltration from the United States of America.

As a father and a citizen, I wish to hereby register my strong protests, and would beg action soon. As long as the law is lax, such printing concerns will continue to pander the public, and there is always a ready market.

I am of the strong conviction, along with many others, that this influx of filth is already endangering our Canadian civilization and way of life. It is a threat to the country's moral stability, and is quite as insidious as any enemy could ever be.

Our commendation to you on your fine work in this regard. I am a father of four children, journalist and minister.

There are several other letters which I would wish to have written into the record. These express group views from Junior organizations, from family, civic and church bodies, all of whom are exercised over the growing immoral swing in present day thought and expression. They are offered as follows:

Canadian General Council,

The Boy Scouts Association:—

General Spry has asked me to acknowledge your very kind letter with reference to the special committee appointed to examine the sale and distribution of objectionable literature.

The Boy Scouts Association is greatly pleased that such a Committee has been appointed to examine all phases of this exceedingly important influence on the lives and minds of our young people. As the parents of members of our Movement are connected with numerous other organizations who will be submitting briefs, we feel that it is unnecessary for the Boy Scouts Association to further take up the valuable time of the Committee with a brief from our organization as we would have nothing further to add to the excellent material being submitted.

We would, however, like the committee to know that The Boy Scouts Association heartily endorses the committee's work to rid the country of this youth-corrupting influence.

The Most Reverend William J. SMITH,
Bishop of Pembroke,
Ontario.

I am writing to commend you most heartily on the splendid effort you are making to rid our book-stalls and other outlets of indecent, salacious, dangerous pronographic books, magazines and periodicals.

May God bless your efforts with outstanding success so that, as a result of your investigations, there may be effected a legal sanction which will make it a penal offence to publish, import or offer for sale these filthy immoral publications, which do not even merit the title of literature.

I am sure that all people of goodwill, and they are by far the immense majority in Canada, regardless of race, creed or colour, will give you generous support in your campaign to aid parents and teachers, homes and schools, to make our younger generation a moral people.

The Rev. H. HAMILTON,
President, Canadian Executive,
Free Methodist Church in Canada,
7 Fourth Street, East,
Collingwood, Ontario.

Replying to your recent notice of the appointment of a Committee by the Senate to examine into the publication of salacious literature, I wish to say that while we are not at this time submitting a brief on the subject, we are heartily and unanimously ready to support the appointment of such a committee, and wish them all success in their investigations.

That there is need for such an investigation is evident to all clean-minded citizens who glance over the magazines in our book stands. One needs only to refer to the cover pictures of many of these publications.

The pictures in our press of the ballet dancing artists makes one blush at the thought that this is presented as Art.

While travelling, we have occasionally purchased one of the pocket editions offered in drug stores and newsstands at 25 and 50 cents. On at least two occasions we have burned these after reading two or three chapters. We think these popular reading racks should come in for a purging.

We shall be interested to read the report of your committee, and stand ready to render any assistance we can to your splendid effort.

The Most Reverend R. H. DIGNAN,
Bishop of Sault Ste. Marie,
Ontario.

It is with sentiments of sincerest approbation that we have learned of the appointment of a Senate Committee on the sale and distribution of salacious literature.

This very timely step in curbing the aforesaid menace to the morals of our Canadian people meets with our heartiest commendation.

We wish you every success in the very important work in hand.

The Most Rev. J. A. O'SULLIVAN,
Archbishop of Kingston,
Ontario.

All who are interested in public welfare must agree that immense harm is being done among young people by these cheap publications which are so prevalent. At the same time, we realize how difficult it is to control this problem with an efficient censorship that will be acceptable to the majority of citizens. It is encouraging, however, to the clergy whom I represent to see how seriously the Senate Committee is undertaking their investigation. If a satisfactory solution for this vexing question can be found, I am sure you will discover it and have it implemented by legislative action.

Mother M. JEAN,
Superior General,
Providence Mother House,
Kingston, Ontario.

We heartily agree that a worthy work is in progress, and are sincerely grateful that we have a government who are taking steps to protect our young people from the pernicious influence of indecent literature and lewd pictures.

It is not necessary for us to make specific representations; they will be looked after by our teachers' federations and nurses' associations. We wish you to know, however, that we are interested, and will co-operate with you in every way we can for the successful execution of your praiseworthy endeavour.

Miss ETTA McCLELLAND,
Corresponding Secretary,
The Ontario Federation of
Home and School Associations, Inc.
Bank of Nova Scotia Building,
72 Queen Street, East,
Toronto, Ontario.

Your letter of May 21st has been received with much interest by the Executive Committee of Ontario Federation of Home and School Asso-

ciations. This is a matter which has been of special concern to this group for a number of years.

We are requesting our Children's Reading Committee to prepare a brief on this subject, and we will then present it to your Committee.

Sister FRANCIS D'ASSISI,
Mount Saint Vincent College,
Halifax, N.S.

We are very happy at the appointment of the Special Committee of the Senate which you mention and you may be sure that our Community and all the Organizations with which it has contact will co-operate wholeheartedly with the work of the Senate.

We ask that you keep us informed as to any further arrangements and that if hearings are to be held in our locality that we know about these in sufficient time to prepare a brief.

Rev. John H. MCGOOEY,
Director of Promotion,
Scarboro Foreign Mission Society,
Toronto 5, Ontario.

I feel very keenly about this matter, because of my experience with communism in China. Having been in Shanghai both before and after the Communist take over, I can assure you that communism did eventually succeed only because of the apathy of the people towards it. In other words, they had no experience with it, and fell for the propoganda, and now it is too late to do anything about it.

This salacious literature would be opposed by the people who are presently completely unaware of its nature, but they are the last ones in the world to ever buy this trash. Meanwhile, it sucks in more and more people on the borderline.

Therefore, Senator, I would like to assure you that I will do all in my power to interest people in taking up this matter, even if I have to show them the material in question.

My hearty congratulations on your attitude and may your investigation meet with real success.

The Rev. Dr. F. SCOTT MACKENZIE,
Chairman, Board of Education,
The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

I beg to acknowledge and thank you for your letter informing me of the appointment by the Senate of a special committee of which you are chairman, to examine into the whole problem of salacious and indecent literature, pictures, etc., and inviting the co-operation of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

This is something which of course is of very direct concern to the Church; and there will be the utmost readiness to assist your committee in its commendable work in every way possible. You have written to me as chairman of the General Assembly's Board of Education; and since our Board is concerned only with matters of academic interest, I am sending on your letter, together with a copy of this reply, to the chairman of the Board of Evangelism and Social Action, the Rev. E. C. McCullage, Dunnville, Ont., for their consideration and appropriate action.

STUDIO PUBLICATIONS,
Suite 203, 2842 Bloor Street, West,
Toronto, Ontario.

make the following contribution—

Your committee's hearings as reported in the daily press, have been followed up by our staff with considerable interest.

It is with some concern, that we fail to find on record, the committee's interrogation of editors and publishers of such enterprises as are purported to initiate the dissemination of offending literature and art.

If your committee, Sir, is desirous of recommending action which would effectively control the segment of the publishing industry dealing in the alleged salacious literature, it would appear that representation from that segment would be called upon for counsel.

Precedent has established the desirability of having the graphic arts industry police its own ranks, and adhere to its own code of conduct, without the mandate of law, where such could conceivably restrain the endeavour in the arts or the normal course of commerce. Your committee could do much to improve the cultural stature of our peoples, and at the same time make our country less dependent on foreign industry, were it to take cognizance of recommendations made by "The Canadian Independent Publishers Association" to the Minister of Finance. We are at your service.

The Rev. J. S. PAPILLON,
Cure, The Presbytery,
Notre Dame des Anges,
County Portneuf, P.Q.

The Citizens League congratulates you for instituting a committee in order to clean the sale of reviews, magazines, pocketbooks, novelties and certain periodicals.

Please define the word "Obscene" as it would be much too easy to play with the law only with this word not being defined. We wish you would also amend the Criminal Code so as to render it impossible the re-impressions in Canada of all literature banned by the National Revenue. You could also prevent the wholesale distributors from imposing their printed literature on the small dealers, without leaving the small dealers the liberty of choice.

From: J. E. FEHRENBACH,
Circulation Manager,
Kitchener-Waterloo *Record*,
Kitchener, Ontario.

As the father of three children, and as a man who has spent nearly 20 years in promoting the work of the Boy Scouts Association in this district, I wish to add my support to the objection recently voiced by Mr. Emile Dubois of Hamilton to the prevalence of indecent magazines and photo books on the newsstands and magazine racks of our country.

It is unfortunate that the primary distributors of magazines in the United States can wield an influence in Canada forcing smaller distributors and store keepers to take all of the magazines in their lists in order to secure the privilege to sell any of the better class of magazine literature.

I would like you to consider how much effort of our school teachers and youth leaders is wasted, because filthy magazines are boldly displayed on the magazine racks. In nine out of ten places where youngsters buy candy and soft drinks, they are exposed to printed filth and photographed poses of indecent exposure.

It is my earnest hope that the Senate Committee will realize that while censorship can be a fearful thing, it is a far lesser evil than permitting the "profit through filth" motive to continue its control of Canadian policy in the selling of magazines.

Rev. R. ROBERTS, S.F.M.,
Scarboro Foreign Mission Society,
60 Crescent Road,
Toronto 5, Canada.

The recent publicity attending the Senate investigation into the widespread sale of indecent publications on Canadian newsstands, compels one to voice his support of any action directed towards prohibiting such sales. We pride ourselves on being a free nation. For how long will we be able to justify such a claim if we do not take definite steps, through authoritative means, to prevent the peoples of our nation from becoming slaves to their own passions? Only a morally healthy nation is a truly free nation: only a morally good nation is a strong nation.

Our government would not hesitate to enact laws necessary for the protection of our people were the national health threatened by an epidemic. Why should it delay now when our spiritual strength is immediately menaced by the abundant circulation of harmful literature?

From: Rev. David I. FORSYTH, B.A., B.D., D.D.,
Field Promotion, Evangelism,
The Church School, Week Day R.E.,
The Board of Christian Education,
The United Church of Canada,
299 Queen Street West,
Toronto 2B, Ontario.

Thanks for your letter in connection with the special Senate Committee authorized to examine into all phases, circumstances and conditions relating to the sale and distribution of salacious and indecent literature.

I think that such a committee has an important function, as there are many bad influences on our newsstands that need not be there if there was adequate concern about the influences brought to bear on the youth who are Canada's future.

During the past few years I have noticed an increase of objectionable, character damaging publications on display. Even some of the good books are now defaced with indecent suggestive covers.

I am sure that some committee of our Board of Christian Education of The United Church of Canada would be glad to submit a brief on this question.

I will be glad to receive more information concerning your procedure and the type of brief or presentation that is desired.

With appreciation on behalf of The United Church of Canada for your concern, and every good wish in the undertaking of you and your committee, I am

Reverend Adrien PAQUET, M.A.c.j.m.,
Universite du Sacre-Coeur,
Bathurst-ouest, N.B.

Allow me to offer my moral support in the very important endeavour of your Committee to examine into all the phases, circumstances, etc., and relating to indecent literature.

Rest assured that should we have anything to report which may help you in the progress of your examination, it will be a pleasure for us to do so. We will look into the matter here and you might hear from us again. Thanking you for bringing the matter to our attention, allow us to remain, Honourable and dear Sir

From: Everett C. CAMERON,
General Secretary,
The Religious Education Council of Alberta,
301-2 I.O.O.F. Building,
Calgary, Alberta.

Our Council is interested in the proposed study of the sale and distribution of literature unsuitable from the standpoint of Christian attitudes and moral standards. There is a very definite indication that such materials are increasing in variety and appeal especially to the Youth of our country.

This matter will be brought to the attention of our Council Executive in order that we may at a later date submit to your committee some observations re the situation in Alberta.

Any further direction that your committee can offer us will be greatly appreciated.

From: G. Fred McNALLY,
President of the
Baptist Federation of Canada,
11047 Eighty-First Avenue,
Edmonton, Alberta.

I have your letter with reference to the proposed study of the effects on the people generally of the distribution of salacious literature and of indecent pictures. I am glad that this is being undertaken and will co-operate in any way I can. As a matter of fact while I have been interested in these things for some years I have no great amount of knowledge as to how widespread the distribution is.

As the investigation proceeds I have no doubt that your Committee will be sending suggestions as to inquiries we might make. In the meantime I shall be on the alert for such information as I may be able to pick up from ministers, teachers, juvenile courts and the like.

From: Dorothy C. MIMMS,
Club Director,
Kiwanis Boys' and Girls' Club of Toronto,
790 Queen St. West,
Toronto, Ontario.

As the Director of a girls' club of some 500 members I have long felt the injustice of such literature available to our members but felt I would be a voice crying in the wilderness in attempting to have anything done about it.

I understand there has been a committee formed in the government for just such a task, of which I believe you are chairman. It is a pleasure to know something is being done and I hasten to add my protest and offer any service I might do to help the cause.

It seems a crime that such literature, complete with pictures is made available to our under-privileged girls (for want of a better word—children with home problems is perhaps a better description) at a price even they can afford when books worth reading are beyond their meagre pockets.

My best to the success of you and your committee in so worthy a cause.

Miss L. CHARNEY,
Executive Secretary,
The Canadian Home and School and Parent-Teacher Federation,
79 Queen St. East,
Toronto 1, Ontario.

Thank you for your recent letter, addressed to Mrs. W. K. Colin Campbell, regarding the special committee for the investigation of salacious literature, etc.

This is a matter in which the Canadian Home and School and Parent-Teacher Federation has been keenly interested.

It will be brought to our Annual Meeting, which takes place in Banff, Alta., June 1-7, 1952, and we will inform you after that time as to the action taken by the Federation in this regard.

Miss Isabel J. MACNEIL,
Superintendent, Training School for Girls,
Galt, Ontario.

I have received your letter regarding the special Committee of the Senate to investigate salacious and indecent literature.

The age group in this school is nine to seventeen. We do not have too much difficulty with salacious and indecent literature, however, I would be interested in making a survey of the literary tastes of these children and reporting to you personally.

I am convinced that harm is done by crime and sex comics, if not morally at least culturally and I would like to see them eliminated from our newsstands. I would be happy to co-operate in any way possible with your Committee.

The Congress of Canadian Women, 18 Grenville Street, Toronto, Ontario, have written under date of June 10, 1952, enclosing a resolution passed by their organization in March last. Both the letter and resolution are presented for consideration—

We wish to draw the attention of the Senate Committee to the attached resolution which was passed by the National Council of our organization last March, 1952, and which deplores the deluge of degrading and pornographic literature which is available to our young people today.

We feel this type of literature is a decided threat to the creation of wholesome attitudes by our young people, and is an offence to the good taste and moral values of Canadians.

Further, this type of literature degrades women, and if our protest were on this ground alone, we feel it would be justified. If any other

group of people, ethnic, religious or political were treated in a similar debasing fashion, we are sure the people of Canada would be aroused.

We welcome the representations of Mr. E. L. Dubois who appeared before your Committee recently (*Globe and Mail* May 28, 1952) urging that the publication and distribution of such material be curtailed.

However, we think a more positive approach would be for the Government to make funds available for the development of cultural activities in Canada, (theatre, ballet, music, publishing and community centres) as a wholesome alternative to this type of publication.

We believe the Senate Committee should take note that a conference on press, radio and cinema for children, was held in Milan in April, under the auspices of UNESCO, when scientists, educationalists and legal experts present came to the conclusion that "blood and sex comics are turning the youth and adolescents of today into young ruffians and potential criminals".

We urge that the Senate Committee take a severely reproofing position leadership towards the development of a more healthy culture for our young people.

We would like information as to the procedure required by the Senate Committee for the presentation of a Brief on this subject.

RESOLUTION

(9) *Resolution on Pornographic Reading Matter*

Whereas, the C.C.U. finds, after careful consideration and study, that our country is being steadily deluged with imported lewd, pornographic and mischevious reading matter, which is offered for sale to our children and youth without restrictions.

Therefore, we solemnly conclude that there is no good or useful purpose served in the publication of this repulsive, brutal and pornographic literature, but rather it serves to deaden the conscience of our youth and create a diseased and distorted approach to humanity; and

Therefore, we unreservedly condemn the continued, uncensored sale, publication and importation of this lewd, pornographic reading matter as being contrary to generally accepted good taste and sound morals, and in direct violation of religious and ethics and the laws of our country, and we call upon the Federal Government to implement the legislation already in existence.

The Hamilton Diocesan Council of the
Federation of Catholic Parent-Teacher Association,
Hamilton, Ontario.

At our annual meeting on June 8th the executive of the Hamilton Diocesan Council unanimously urged that immediate action be taken by the Special Committee on Salacious Literature to stop the sale of such foul magazines by recommending laws with teeth in them against distribution of such evil literature.

We sincerely pledge our full support to this Committee and will do everything in our power to further your efforts on this most worthy action.

M. Gerard NADEAU,
Secretary, Holy Name Society,
Church of the Holy Trinity,
Sudbury, Ontario.

I have been instructed by the Holy Name Society of the Church of the Holy Trinity, Sudbury, Ontario, to offer you congratulations and full support in your efforts to control the sale and distribution of salacious literature. Our Society, and the city-wide council, will follow the progress of your investigation with great interest.

We sincerely hope your investigation will lead to the complete control of this literature so detrimental to the youth of our country.

The Sunday School Department,
The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada,
50 Euston Avenue,
Toronto 6, Ontario.

I am delighted that a committee has been set up to investigate the standards of reading materials within the reach of our children and youth of today.

As National Director of the Sunday School and Youth Departments of the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, I desire to voice my opposition filthy trash that is displayed and sold today. The price of these magazines are within the reach of the poorest and the covers are altogether too suggestive.

The morals of our children and youth are being corrupted, and the source of much of this can be traced to this salacious literature.

May you and your committee be guided in the right decision that will enact such laws as to curb this evil, for "Righteousness exalteth a nation."

Assuring you of my wholehearted co-operation.

From—Rev. John I. HOCHBAN, S.J.
Jesuit Seminary,
403 Wellington Street West,
Toronto 2-B, Ontario.

I am writing this brief note to wish you every encouragement and success in your capacity as Head of the Committee investigating the sale of indecent literature in Canada. My own personal reaction and that of every decent-minded citizen to the work you and your Committee are doing, is one of intense gratitude. If the Canadian Government has very stringent food and sanitation laws protecting the physical health of its subjects, it is high time that similar measures are taken to forbid the open and wholesale distribution of "literature" that panders to man's basest instincts and that is corrupting and poisoning the minds of so many of our youngsters. Every community has its system of sewage disposal. Our law-makers, to whom we have entrusted our welfare and whose prime concern, if they are not betraying their office, is the common good, must provide some means for the disposal of literary sewage. Your investigations constitute the first step in the right direction. May God bless you, my dear Senator, and assist you in the truly wonderful work you are doing.

Mr. JEROME F. KNECHTEL,
Secretary-Treasurer,
Hanover Separate School Board,
Hanover, Ontario.

Our Board has noted with considerable interest the investigation now being conducted by the Special Senate Committee, under your capable Chairmanship, in the matter of the widespread display and sale of salacious and obscene publications at the newsstands across Canada.

Our particular concern is the fact that these unwholesome publications are given much prominence on so many newsstands, and the consequent ease with which they may be scanned by our youth... if not actually purchased by them.

We, therefore, wish to take this opportunity of expressing the sincere hope that the findings and resulting recommendations of your Special Committee will result in legislation being adopted that will ban the offering for sale in Canada of these offensive publications.

Mrs. M. CARIN,
International Conference in Defence of Children,
Canadian Preparatory Committee,
400 Roselawn Avenue,
Toronto, Ont.

We have noted with keen interest the work your committee has undertaken in investigating the publication and distribution of indecent books and pictures.

Our Committee has been particularly disturbed by the pernicious influence on the moral and cultural development of Canadian children by the type of so-called "Comics" which are flooding our newsstands.

We realize that it is not a problem of easy solution. Our Committee has gone into the various aspects of the situation and would therefore welcome the opportunity of presenting their viewpoint to your Committee.

We are looking forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

From: Mrs. EARL G. KNOPE,
Archdiocesan President,
The Catholic Women's League of Canada,
R.R. 3,
Port Credit, Ontario.

We, the Executive of the Toronto Archdiocese, the Catholic Women's League of Canada are gravely concerned regarding the salacious literature which is now permitted to be sold at newsstands and drug stores.

As an individual group we have always opposed the sale of obscene literature, and on interviewing dealers the most predominant answer is, should they not accept these magazines they will not be given the better ones. Others claim that the demand for these low grade books is great, therefore would lose trade if they discontinued to carry them.

We wish to commend you highly on the work you are undertaking, and if there is any specific task on which we may be of assistance to you, we would be most willing to do so.

Mrs. BESSIE TOUZEL,
Assistant Executive Director,
The Canadian Welfare Council,
245 Cooper Street,
Ottawa, Ontario.

I am answering your letter of May the 22nd to Mr. Davis because he will be away from the city for a period of time. Thank you for drawing the Special Committee of the Senate to our attention.

The questions to be studied by the Special Committee will be of concern to our Child and Family Welfare agency members. We will want to draw it to their attention. I gather from your letter that the work of the Committee may go on for some time and for this reason our consideration of it may be delayed until after our Annual Meeting in mid-June. Staff are involved in preparations for this meeting and the Secretary of our Child and Family Welfare divisions will be away until after those meetings.

Thank you again for drawing this to our attention.

From: Mr. A. GRAYDON RICHARDS,
Manager,
The Full Gospel Publishing House,
50 Euston Avenue,
Toronto 6, Ontario.

It was indeed a pleasure to read in the Toronto *Daily Star* of the investigation committee which has been set up for to investigate salacious literature being published in Canada.

I have just finished a Trans Canada trip and I have been astounded at what people are reading in newsstands, hotel lobbies, and on the train it is nothing but pure filth. I would beg of you to go the limit in this investigation. Let us pass some laws with some teeth that will clamp the distribution of this filthy junk as you will have the backing of the people of Canada in this. I am ashamed to take my children into a drug store or a newsstand while they may not be able to read they certainly have eyes and they can see.

I would be happy to hear from you at any time regarding this, but I do beg of you in the name of all that is right and all that is good and for sake of the morals of our country that you will push it to the utmost degree.

Rev. A. H. PRIEST,
General Secretary,
The Church of England in Canada,
Department of Religious Education,
The Church House, 604 Jarvis St.,
Toronto 5, Ont.

Thank you for your recent letter telling me of the formation of a special committee of the Senate to go into the whole question of the sale and distribution of indecent literature. We are very glad indeed to hear of the appointment of this committee and I am sure it will have the hearty backing and commendation of thousands of men and women of goodwill in Canada.

In the Church of England in Canada the Council for Social Service under the able leadership of Dr. W. W. Judd, the General Secretary, has taken action in this matter several times through the years. Our Board

works in close co-operation with them and I am therefore passing over your letter to the Council for Social Service. You will hear, I know, in due course from Dr. Judd.

Wishing you success in the very difficult matter you have undertaken.

From St. Patrick's Holy Name Society, Quebec City.

(President: W. E. O'REILLY)

For some time the members of the Holy Name Society of St. Patrick's Parish, Quebec City, have been studying the scandal of indecent literature on sale on newsstands. No one can deny the harm that is done, especially to the young, by such literature. The shameful debasing of woman by the many immoral pictures on the covers of the same, is a national crime. The crude advertising in our papers, the indecent calendars that are hung in public places, many salacious billboard advertisements, these and other objectionable means that are being used to attract public attention are a blot on Canada.

Our Society knows that Ottawa has not been ignoring these matters and has been striving to draw up some sort of legislation to cope with the matter. Indeed it is most encouraging to see that a Special Committee has been appointed to investigate into the publication and distribution of indecent books and pictures. Allow us to congratulate you on this first step in the right direction. Rest assured that every man in St. Patrick's Parish is behind you one hundred per cent, and that we are anxiously awaiting a law that will arrest this wicked trafficking.

Your Committee will have just reasons for pride for having been instrumental in removing this national scandal.

Wishing you every success in the struggle that remains ahead and urging you to firm and prompt action in this matter,

Rev. W. F. HASKINS,
Director of Christian Education,
The Baptist Union of Western Canada,
Edmonton, Alberta.

We appreciate your courtesy in informing us of the appointment of a special committee of the Senate to examine problems related to salacious literature.

We are consulting our Social Service Committee on this matter and expect to present a brief for your consideration in due course.

Indicating the wide range of protest and the awareness at high level of objectionable features in current publications, the following extract from the *Christian Science Monitor* of June 5, 1952, is submitted:

UNESCO SEEKS CURB ON COMIC BOOK "SCOURGE".

Comic books are turning the youth and adolescents of today into young ruffians and potential criminals.

At least that is the conclusion reached by a group of educators and legal experts at a conference on press, radio, and cinema for children under the auspices of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural organization.

To fight what they called the "scourge" of comics, the delegates urged the world's governments to institute a system of supervision of the literature which the children of their countries read.

One of the main problems faced by the conference was how to screen publications for children without infringing on liberty of the press.

The delegates, who represented 24 countries, including Britain, India, Sweden, Germany, the Netherlands, France, Belgium, Switzerland, Spain, and the United States, unanimously opposed news censorship of any kind.

But the conference proposed the establishment of a special international committee of UNESCO with branches in all member countries to urge governments to ban publications likely to "exercise a harmful influence on the upbringing and development of children".

The delegates described "the murders, blood, sex, horrors, evil, gangsters, robbers, bandits" which are fed to modern youth through "various kinds of sensational comic papers sold all over the world".

One delegate summed it up like this: "some comics turn a face into a mask, conversation into fights to the death, arguments into revolts, colour into blotches, nations into subhuman beings, shouts into cries, heroes into bandits, and every fullstop is turned into an exclamation mark".

Task of the the proposed committee would be to replace this type of literature by clean adventure stories and educational reading.

Although comics publishers points out that the villian always gets his due, the delegates said the penalty is usually preceded by a whole series of hideous deeds, all described in minute detail. And, they added, adolescents are more excited by the deeds than by the final punishment.

As to films, the conference proposed a second international committee, also with branches in member countries of UNESCO, to rule on which movies shall be shown to teen agers and children.

The committee also would keep an eye on publicity posters and recommend the banning any that were "too suggestive."

On radio programs for children, the conference decided that, on the whole, the programs for juveniles are not harmful.

But the only American delegate, Prof. Willard Johnson of New York, director of the World Brotherhood organization, said it was unfortunate that in the United States children shun radio or television shows which are purely educational.

They much prefer programs which are more interesting and entertaining, he added.

A letter from Mrs. T. C. Fairley, 1569 Mt. Pleasant Road, Toronto 12, Ontario, written in behalf of the North Toronto Family Group, and forwarded to Your Committee through the kindness of Mr. Donald Fleming, Q.C., M.P., is indicative of public reaction to the sale and distribution of unwholesome literature. It is herewith presented for its human interest value:—

In this mail, by parcel post, I have sent you a package which ought to reach you in a couple of days. I hope you will give it your serious consideration. It contains examples of the "comic books" which children in this area of about eight years of age to fourteen, are buying by the hundreds, weekly.

Let me tell you how I came to purchase them. I had made a little tour of news vendors, etc., on North Yonge Street, following conversations with friends, who with myself and my family form what we call "The North Toronto Family Group". A number of adult friends wishing to widen the scope of their families' activities, plan with their children special group outings and projects—trips to farms, roundhouses, special movies, sleighing parties, etc. At the same time we have discussed common difficulties facing our children and inevitably this included "comics".

I must say I was not prepared for what I found in our local stores. The outpourings of the products of demented minds makes our efforts to stimulate our children's interests in positive directions seem paltry. Yet, we feel it is a matter which cannot be solved by one or a few families. Even the storekeepers would like to see the last of these magazines. Our local merchant talked to me for one hour last Friday night. It was his store in which I bought the books I am sending you. And there were others.

This man said "If I had a daughter today I would be going out of my mind. The stuff these young girls are reading is helping to ruin them." He sees the efforts of individual parents to guide their children's purchases. But we are interested in all children and naturally the habits of their neighbours affect our children too.

We know that it is a Senate Committee which is studying this question at the moment, but since you are our own member of Parliament, we felt we must draw to your attention the degrading, brutalizing trash, widely displayed and sold in this area, which is endangering children's peace of mind.

The following editorial comment from the *St. John Telegraph-Journal* of June 14th 1952, is suggested for the record as evidence of the growing opinion that the wide sale and distribution of questionable literature is a threat of national decadence.

St. John Telegraph-Journal, June 14, 1952.

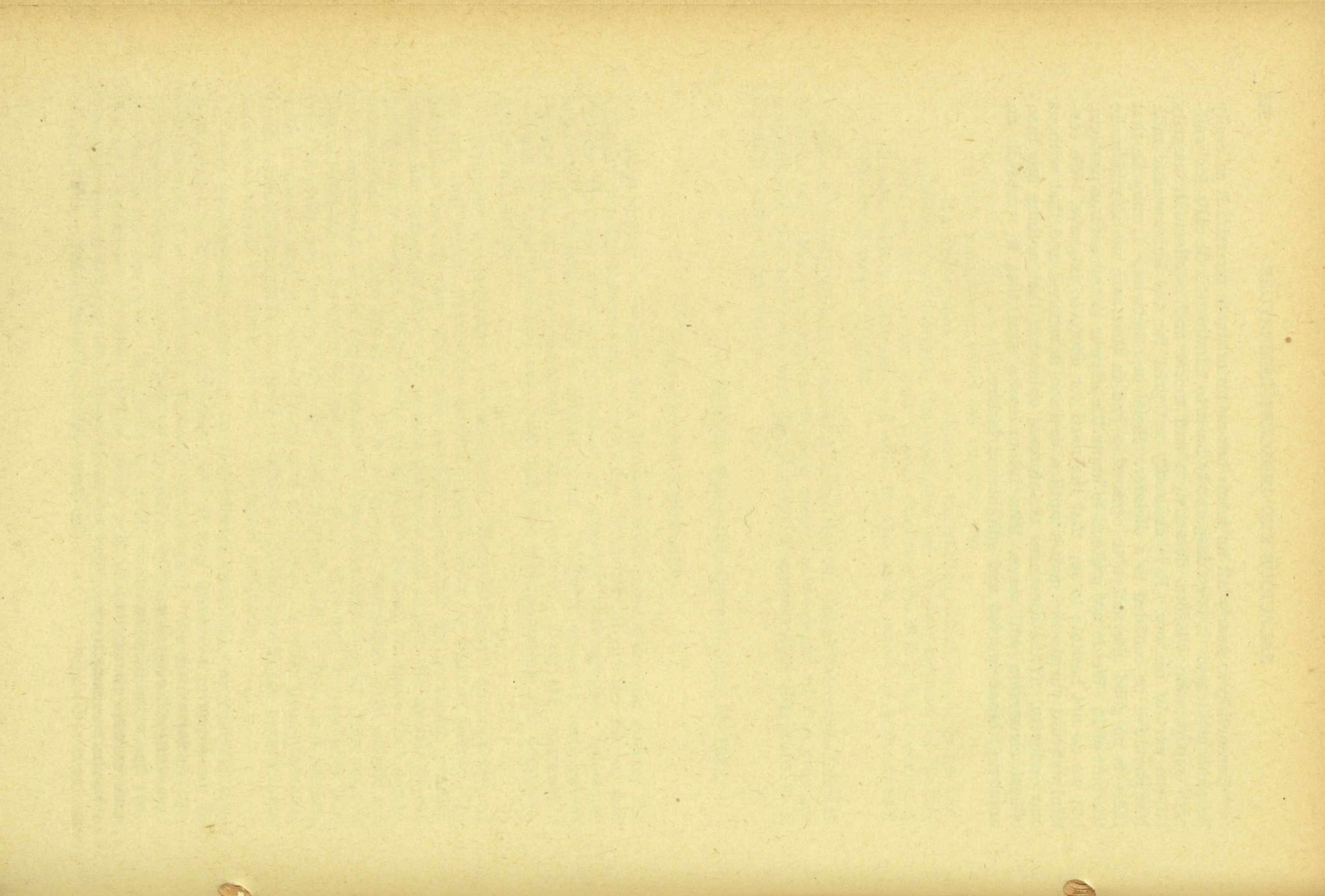
DEMANDS FOR CENSORSHIP

There appear to be increasing demands from more than one quarter for a legally instituted censorship to stop the circulation of printed matter and records that are variously described as obscene, pornographic, salacious, indecent, unwholesome and in similar terms. Difficulty arises to some extent through lack of precise definition of the adjectives. Then the unarguable element of taste, good and bad, high and low, discriminating and dogmatic, adds complication.

However, we may start from one point. There is beyond question offered for sale that which offends the general public's sense of what is seemly. In particular there is that which the average decent but by no means prudish person has reason to fear may debase the taste and impair the morals of the young and adolescent. That being so, it is not difficult to agree that something should be done about it. If it is hard to determine what should be done, the matter should be threshed out fearlessly and not let drop until a plan acceptable to the majority has been framed. It is well to remember that fine literature has treated even the most intimate acts of men and women with frankness and yet with delicacy and propriety. If their presentation is lurid, sensational, coarse, revolting or offensive to the reasonable person there can be no excuse for what panders to the baser instincts.

Any plan agreed upon may involve official censorship or controls over publications or it may be something else. It may involve a principle we do not like and, if so, that has to be faced and weighed. We dislike taking life, but when it comes to war or hanging murderers or those guilty of high treason we swallow our aversion. Generally we avoid controls of all sorts and particularly limitation of what people think and what goes to inspire their thoughts; but if national decadence threatens, we have to accept a measure of regulation. The question is, what measure?

Censorship in nearly all its forms has an unfortunate record. It so easily becomes arbitrary. It is so desperately hard to administer. It calls for well-nigh superhuman wisdom, detachment and moral and intellectual integrity on the part of censors. It is assuredly not grist for the bureaucratic mill. Nor should it be confided to a dictator, official or otherwise. It may be that there is no good alternative to censorship and in that case we should make the best of it. We do not pretend to know the answer to this serious problem, but we do not hesitate to say that the need for doing so is grave. We certainly should pursue the matter until a decision is reached and that without bias or levity. If the consensus of informed opinion is that nothing less than official censorship will serve, then let us make sure that it works in an impartial, broad-minded and enlightened fashion.



1952

THE SENATE OF CANADA



PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Special Committee on Sale and Distribution
of Salacious and Indecent Literature

No. 4

THURSDAY, JUNE 19, 1952

The Honourable J. J. HAYES DOONE, *Chairman.*

WITNESSES:

- His Excellency Most Reverend P. A. Bray, C.J.M., D.D., Bishop of Saint John, N.B.
Reverend J. D. McLeod, B.C., representing Ministerial Association of Saint John, N.B.
Right Reverend C. A. LeBlanc, D.D., Bishop of Bathurst, N.B.
Honourable James W. Brittain, Minister of Education, Province of New Brunswick.
Right Reverend Monsignor F. M. Lockary, M.C., Chairman, Decent Literature Crusade, Saint John, N.B.
Right Reverend C. L. Cormier, C.S.C., President, Saint Josephs University, New Brunswick.
Dr. W. H. MacKenzie, Superintendent of Schools, Saint John, N.B.
Colonel Charles Leonard, D.S.O., representing city council of Saint John, New Brunswick.
Mr. R. L. Grannan, Vice-Chairman, Decent Literature Crusade, Saint John, New Brunswick.
Senator G. P. Burchill, representing Bishop W. A. Moorehead, of Fredericton, N.B.

APPENDIX "B"

Briefs, recommendations and correspondence submitted to Chairman by various church, social and civic organizations.

EDMOND CLOUTIER, C.M.G., O.A., D.S.P.
QUEEN'S PRINTER AND CONTROLLER OF STATIONERY
OTTAWA, 1952

THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE ON SALE
AND DISTRIBUTION OF SALACIOUS AND
INDECENT LITERATURE

The Honourable J. J. Hayes Doone, Chairman.

The Honourable Senators

Bouffard,
Burchill,
David,
Davis,
Doone,
Duffus,
Fallis,

Farquhar,
Gershaw,
Lacasse,
McDonald,
McGuire,
McIntyre,
Pratt,

Quinn,
Reid,
Stambaugh,
Stevenson,
Vaillancourt,
Wilson.

Quorum 5

20 members.

ORDER OF REFERENCE

Extract from the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Senate, Thursday, May 8, 1952.

"That a special committee of the Senate be appointed, authorized and directed to examine into all phases, circumstances and conditions relating to the sale and distribution in Canada of—

1. Salacious and indecent literature;
2. Publications otherwise objectionable from the standpoint of crime promotion, including crime comics, treasonable and perverse tracts and periodicals;
3. Lewd drawings, pictures, photographs and articles whether offered as art or otherwise presented for circulation.

That without limiting the scope of its inquiry, the committee be authorized and directed to examine into—

- (a) Sources of supply of the above noted items;
- (b) Means and extent of distribution thereof;
- (c) Relative departmental responsibility for entry or transmission;
- (d) Sufficiency of existing legislation to define terms in relation thereto;
- (e) Relative responsibility for law enforcement and effective legal measures of dealing with this problem.

That the committee have the power to send for persons, papers and records, and to secure such services and assistance as may be necessary for the proper prosecution of its inquiries.

That the said committee shall report its findings to this House.

L. C. MOYER,
Clerk of the Senate."

STATE OF NEW YORK

IN SENATE,
January 15, 1892.

REPORT
OF THE
COMMISSIONERS OF THE LAND OFFICE,
IN ANSWER TO A RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE SENATE,
MAY 15, 1891.

ALBANY:
PUBLISHED BY THE
UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK,
1892.

PRINTED BY
THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK,
ALBANY, N. Y.

1892.

1892.

1892.

1892.

1892.

1892.

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

THURSDAY, June 19, 1952.

Pursuant to adjournment and notice the Special Committee on Sale and Distribution of Salacious and Indecent Literature met this day at 10.00 a.m.

Present: The honourable Senators: Doone, Chairman; Burchill, David, Davis, Fallis, Farquhar, Gershaw, McDonald, McGuire, McIntyre, Reid and Vaillancourt.—12.

Consideration of the order of reference of May 8, 1952, was resumed.

The following were heard:—

His Excellency Most Reverend P. A. Bray, C.J.M., D.D., Bishop of Saint John, N.B.

Reverend J. D. McLeod, B.C., representing Ministerial Association of Saint John, N.B.

Right Reverend C. A. LeBlanc, D.D., Bishop of Bathurst, N.B.

Honourable James W. Brittain, Minister of Education, Province of New Brunswick.

Right Reverend Monsignor F. M. Lockary, M.C., Chairman, Decent Literature Crusade, Saint John, N.B.

Right Reverend C. L. Cormier, C.S.C., President, Saint Joseph's University, N.B.

Dr. W. H. MacKenzie, Superintendent of Schools, Saint John, N.B.

Colonel Charles Leonard, D.S.O., representing city council of Saint John, N.B.

Mr. R. L. Grannan, Vice-Chairman, Decent Literature Crusade, Saint John, N.B.

Senator G. P. Burchill, representing Bishop W. A. Moorehead, of Fredericton, N.B.

Briefs, recommendations and correspondence received by the Chairman were ordered to be printed as Appendix "B" to these proceedings.

At 12 noon the committee adjourned until Wednesday next, June 25, at 10.30 a.m.

Attest.

JOHN A. HINDS,
Clerk of the Committee.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

THE SENATE

OTTAWA, THURSDAY, June 19, 1952.

The special committee appointed to examine into the sale and distribution of salacious and indecent literature met this day at 10.00 a.m.

Hon. Mr. DOONE in the Chair.

The CHAIRMAN: The meeting will kindly come to order. Honourable senators, since our last meeting your committee has received communications from church, civic and social organizations. The names of these organizations appear on a list which I am passing to the Clerk to be included in the record. We have also received a statement from W. W. Judd of the Department of Christian and Social Service of the Church of England in Canada, which is being written into the record. In addition to this we have other resolutions and newspaper clippings, one resolution from the Ottawa Retreat Association, one from the Council of Christian Education, one from the Grove Nursery School, Toronto, and one from the Baptist Federation of Canada. I shall pass these along to the Clerk to be included in the record.

(See Appendix "B" at the end of today's report.)

This morning we have a distinguished delegation from the province of New Brunswick. This delegation is composed of the Most Reverend P. A. Bray, C.J.M., D.D., Bishop of Saint John, N.B.; Reverend J. D. McLeod, B.C., United Church of Canada, representing the Ministerial Association of Saint John, N.B.; the Honourable Senator Percy J. Burchill, representing Right Reverend W. H. Moorhead, M.A., D.D., D.C.L., Bishop of Fredericton, N.B.; Reverend Clement Cormier, C.S.C., President of St. Joseph's University, St. Joseph, N.B.; the Most Reverend C. A. LeBlanc, D.D., Bishop of Bathurst, N.B.; Right Reverend Monsignor Lockary, M.C., Saint John, N.B., Honourable James W. Brittain, Minister of Education, Province of New Brunswick; Dr. W. H. MacKenzie, Superintendent of Schools, Saint John, N.B.; Charles Leonard, Esq., representative, City Council, City of Saint John, N.B., and Mr. R. L. Grannan, Vice-Chairman, Decent Literature Campaign, Saint John, N.B.

Reverend T. W. Ross Flemington, O.B.E., President of Mount Allison University, was to have accompanied the delegation. However, he found it impossible to do so and has wired me under today's date as follows:

Sorry that circumstances prevent me from accompanying the New Brunswick delegation tomorrow because I am very interested in the work delegated to the special committee of which you are Chairman. Whilst the whole problem of censorship is a difficult one I feel some steps should be taken to arouse public sentiment against some of the shoddiness to which we are being subjected. Success in your undertaking.

The CHAIRMAN: Now, we shall call upon the delegation, and my information is that His Excellency, the Most Reverend P. A. Bray, Bishop of Saint John, will lead the discussion.

His Excellency, the Most Reverend P. A. Bray, C.J.M., D.D., Bishop of Saint John, N.B.:

Honourable Chairman and Honourable Gentlemen, it cannot be gainsaid that the public display and sale of salacious and indecent publications constitutes one of the great evils and scandals of today. A knowledge of what is actually taking place is shocking to all who have regard for Christian morality, modesty and decency.

From the report of the Proceedings of your Committee already published, it is evident that the facts in the matter, namely, the objectionable character, number and methods of sale and distribution of these publications, are already well known to you. It is not necessary, therefore, for me to repeat them. Suffice it to say that numberless cheap magazines, pocket-size books, cartoons, so-called comics, and other similar publications, depicting crime in all its details, and the lowliest situations, with accompanying suggestive drawings and shameless photographs, contribute to fire the imagination and passions of youth and dispose them to crime and lust, which are thus cleverly rendered attractive to their young and impressionable minds.

Not only is this filth within the reach of children; it is even handed out to them at times in the form of pamphlets and leaflets distributed surreptitiously and gratis, with the intent no doubt of demoralizing the little ones. The new comicstrip magazines, which have a sale of 10,000,000 copies monthly, are published in large part by men who have connections with lewd magazines, and they are believed by many to be a build-up for the patronage of these magazines after a few years.

This filthy product is imported mainly from the United States but to our own shame and dishonour it has to be admitted that some of it originates in Canada.

The Fatal Effect

The open display and sale of such publications to all and sundry, even to children in their teens, can have but one and that a most fatal effect, namely, the corruption of the minds and hearts of unsuspecting children and adolescents, the blighting of young lives, and the destruction of Christian decency and morality. Drawing their information from such infected sources, children cannot fail, as experience has proved, to develop an entirely false and degrading view of some of the most sacred things in life, and wrest to their own great harm and that of society things that the Creator intended for high and noble purposes.

Again and again it has been affirmed by those in a position to judge that indecent literature is one of the major causes of juvenile delinquency, and that sex literature is the principal cause of the sex crimes that nowadays befool the face of the country.

Surely no one is better qualified to testify in this matter than Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, head of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the United States. Drawing on his vast experience with crime and criminals, Mr. Hoover firmly states: "The publication and distribution of salacious material is a peculiarly vicious evil; the destruction of moral character caused by it among young people cannot be overestimated . . . Filthy literature is the great moron maker; it is casting criminals faster than we can build prisons to house them."

Mr. Lewis E. Lawes, former warden of Sing Sing prison, declares: "Salacious magazines are definitely connected with the criminal activity of individuals predisposed to sex crimes. They have a definite effect in many cases with which I have come directly in contact."

Mr. Sanford Bates, formerly Director of Federal Prisons in the United States, speaking of the 50 per cent increase in rape cases between the years 1930 and 1940, attributes the cause largely "to lurid accounts of sex crimes which appear in public print, sex stories in magazines, movies, etc."

Mr. Courtney Ryler Cooper in his book, "Designs in Scarlet", which is based on surveys made over a period of years, with the co-operation of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the United States Post Office Inspection Department; the Federal Bureau of Narcotics and other national and local agencies having to do with the detection of crime, states as follows: "Obscenity has grown upon itself so greatly that the selling of it now employs thousands of persons. This, in turn, has brought about a marked increase in promiscuity, especially among the young, which, in turn, has resulted in a sale of contraceptives so large that the demand has tripled within the last few years. The step beyond this is a marked increase in perversion. Many high school children of today know more about these acts than the average adult possessed ten or fifteen years ago. The blame centres almost directly upon obscenity, principally cartoon books—especially the more modern ones."

I will add only one other brief testimony. It is that of the Judges of the Children's Court in New York. Testifying before a State Legislative Committee they declared that "obscene and crime literature is the major contributing cause to the commission of crime by youngsters, because many of the children admitted they 'got the idea from the comics.'" The Court has on record cases too shocking to admit of publication.

Conclusion

Mr. Chairman and honourable members of the Senate Committee, I need not repeat the truism: "Like causes produce like effects under like conditions." History proves that no nation can long survive when the moral law has broken down. Today obscene literature has become an evil of such magnitude as to threaten seriously the moral, social and national life of our country. Internal degeneration can produce national ruin just as well as external attack.

Today our government is greatly concerned, and rightly so, with measures of defence against an external enemy. It should be equally alert and energetic in defending our country against the enemies who do their insidious work of destruction within our walls. This delegation, therefore, respectfully submits:

(1) That federal and provincial authorities be called upon to put forth every possible effort to enforce existing laws against the importation and sale of salacious and indecent literature.

I may add here that the Minister of Justice informed us in a letter, dated April 10, that such enforcement is possible.

(2) That, in order to render the enforcement of the laws more effective, Parliament be requested to consider the possibility of setting up a Board of Censors, whose duty it shall be to determine by specific designation what publications fall within the prohibition of the Act, as for example:

- (a) Those which glorify crime and criminals;
- (b) Those whose contents are largely "sexy";
- (c) Those whose illustrations and pictures border on the indecent;
- (d) Those which make a habit of carrying articles on illicit love;
- (e) Those which carry disreputable advertising.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you, your Excellency.

Are there any comments or questions by members of the committee?

Hon. Mr. REID: Mr. Chairman, I am just wondering what the experience has been in the province of New Brunswick. Is this brief based entirely on the experience in the province of New Brunswick? It seems to me that the conditions referred to exist in other provinces.

The CHAIRMAN: I think we can take it these conditions are general.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS: Has His Excellency any information about the way the literature is distributed in New Brunswick? Is it sent in packages along with other magazines?

Bishop BRAY: Other members of our delegation are better qualified to speak on these details than I am. Mr. Grannan, for example, has looked into the matter.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS: The brief deals only with literature. What about indecent moving picture films? Have you found any of those in your province, your Excellency?

Bishop BRAY: Yes, we have that problem likewise, but fortunately we have a board of censors.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS: I am not talking about the censored pictures that are shown in the theatres, but the smaller films that may be sold to teen-agers.

Bishop BRAY: I have had no experience in that matter.

The CHAIRMAN: I do not think those have reached New Brunswick to any noticeable degree as yet. I think they are distributed principally in the larger cities of the United States and perhaps in some of our larger cities in Canada.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS: We have been told that they are sold here in Ottawa. Then, how about indecent phonograph records, your Excellency?

Bishop BRAY: I believe these are available.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS: In your diocese?

Bishop BRAY: I believe so.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS: Are they freely available?

Bishop BRAY: I do not know.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions? If not, on behalf of the committee I wish to extend our thanks and appreciation to his Excellency.

And now I should like to call upon Reverend J. D. McLeod, representing the Ministerial Association of Saint John, New Brunswick.

Reverend J. A. McLEOD, Ministerial Association of Saint John, New Brunswick: Honourable sir, and honourable senators, I have little to add to the splendid brief presented by His Excellency Bishop Bray, which has covered the field in question very well.

I know I speak the mind of the organization I represent in expressing our deep appreciation of the interest on the part of the Senate of Canada in appointing this special committee. I am sure that the ultimate result will be to create in the minds of the people as a whole an urgency for the solution of this present day problem.

We have been dealing with this question in the Ministerial Association in Saint John for some months, and have come to the conclusion that the only effective method of meeting the problem is by getting at the source of supply, as indicated in a resolution presented to you. Any effort made on the individual level may have some immediate benefits, but it ultimately gets us back pretty much to where we started. When there is danger of contaminated food being offered for sale, we do not go from store to store asking whether this or that is good to eat; we know that before it is offered for sale it must pass inspection. When contamination in the form of salacious literature is offered for sale, there should be some inspection authority to deal with it. In other words, we must get at the source, for that is the most effective way of stopping it.

We are well aware of the difficulties of carrying through adequate censorship in matters of this kind. We had meet with us a representative of the distribution end of this business, and he asked us the question: "Who is going to tell us what is salacious and what is not salacious? I don't want to be

blacklisted as a citizen, nor do the other vendors, but who is going to say what is proper and what is not proper?" As a matter of fact, it is not an easy thing to do; the line is being worn pretty thin between what is right and wrong, what is moral and what is immoral; and it is going to be worn increasingly thinner as long as we keep feeding on this sort of thing. However, there is that line, and we feel that an adequate committee of censors could be set up and come to grips with the question.

I am wondering, sir, what has been done at government level with respect to our neighbours, for this is an international problem. I motored up here, and in crossing the line into the United States the first and only question I was asked was "Have you any meat in the car?" I said "No." They asked "May we see your trunk?" I opened my trunk and there was no meat, but there was a bundle of salacious literature which our committee gathered and brought along. The officer never said a word about this literature which was more injurious than any meat I might have been carrying. I am wondering, therefore, if our neighbours are concerned with the question at government level. If they would co-operate with us, we would co-operate with them, as we endeavour to do in all other matters. I think something might be done in that direction.

I will not cover the ground further, because it has already been well covered. We appreciate deeply the opportunity of being present at this meeting, sir.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. The inquiry about the meat is most interesting.

Could we now hear from Most Reverend C. A. LeBlanc, Bishop of Bathurst?

Most Reverend C. A. LEBLANC, Bishop of Bathurst: Honourable chairman and gentlemen, I have little to add to what has been written and said since these meetings began. We all realize the vital importance of this subject, which involves not only the clergy but the laity.

We are all interested in national defence; I think that the question of salacious literature should come under our national defence program. It is not sufficient to fight the enemy with out, but we must also fight an enemy from with in that is endangering the very lives of our younger generation.

We all realize the importance of this matter in our lives today. So often when we go into a drug store, and we come to the till to pay for the articles we have bought we see beside it a sheet called *Hush* with the title covering the whole page, and a very distasteful title. This is what catches the eye of our teen-agers when they go to such stores. I told one proprietor that I could not see why, if he put the word "poison" on some of his medicines why he should not attach it to some of the literature he offered for sale. It is my opinion that this is a question of national defence, for we must fight the enemy that threatens to destroy us from with in. True, much of this literature is being offered for sale by honest people, but of course there is a question of profit in it. We have no criticism of them for wanting to make a profit, but it is a question of how it should be made. It is necessary for both the laity and the clergy together to impress upon the minds of the people the danger of immoral literature. It is somewhat like getting into the minds of the people that they must drive safely, not only for their own protection, but with the understanding that the police will get to work and punish those who do not heed this warning about safe driving. We should do the same, I think, in this work of safeguarding the morals and the very lives of our children and our teen-agers, because otherwise we may run into trouble before very long. Indeed we have now experience of this trouble with some of our young set. So I feel that I am doing my duty in being present here with other clergymen

as well as members of the laity. Good reading, of course, must be provided, and this substitute must be something very interesting, which will appeal to the minds and elevate the levels of intelligent thinking of our young people and our children. I think this can be done. I thank you.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you, your Excellency. We will now call on Hon-ourable James W. Brittain, Minister of Education for the Province of New Brunswick.

Hon. JAMES W. BRITTAIN: Mr. Chairman, members of the Senate, ladies and gentlemen: as Minister of Education of the Province of New Brunswick I fully realize and appreciate my position. I am responsible with other members of my department for the preparation of policies to be presented to the Govern-ment for their approval with regard to the education system of New Brunswick. No doubt many of you know that we have launched an enormous program of education within our province. A few years ago the Government decided to give the rural districts of New Brunswick the same opportunities and privileges as were available to those of the urban districts. We are proud of our program and our system, and we are endeavouring to give our girls and boys of today, who will be the citizens of tomorrow, at least a high school education, along with some incentive to go beyond Grade 12. We have complete control of our curriculum and of what enters the classroom; therefore we can, and I may say this morning that we will, control any text book or literature which may possibly be recommended for use in the classroom.

The matter of film strips has been mentioned. We have complete control of that service under our Provincial aids Department in co-operation with the federal department in Ottawa.

I fully realize and appreciate the difficulties now under consideration, because I have had some experience in this line of work regarding children. It seems to me that the trend of the times has changed to a large extent the think- ing of people. Possibly we have gotten away to some extent from home life. I think all these things start with the home. To a large extent control can be exercised through the parents, and we as a country should not tolerate the placing in the hands of our children of what cannot be termed other than cheap indecent literature. There is no substance or food for thought in the reading of such material. Therefore we, the Government of the Province of New Brunswick, are concerned. We do think, however, that this is a national problem. We are willing always to co-operate in anything which may be brought into being to do something to avoid the circulation of objectionable material. That it is growing cannot be denied. Recently we in the province of New Brunswick had a Public Safety Month. I placed in the hands of every- one in the province a small pamphlet containing a very short message and, on the back of the card, a set of rules. I think the effort will bear fruit. I asked each child to memorize these rules; some of them have placed them on their bicycles. I have been thinking seriously of placing, with the approval of the Board of Education, in the hands of the people some kind of card or message as to their reading.

I may add that we have thought so well of the regional library system that recently we launched on a survey of the entire province with a view to such a set-up, and we are hopeful that something of a definite nature will result, whereby we shall be able to establish throughout our province, pos- sibly in our high schools, regional libraries which will be provided with proper books, in order that our people, and not merely our pupils and our children, will have an opportunity of obtaining from these establishments proper reading material.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, may I say that we are 100 per cent behind the objects of your committee. We see it as having important bearings on the

future of our children. I may add that my deputy, Chief Superintendent of Education of New Brunswick, asked me to express his concurrence before your committee. He is thinking seriously on the subject, and it is his desire to bring about something which will improve the whole situation. I want it understood that we as a Department of Education have controlled and intend to continue to control whatever enters our schools. Outside of that, of course, we have no such powers. But as a government we feel that this is a national problem, and I bring to the members of the Senate Committee this morning, and to you, Mr. Chairman, an assurance on behalf of the Government of New Brunswick, for whom I am authorized to speak, that they will do everything in their power to bring about a solution.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you. I will now call upon the Right Reverend Monsignor Lockary, M.C. Monsignor Lockary is a veteran of the first war, when he received a decoration for gallantry in the field, and is also a pastor of one of the largest parishes in the city of Saint John, and an adviser of the Diocese of Saint John.

Right Reverend Monsignor LOCKARY, M.C.: Honourable Chairman and members of the Senate, I consider personally that this is a double problem. It is a problem for the legal departments of government to put into effect through laws which, though they may not cover the case 100 per cent, will nevertheless give us a fair percentage of results. With the situation in Canada as it is today, with the feeling throughout the country against this unrestricted dissemination of bad literature, it would be, I consider, bankruptcy of statesmanship to fold one's hands and say "We can't do anything." We come here today in the spirit of hope and expectation that this feeling throughout the country will be translated into a practical method that will at least restrict, if it does not entirely eliminate, the threat to the young people of today and, in course of time, to the adults. We believe that the effort should be two fold. There should be a voluntary effort on the part of our people; and the feeling against this obscenity should be translated into a practical expression. In Saint John we inaugurated a voluntary effort, under the Bishop and with the sponsorship of the Ministerial Association, judges and very prominent citizens, and the school authorities, who are represented here today by Dr. MacKenzie. Our method is, first, to give these voluntary workers the catechism dealing with lewd literature. I will not attempt to read this catechism, but I might just mention a few of the questions that are asked here and answered:

How wide is the aggregate circulation of such magazines?— That is, referring to the objectionable magazines. How does most lewd literature reach the people? What measures should be taken to cure the evil permanently? Do you recommend that men or women be members of the Vigilance Committee? Is the drive directed only against magazine literature? What can be the motive of the publishers of lewd literature? Is the production of lewd literature more abundant in the United States than in other countries?

The purpose of this catechism is to help the workers in this voluntary effort to act wisely and get results.

Then there is a steering committee, which is composed of representatives of the various organizations taking part in the drive. There is also a permanent personnel, what I might call a standing executive committee, of which His Excellency is Honorary President; and there is a Vice-Chairman and a Secretary. They meet once a month, but there are teams in the field that go out after having been briefed. I will not go into the details of the brief, but I will read a few of the rules that are laid down:

The approach must be diplomatic and marked with charity.

Reference toward civic decency and good Canadianism should be used in conversation.

Stress the fact that the organization for decent literature is in keeping with the moral law of God, and hence it pertains to people of all faiths.

Be sure to pray daily for the success of your work.

You must be vigilant to be successful. This will mean that you will have to visit the stores frequently, at least twice a month.

Another brief is headed "Rules for Guidance of Teams." I will read these:

1. Remember this drive is a permanent or continuing organization.
2. Visit the stores at a time when business is slack. Do not telephone for appointment.
3. In your visit keep in mind the practice of under-counter selling and hidden racks in the rear of certain stores.
4. Make sure that all stores including grocery stores, which may sell publications are visited and if a certain store is not listed hand in the name and address of such dealer to your president.
5. Leave lists of disapproved publications and ask him to inform distributor of your recommendation.

This list of disapproved publications is published once a month. It emanates from the United States and lists the publications that have been censored.

6. At no time designate any particular publication as indecent. It is permitted to state that any publication is not in accordance with the Code of the National Organization for Decent Literature.

That is incorporated in the brief presented by His Excellency.

7. Team members are asked to be very prudent when visiting stores.
8. Explain to the owner or manager of the store that the drive is to protect especially the young and adolescent and is in the interest of the community and the country.

9. Inform the owner or manager that all stores co-operating will be given a small sticker indicating this co-operation.

This sticker is not given immediately, but after a number of months. It is a public testimony that the owner or manager is co-operating 100 per cent in this decent literature drive.

10. Before everything else, be friendly and polite, otherwise you will shut the door against any future visit and usefulness.

That, honourable senators, is only an outline of our voluntary effort. Is it too much to expect that this will be supplemented by effective legislation? I was much struck some years ago by a statement that Chief Justice Blatchford made in a case. The lawyers were splitting hairs, as lawyers sometimes do, and he said, "I am here to administer justice, not law. If the stand is taken that it is difficult to decide what certain words mean, and therefore nothing practical can be done to assist this voluntary effort by which we are trying to give expression to the desires of the people of the country, do you not think, Mr. Chairman and honourable senators that that would be bankruptcy of statesmanship?"

I thank you very much.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS: Monsignor, may I ask you a question? We have been informed that there are other methods of disseminating obscenity than by literature, as, for instance, by little narrow moving picture films which are illegally imported from the United States, and sold to teen-agers. Have you found that many of these films are sold in your diocese?

Mons. LOCKARY: I have not found any evidence of this, but if any authoritative body or person has said that such things are sold I would accept the statement, as so many things have to be accepted, as a fact.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS: I am asking you these questions for two purposes: If this form of indecency has not reached your section of the country, you should be on the lookout for it. These records for phonographs, which are kept under the counter and are very prevalent here in Ottawa, should be a warning to you and put you on your guard against them.

Mons. LOCKARY: I am very grateful for your warning. We are just beginning, and we need all the information we can get.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS: This form of indecency may be just as harmful as the immoral literature; I have in mind, the pictures, films and records.

Mons. LOCKARY: We will certainly be on the lookout for them.

Hon. Mr. REID: Do you think the rapid growth of distribution of salacious literature is due in a large measure to the laxity breakdown of the morals of Canadian families? In my travels around the country I see, not children, but grown-ups reading what I regard as salacious books and salacious literature. That trend has taken place largely since the war. We know there are more women working outside the home to earn money for their family. Do you think that, not entirely, but to some extent, the breakdown of the morals of the family is the source of the trouble from the standpoint of reading of harmful literature?

Mons. LOCKARY: I most certainly do. The whole purpose of this movement is to supervise this generation's reading and to make the next generation better.

May I contribute one further fact? In our drive in Saint John we called on a hundred and twenty-five stores: 79 per cent of them have agreed to co-operate unconditionally; 6 per cent only have refused to co-operate, and the balance have agreed to co-operate under certain conditions.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS: Pardon me, Monseigneur. Does this type of literature arrive at the retailer's store in a package, and he has to take it whether he likes it or not?

Mons. LOCKARY: That is a very practical question, sir. They do deliver en bloc these magazines et cetera; but if the dealers are of goodwill, as they are in Saint John, they will not insist that they should be taken. That has happened in our city.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS: But do the dealers always know what is in the package that is being delivered to them, before they take it? Is it not delivered in bulk, and they do not know what it contains until the package is opened?

Mons. LOCKARY: Yes, but they do not have to sell the undesirable ones; they can be put under the counter and later sent back.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS: Has the distributor who sends out these packages of magazines to the retailer been approached?

Mons. LOCKARY: Yes, but we can only work locally. I have approached them and been assured of co-operation in every way. They told us to have our visitors write to them and specify the books they objected to, and the matter would be taken up with the head office in New York, and that we could expect that the books would be withdrawn. In fact, one dealer has told me that over one hundred books have been withdrawn; true, some of them were poor sellers and others have gone out of circulation by reason of our current drive.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS: Have you found that the action of withdrawing books has caused the same material to re-appear under a different title and cover?

Mons. LOCKARY: That is very true of the United States. I am told that in some cases books that have been condemned have been sold later under a different title and cover.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS: Do you find that true in your province?

Mons. LOCKARY: No; this applies only to the United States.

The CHAIRMAN: Monsignor, before you retire, there was an inquiry made by one of the members as to the effect of the breakdown of the home. In order that your testimony may appear clearly on the record, I take it that the purpose of your crusade is, if you cannot correct the parents or grandparents of yesterday, at least you are going to try to correct the parent and grandparents of tomorrow?

Mons. LOCKARY: Yes, sir; this protection is primarily for the young and the adolescent. Of course, we hope the adults will benefit too.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Monsignor.

I should like now to call on Right Reverend Clement Cormier, C.S.C., President of St. Joseph's University.

Right Reverend CLEMENT CORMIER, C.S.C.: Honourable chairman and members of the committee, my concern is primarily with education, dealing for the most part with adolescent boys, and having something to do with the girls' college as well. I feel that our problem is perhaps a little more difficult in dealing with indecent literature, because our students are not mature enough of themselves to avoid the undesirable literature; and of course that type of literature has such a strong appeal to them that they can scarcely resist it.

Hon. Mr. DAVID: I am sorry to interrupt, but may we know from what province and university Father Cormier comes?

Father CORMIER: I am from St. Joseph's University in New Brunswick.

I was saying that this literature has a strong appeal to the youngsters; but in my travels by train I have noticed many of the older people—some of them quite dignified people—reading this type of literature. Of course, it may be recreation to them, and not as harmful as to youngsters. But I believe if we could convince students that these books are harmful to them, that they would soon be able to choose properly for themselves. That would be the ideal situation, that they select the better type of reading without any exterior compulsion for doing so. I am not able to say whether our method of educating them has failed in that respect, namely, trying to convince them that they should not read what may be harmful to them. Of course we have had some results, but it is very difficult to appraise them. I may mention the case of a youngster, a visitor from a foreign country, who was up to see me some time ago. He wanted to get a paper. I saw in his pocket a book which he passed to me, rather unwillingly, and it proved to be really a very bad type of book. I said "That is not something which you should read". He said "That is not harmful, that is very good; there is nothing wrong with it." Well, I was really astonished at the title of the book and the appearance of the cover, which suggested that at best the contents would be quite dubious, so I glanced over it, and it had to do with youngsters grouped in gangs in the city of New York, going in for all sorts of crimes. But this boy was convinced that there was nothing harmful about it. The moral and psychological effect of such productions on the minds of youngsters is very bad. I could, of course, mention many more cases. In my view the problem boils down to this. In our educational work we are trying to convince youngsters that they should not allow themselves to become interested in this type of literature, but I do not think that, without some further aid, we shall succeed.

Hon. Mr. DAVID: Would you prefer to make your remarks without interruption?

Father CORMIER: Whatever you wish.

Hon. Mr. DAVID: Because there is one point I would like to touch upon right away. You say you are trying to remake the mentality of our young men by showing them that these books are obnoxious and nauseating.

Father CORMIER: Yes, sir.

Hon. Mr. DAVID: Supposing a young man when he is with you admits that you are right and tells you that he will not read them, but when he goes home, on display in the living-room he finds anywhere from two to ten such publications. Do you believe he will not say, "If my parents read these things, their judgment about them is just as good as Father Cormier's"?

Father CORMIER: That is right. Certainly. Well, I think unless something is done to eliminate bad literature we cannot succeed in our task as educators. There is the issue of freedom as against control or authority. But control is exercised in so many other lines. For example, there is a speed limit on the highways; we are not free to be reckless in our driving.

Hon. Mr. DAVID: May I put another question?

Father CORMIER: Yes, sir.

Hon. Mr. DAVID: Do you believe it is freedom which permits such licentious books to be distributed in Canada? Can you call "freedom" the liberty which is given to distribute such books in Canada? Do you make a difference between freedom and licence?

Father CORMIER: Yes, sir, I certainly would. It is freedom misunderstood. We would not tolerate drugs being distributed to our children.

Hon. Mr. DAVID: Or any kind of poison.

Father CORMIER: So, to use the word "free", or "liberal"—

Hon. Mr. DUFUS: That is a good word!

Hon. Mr. DAVID: When it is used in a good sense.

Father CORMIER: It is dangerous to use that word here, under the circumstances! I think those who represent educational institutions would agree that the committee's activities should be encouraged. I think this is one of the best things we could desire. Some control would be very helpful to keep our young men and women from developing a false mentality which lessens the importance of struggling against crime and sexual disorders and what not.

Something has been said about films and records. I have not heard of the circulation of any films of an improper character in our part of the country, but I do know that some records have been obtained, not by youngsters but rather by grown-ups who play them as an amusement.

Hon. Mr. DAVID: Father Cormier, do you believe that this series of radio talks or radio plays entitled "Crime does not pay" is a good thing?

Father CORMIER: Well, I must tell you—

Hon. Mr. DAVID: I will be very blunt. It is not a fact that, before the lesson comes at the end of the half hour, these plays show young men how to commit crime?

Father CORMIER: I think so.

Hon. Mr. DAVID: And is not the same thing true of the movies?

Father CORMIER: Yes, sir; and these "comics".

Hon. Mr. DAVID: The lesson is forgotten, but the way to commit crime is not forgotten.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Father. Now we will call on Dr. W. H. MacKenzie, Superintendent of Schools, Saint John.

Dr. W. H. MACKENZIE: Honourable Mr. Chairman, honourable members of the committee, I should say that, in view of the occasional article that has been published in Canadian periodicals questioning the ability of our schools to teach our children to read, at least we have one indirect satisfaction from the meeting today,—that evidently we have taught children to read, probably all too well! But we have failed, presumably, in teaching them what to read.

I should say, Mr. Chairman, that I spent sixteen years in an education in Canada and beyond that, three years in post-graduate studies in one of the great universities of this continent. During those nineteen years, indirectly or otherwise I had impressed upon me, as I suppose every other Canadian has had in somewhat similar circumstances, the right of every boy and girl to get as much education as he or she can use to advantage.

Under my jurisdiction, or rather under the jurisdiction of my board, we spend approximately a million and a half dollars in Saint John for the purposes of public education; that is, somewhat over \$200 per child. I think I am free to say that as time goes on I wonder more and more if that amount of money—which for Saint John is a great amount—is being well spent. I have wondered what advantage there is in putting the weapon of ability to read and write and other advantages in the hands of our people if they are not using them to good effect. I should like to say also that the statement made by Father Cormier is one with which every educator can agree. Education is based on the premise that the minds of our young people can be moulded and shaped, but if the influences that are bad have more effect than the influences that are good, then it is somewhat questionable whether what we are doing is worth while. The very fact that the minds of young people are subject to being directed is what is so serious in this whole matter. If the tremendous amount of information is to be forced up on them then the results will be extremely unfortunate. Surely there must be some way that the various levels of government can work out a solution to the problem. I should like to say that for my part, at any rate, we must draw a clear distinction between what is licence on one hand and what is democratic liberty on the other.

As I understand it the crux of this matter lies in the definition what constitutes undesirable literature or something of the sort. I do not feel that that can ever be put in an act, if I may be bold enough to say so. I thoroughly agree with one of the principal recommendations made by His Excellency, Bishop Bray, on behalf of the delegation here today, that the only way this problem can be solved is by means of a board of censors, if you will, in whose good sense we can place our confidence for deciding what comes under the intent of the act.

Mr. Chairman, I believe my sole qualification for speaking before this body today lies in the fact that day in and day out, year in and year out, I work with young people. That is my business. I think it is most important to do something to grapple with this problem, otherwise I feel the great amount of money being spent—however inarticulate we may go about it—on the great ideal of free education to the greatest degree possible for everyone, is being seriously menaced by the present situation.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for your excellent statement. We shall now call upon Colonel Charles Leonard, D.S.O., a member of the City Council of Saint John. He is a veteran of the two world wars and has a wide experience in many fields.

Colonel Charles LEONARD, D.S.O., Member of the City Council of Saint John, N.B.: Mr. Chairman and honourable members of the Senate, I do not believe I can elaborate on what you have heard this morning. I think the matter has been well covered, but speaking as a member of the City Council of Saint John I should like to say that we are intensely interested in this problem

and hope something can be done to solve it soon. You have heard a great deal this morning about the conditions in my city of Saint John, and in New Brunswick generally. I rather feel that these remarks can be applied to every province in Canada. I do not consider that our children are any more eager to read this literature than are the children of any other province. I strongly feel that this unfortunate situation is spreading, and there is no doubt that more stores are selling this literature today than five years ago. Whatever method can be adopted, I hope it will be most effective. I know that in the moving picture industry in New Brunswick, the matter is handled exceptionally well by censors who are doing an excellent job, and if it were possible to set up machinery along similar lines to handle this indecent literature problem, I think it would do a lot of good. That is all I have to say.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Colonel Leonard. Next we will call upon Mr. R. L. Grannan, who is a businessman in the city of Saint John. He has had a wide experience in social welfare work, and has devoted a great deal of his time, energy and money in the philanthropic matters of civic betterment. Mr. Grannan will give us the practical side of the effect of the decent literature crusade which is presently being carried on in the city of Saint John, New Brunswick.

Mr. GRANNAN: Mr. Chairman and honourable senators, I have had the privilege of acting as vice-chairman of the crusade that is being headed by Monsignor Lockary as diocesan director in the city of Saint John. As the honourable chairman has suggested, I could perhaps tell you something about the practical results of that campaign. He has already told you that the campaign is a non-sectarian one inasmuch as it is endorsed by practically all the social bodies within the city, although the actual work of the campaign is being carried out by the Catholic organizations; that is to say, they are the ones to carry out the actual visits to the stores and that sort of thing. We have also had, as Honourable Senator McGuire has suggested, contacts with the distributors of the literature in Saint John, of whom there are only two major ones. We have had the greatest co-operation possible from these people.

As to the practical results, Monsignor Lockary has already told the committee that a great number of pocket books have been removed from the stands, and that practically all the publications coming under the title "Girlie" books have been eliminated from the stands entirely. They are not being distributed by the distributors in Saint John at the present time. I have in my hand a list of some twenty-four titles of the more popular of these books that the distributors in our city have ceased to place with the dealers. This has been brought about as a direct result of the campaign, and the methods used during the campaign. If I may, Mr. Chairman, I should like to elaborate a little on what Monsignor Lockary said in reply to Senator McGuire. The distributors do get the books in bundles and they do get a certain number of each one of these.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS: By the distributors do you mean the retailers?

Mr. GRANNAN: No, the wholesalers. The books come to the wholesaler, so many of each.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS: And the wholesaler makes up the bundle?

Mr. GRANNAN: Yes, and the dealer has no knowledge whatever of what is in the bundle when it is thrown down at his door. He only knows what is in it when he opens it. But if the retailer gives the wholesaler a note saying "I do not want you to include such and such magazines in my bundle," the distributor will not include them. However, unless there is something in writing to the effect that the dealer does not want certain magazines, they will be sent along in the bundle. Further than that, distributors have voluntarily removed from the bundles these magazines to which objection has been taken;

they are not putting them in the bundles at all, and they are not being distributed in the city of Saint John at present. That is a voluntary action of the distributors; and, if I may say so, sir, it is to their very great credit that they have taken this action. How long they can continue to do so is problematic, because unless something is done to bar these publications the publishers will undoubtedly attempt to find new distributors in New Brunswick.

Many of the dealers have taken the list that has been put out by the committee conducting the campaign in St. John, and have written across the list "Please do not deliver to us any of the titles which are barred." And the distributors have been respecting that instruction from the dealers.

A great many books in the pocket-book series offend largely by the covers and the titles rather than by what is in the books themselves. Please do not misunderstand what I am saying. A great many of the books offend grievously in their contents, but many do offend only in their covers or titles. One dealer told me just a little while ago that a customer who had come in and picked up a book with one of these objectionable covers upon it, and bought it and took it home, later brought it back and asked to have his money refunded because the contents did not live up to what was on the cover. In another instance the cover showed a picture of a lady who was not too well clothed, and the title said "He Lived Twenty Years With Martha." However, when the book was examined inside it was found that Martha was the young man's mother, and that the story was about the twenty years he had spent with her. The cover on that book certainly did not give any suggestion that the woman referred to was the young man's mother.

If I may be permitted to say so, Mr. Chairman, I think that the committee which has appeared before you this morning felt that probably the greatest difficulty that would be encountered in trying to make amendments to the law or in attempting to enforce amended legislation would arise from the problem of defining what is decent or what is licentious; and in order to get over that difficulty the suggestion is made in the brief presented by His Excellency the Bishop that a committee or board of censors should be set up to make rulings—rulings not whether some things are licentious or indecent, but whether they comply with the code as set up under the Act. If that procedure were followed, it would not be necessary to prove that a certain publication was indecent or licentious; you would have to prove simply that it did not meet the requirements of the code.

They also point out that there are only two sources from which these publications can emanate. One is through the customs, from some foreign country; and the other is from the printing presses of Canada itself. If the law were amended it would not be difficult to prevent publication in Canada. And American publishers whose books did not meet the requirements of the code could be notified that if they are sent into Canada they will be returned to them. Now, the existing situation cannot be cured in a day, but certainly a beginning can be made, and if that suggestion is followed out the trouble could be reached at its source and a great good work could be done.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you very much for the opportunity of appearing here. I have with me some children's comics that I happened to pick up off the stands in Saint John. Some of them come in the classification of horror books, and some are of the romance type. The horror books are just as bad or almost as bad as the others, and offend just as greatly. With your permission, Mr. Chairman, I will leave these here as samples of some of the things that are on sale in the city of Saint John.

Hon. Mr. REID: Mr. Chairman, may I ask the witness a question? At the beginning of our inquiry a statement was made to us to the effect that many of the stores which sell salacious literature had not recourse but to sell it,

because they were told that if they did not accept it they would not be supplied with the regular magazines. Have you in Saint John run across any cases where the dealer told you he had to accept these salacious magazines?

The CHAIRMAN: I would like to correct that statement, Senator Reid. I believe if you read the evidence you will find that that statement is not quite borne out. As I recall the evidence, it is that the dealers receive the package containing indecent literature along with the unobjectionable publications, but that the dealer can return the indecent publications without any penalty.

Hon. Mr. REID: I am thinking of what was said to us by a man who appeared here at the very beginning of our inquiry. I am not objecting to your correcting me on the basis of what you recall, Mr. Chairman, but I am listening very attentively to what is said here and I feel positive that my memory of the statement I have referred to is right.

Hon. Mrs. FALLIS: Mr. Chairman, I think Senator Reid is right. The statement to which he refers was made here, but it was afterwards contradicted by a dealer who said that returns could be made.

Hon. Mr. REID: But we were told that some dealers in magazines were compelled to take indecent publications.

Mr. GRANNAN: It is quite the opposite in the city of Saint John and the province of New Brunswick, sir. The distributors there will accept the instructions of the dealer in writing that certain publications be not included in his bundle, and no threat whatever has been made that a dealer who gives this instruction will not receive the magazines he wants.

The CHAIRMAN: I think that is the general story of the vendors.

Hon. Mrs. FALLIS: The attitude of distributors in different cities may be different.

Mr. GRANNAN: Well, Mr. Chairman, we are very fortunate inasmuch as there are only two distributors for the province, and they are both in Saint John; one is an American company and the other is an independent local company. They are the major distributors for the province of New Brunswick.

Hon. Mrs. FALLIS: But in another city the distributors might take a different attitude.

Mr. GRANNAN: This applies pretty largely to the whole of the province of New Brunswick.

Hon. Mrs. FALLIS: But that situation might not prevail in another city or another province.

Mr. GRANNAN: That is quite true. We are speaking only of conditions in our province.

Hon. Mrs. FALLIS: That distributors act according to their conscience, is not universal.

Mr. GRANNAN: No; we are very fortunate inasmuch as we have had fine co-operation from the distributors in the province of New Brunswick.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS: Do the wholesalers or distributors have to take the literature sent to them?

Mr. GRANNAN: They do not have to take it; as a matter of fact, it works this way: The literature is shipped into them, and then they fold it into separate bundles. If it is undesirable, they receive instructions from the manufacturer to ship it some place else. For instance, I was in a distributor's office the other day when he was preparing a bundle of literature that was not fit to distribute in New Brunswick, and he was sending it up to the good city of Toronto.

Hon. Mr. McGUIRE: Perhaps for re-distribution to Manitoba.

Hon. Mrs. FALLIS: That is my point: Because this unfortunate situation exists in New Brunswick does not say that it applies across Canada.

Hon. Mr. DUFFUS: How long has this objectionable literature been on the shelves in your province?

Mr. GRANNAN: I would say that it has been there for quite some years, but I cannot say just how long. As a matter of fact, until I became associated with this campaign I had very little knowledge of it; and when I became associated with it I had an eye-opener, when I saw what was being offered for sale. I can certainly assure you that I had no personal knowledge of it up until that time.

Hon. Mrs. FALLIS: That is what is happening to all members of this committee.

Hon. Mr. DAVID: You said a moment ago that it would probably be rather difficult to find a precise definition of what is licentious, salacious or obscene. As you know, the immigration law makes use of the word "undesirable". Do you think that could be made to apply here?

Mr. GRANNAN: Well, Mr. Chairman, I am only expressing my own personal opinion, which is that that word would not apply. What would be undesirable to one person would not be undesirable for another.

Hon. Mr. DAVID: That is exactly the point I come to: The father in the home may take the attitude that a certain book is permitted for him but not for his son. You will admit that some books which the father may read are absolutely undesirable for his son.

Mr. GRANNAN: That is a matter for direction on the part of the parents. I may say that in our own home, where we have six children, any magazine that comes in is not to be listed by any of the children until either their mother or myself has seen it; and anything in it that is undesirable is removed. I have no doubt that there are many homes throughout Canada where that course is followed.

Hon. Mr. DAVID: We are coming back to the situation of fifty years ago, when the father was a censor in the home. But today he is no more; it is the son who censors.

Mr. GRANNAN: I would not go with you on that; there are many fathers who are still directing the activities of their homes.

Hon. Mr. DUFFUS: You are certainly doing a good work.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Grannan.

We will now hear from Senator G. B. Burchill, who is here today representing the Right Reverend W. H. Moorehead, Anglican Bishop of Fredericton.

Hon. Mr. BURCHILL: Mr. Chairman, I have the honour and privilege to represent the Bishop of Fredericton, the Right Reverend W. H. Moorehead, who was most anxious to be represented on this delegation, but unfortunately was unable to be present. He has asked me to say to the committee that he is heart and soul with the object of the delegation, and the work which this committee has undertaken.

As a member of this committee, may I say, Mr. Chairman, that I am very proud of the province of New Brunswick this morning. This delegation has, in my opinion, made a most effective contribution to the work of the committee. I am sure that view will be shared by all my colleagues on the committee. Every speaker presented his case admirably; and I want to say to my friends from British Columbia, Prince Edward Island, Ontario, Manitoba, Quebec and Alberta, that these people have come here at great personal sacrifice to themselves. I think it speaks well for them and the people they represent in the whole province of New Brunswick, that they thought it worthwhile, that this matter was serious enough, that they made the journey to appear before this committee this morning. I repeat, I am proud to be a New Brunswicker and to be in this room and to hear what has been said this morning.

In conclusion, I may say that I know that Bishop Moorehead would want me to say that he associates himself with these presentations, and he is heart and soul with the object of the work. As a member of the committee, I know we all agree that the problem is a difficult one. We are seeking ways and means as to the most effective manner in which to combat the problem.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS: Senator Burchill, would you say that the effect of the presentations this morning has been two-fold. First it shows how successful voluntary effort can be in this direction, and secondly, does that voluntary effort need to be supplemented by something in statute form, or some kind of regulation which will prevent the distribution of undesirable literature not only in one province but across the country? Does that sum up the evidence from New Brunswick today?

Hon. Mr. BURCHILL: Yes, I agree that it does, Senator Davis. I am sure we all realize that you cannot legislate people to make them good. We tried that with prohibition, and we know the result. We must adopt an effective means of education. The voluntary effort which we are so much interested in hearing about is certainly a step in the right direction; but we have to create public opinion back of such efforts. Legislation can direct and help, but we have to have in the minds of the people of Canada a need for it.

The CHAIRMAN: Senator Burchill, there is just one remark I wish to make. It has reference to your observation that we cannot legislate people into righteousness. That is an old saying, and it has probably received the sanctity of time. Nevertheless, do you not think that if it were carried to its logical conclusion, you would have to do away with the Criminal Code, that legislatures would be non-existent, that there would be no laws for anybody?

Hon. Mr. BURCHILL: Let us put it this way: legislation which, under our democratic system of living, has not the support of public opinion.

The CHAIRMAN: That is right.

Hon. Mrs. FALLIS: Mr. Chairman, before this meeting adjourns I wonder if I may be allowed to say just a word about one section of the very excellent brief which was presented by the delegation from Saint John. On the first page, the last three paragraphs refer to testimony given by Mr. J. Edward Hoover, head of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the United States; Mr. Lewis E. Lawes, former Warden of Sing Sing Prison; and Mr. Sanford Bates, former Director of Federal Prisons. They are unanimous in saying that the reading of this type of literature has contributed definitely to the making of criminals; that they have found that out from their experience. That is a very practical piece of evidence, and I think it is something that we should emphasize. The reason I say this is that a couple of days ago I read an editorial in one of our newspapers in connection with the work of our committee. In passing, may I mention that it has nothing whatever to do with the press reports of our proceedings. I think we are all agreed that those who are covering these meetings from the press are giving it wonderful publicity. They are doing a marvellous job in helping to build up public sentiment in this country—which, as Senator Burchill has said, is so necessary—and we may take off our hats to the press reporters who have been covering these meetings.

The CHAIRMAN: I agree with you.

Hon. Mrs. FALLIS: But this is an editorial from a newspaper not associated with anybody who is reporting our meetings, and the gist of it is to this effect, that this committee is composed of people who—I will put it mildly—have passed their first youth.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS: I would agree with that, though I would not admit that we are in our second childhood.

Hon. Mrs. FALLIS: No,—just past our first youth! But, that in conducting this investigation we were prompted by a feeling of nostalgia; we were looking back to our own youth and thinking how much better things were then, and so on; that we have the tendency, as we grow older, to remember the pleasant things of our youth and to forget those that were not pleasant. That is the gist of the editorial, and it amounts to this, that what is happening today in this field of indecent literature is just a trend of the times. While the writer did not say so, he left the inference that the committee was making much ado about nothing. For that reason I was extremely glad to see these three paragraphs in the brief. I think we have not had that angle presented very forcibly before.

The CHAIRMAN: That is right.

Hon. Mrs. FALLIS: Certainly the men who are referred to here, wardens of prisons and others who come in contact with a great many criminals all the time, are not governed in their statements and their decisions by any feelings of nostalgia for their youth; they are confronted with hard facts; and, because of what they know, from the depth of their great experience, they have stated that this type of literature has directly contributed to crime among the youth of the country. I think that is pretty important, and I think it gives members of the committee the answer to a lot of people today who are saying "Oh, well, what can you do about it? You are making out that things are worse than they are." I know that it will help me personally a great deal in answering those who speak in that way about the committee. So I would like to tender my personal thanks to those who drafted this brief for giving us such valuable information in upholding the cause for which we are fighting.

Hon. Mr. REID: I have one suggestion, and probably this is the time to make it. In the United States a committee similar to this has been set up. I am not quite sure whether it is a committee of the Senate or of the House of Representatives. Its job is to deal with salacious literature; and in view of the fact that great quantities of these publications come here from the United States it might be advisable to consider co-operating with them and finding out what they are doing, and, perhaps, asking one of the members to come across and tell us the troubles they are having in the United States. It so happens that they are doing just what we are doing, and at the same time, so we might work together to great advantage in this affair. I respectfully make that suggestion.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS: What Senator Fallis has just pointed out consists of quoted authorities from publications. I think it would be well if we actually had people from our own country who could tell us the effects on youth of this literature and put the facts on record here.

Hon. Mrs. FALLIS: I think it would.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS: We might call officials from our penitentiaries and jails, from reform schools and similar institutions.

Hon. Mr. REID: I think we should do that—

The CHAIRMAN: This committee will undoubtedly have to be set up for the next session of parliament because a great number of national organizations have expressed their desire to appear before us.

Hon. Mr. REID: I move that we adjourn.

Hon. Mrs. FALLIS: Mr. Chairman, before we adjourn I should like to move a vote of thanks to these distinguished gentlemen who have given their valuable time to appear before our committee this morning.

Hon. Mr. REID: I second the motion.

The meeting thereupon adjourned.

APPENDIX "B"

Since our last meeting, your Committee has received communications from Church, Social and Civic organizations, as follows:

The Church of England in Canada, The Department of Christian Social Service, Rev. Canon W. W. Judd, M.A., D.D., D.C.L.

St. Clements C.Y.O., Preston, Ontario.

Scout Auxiliary, Sacred Heart Parish, Hamilton, Ontario.

Legion of Mary, Canadian Martyrs Div., Hamilton, Ontario.

Ottawa Retreat Association, Ottawa, Ontario.

Catholic Women's League, St. Mary's Sub-division, Linwood, Ontario.

Young Christian Workers, Toronto, Ontario.

Sudbury Ladies Auxiliary of the International Union of Mine, Metal and Smelter Workers.

The Boy Scouts Troup, Montmagny, Quebec.

The Boy Scouts Troup, 31c, Loretteville, Quebec.

The Boy Scouts Troup, Beauce, Quebec.

Grove Nursery School, Toronto, Ontario.

The Ontario Council of Christian Education, Toronto, Ontario.

The Legion of Mary, The Church of our Lady, Guelph, Ontario.

Catholic Women's League, Ste. Basil, Brantford, Ontario.

Catholic Women's League, Ste. Basil, Quebec, Quebec.

Catholic Women's League, Ste. Basil, Shannon, Quebec.

Parent-Teachers Association, St. Clements, Preston, Ontario.

Rev. Mother Stella Maria, Mother General, St. Stephen's Convent, Halifax, N.S.

League of the Sacred Heart, Breakeyville, Quebec.

League of the Sacred Heart, Bieuville, Quebec.

Dr. Waldo C. Machum, Secretary-Treasurer, The Baptist Federation of Canada, Saint John, New Brunswick.

Les Scouts Catholiques, Notre-Dame de Beaupré, Beaupré, P.Q.

Les Souts Catholiques de la Meute St. François d'Assise, Québec, P.Q.

Les Scouts, St. Dominique, Québec, P.Q.

L'Association de la Jeunesse Indépendante Féminine, Québec, P.Q.

L'Association de la Ligue Catholique Féminine, Montmagny, P.Q.

Société Coopérative Agricole, Plessisville, P.Q.

Les Filles d'Isabelle, Montmagny, P.Q.

L'Association J.I.C.F.

Mme. Lindor Belleville, Les Filles d'Isabelle, Plessisville, P.Q.

Conseil Supérieur des Travailleurs-Unis, Plessisville, P.Q., M. Lucien Lavoie, sec.

L'Association du Cercle des Rermères, Montmagny, P.Q.

La Fédération des Dames de Ste-Anne, Québec, P.Q.

L'Action Catholique des Hospitalisés, Hôpital Laval, Chemin Ste. Foy, Québec, P.Q.

L'Action Catholique des Hospitalisés, 29 B. Chemin Ste. Foy, Québec, P.Q.

Troupe scout St. Romuald, Québec, P.Q.

The committee is also indebted to Mrs. M. J. Tinkiss Good in the "Open Doorways" column of the Rouyn-Noranda Press of Friday, May 23, 1952, for the following extract.

There are so many fine books being printed in this economical and otherwise convenient edition that one is reluctant to cast aspersions at pocket books in general. Much of the reading pleasure of today may be had in this form for 25, 35 or 50 cents.

But the sad fact remains that as the desirable is so easily obtainable so is the undesirable, and from searching book stands one cannot avoid being impressed (or perhaps depressed) with the cover designs and devices created presumably to lure the public taste.

To illustrate this point, let us quote some actual "blurbs" and sub-titles seen recently on some of these displayed books. One proudly carries a heavy black streamer topping a lurid picture of a half-dressed girl and a monstrous man, "The novel that shocked America."

Another proclaims that here is "a fine novel filled with evil and corruption." While still another, with yet another flamboyant heroine posing wickedly, declares "her beauty was God's gift, but her wicked heart was of the devil."

Now I ask you—is that adult? And who is to blame? Adults, of course. Because as long as the public buys or even tolerates such trash just so long will it be produced.

And another funny little point in this connection is that occasionally the books carrying the most startling picture or alarming blurbs may be, upon reading, quite good stories.

The commentary from that conclusion, if one looks deep enough, seems to be that we, the public, ARE lured by just such bait as described above.

Letters to be entered into the Minutes of Evidence and Proceedings have been received from the following interested groups:

The Ottawa Retreat Association, (See Attached), P. O. Box 551, Ottawa, Ontario.

The Baptist Federation of Canada, 8 Market Square, Saint John, N.B.

The Ontario Council of Christian Education, Room 517, 299 Queen St. West, Toronto 2B, Ont. (See Attached).

Grove Nursery School, 35 Willcocks Street, Toronto, Ontario.

Sudbury Ladies Auxiliary, 44 Portage Avenue, Minnow Lake, Ontario.

12th June, 1952.

Honourable J. J. HAYES DOONE,
Chairman, Committee Investigating
Salacious and Indecent Literature,
Obscene Pictures, etc.,
The Senate,
Ottawa, Ontario.

DEAR SENATOR DOONE: At the last meeting of the Board of Directors of the Ottawa Retreat Association the following resolution was passed:

That we commend the action of The Senate of Canada in striking a special Committee to investigate the unchristian attitude on the part of some booksellers in Ottawa in the display and sale of salacious, indecent and obscene literature, and respectfully suggest that the Committee carefully consider recommending that for the public good the Canadian Criminal Code and/or other appropriate statutes of the Federal Government dealing

with obscene literature be strengthened to prevent admittance into Canada, carriage by mail, distribution and/or sale in our country of all indecent publications and gramophone records of a similar nature: also, to recommend appropriate means to vest the necessary power, if not already available, in the postal authorities to examine fourth class mail matter. Furthermore, that your Committee consider recommending a more explicit wording of the Canadian Criminal Code be devised and passed into law to aid and impress Judges with their obligation to properly interpret not only the word "obscene" but also to remind them of the intention back of the statute, viz., the protection of the minds particularly of the youth in our nation against anything which will tend to inflame the passions. Also, to vest in the appropriate authority power to prevent publishers through compelling retail booksellers and others to purchase package lots containing obscene literature or else remain unsupplied with decent publications. Forced sales should be prohibited and all other pertinent laws strengthened to prohibit indecent sex suggestive pictures, cartoons, caricatures, gramophone records, etc. being imported from the United States, Japan and elsewhere into Canada.

I have the honour to be,

Yours faithfully,

(Mrs.) ELIZABETH BEATON,
Secretary.

The Honourable J. J. HAYES DOONE,
The Senate,
Ottawa, Canada.

DEAR SIR: I received and greatly appreciated your letter of June 6th and am glad you have been given this important assignment.

We Baptists are very much interested in the work of your special committee to deal with the problem of salacious literature and lewd and unwholesome pictures.

Already some of our organizations have passed resolutions and the matter will undoubtedly be dealt with at our Maritime United Baptist Convention which meets August 28-31, Wolfville, N.S.

I believe that the New Brunswick Protestant Ministers' Association also has taken some action at least regarding salacious literature.

The Council of our Baptist Federation of Canada of which Dr. McNally is the President, meets at Montreal, November 5-7 and can take official action at that time.

No doubt too you will be hearing from the Canadian Council of Churches through its Secretary, Dr. W. J. Gallagher, 3 Willcocks St., Toronto, Ont. The voice of this Council represents the Protestant bodies of Canada.

Assuring you of our interest and support and sincerely trusting that the efforts and influence of your Committee may have a remedial effect.

Yours very sincerely,

WALDO C. MACHUM,
Secretary.

From—THE ONTARIO COUNCIL OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION,
Room 517, 299 Queen St., West,
Toronto 2B, Ont.

We wish to acknowledge receipt of your communication of May 21st. We will be most happy to co-operate with you and have appointed a committee of which Mr. Alan McLaughlin, 28 White Pine Ave., Leaside, Toronto, is the chairman, to take such steps as may be possible to help your committee in its important work.

E. R. McLEAN,
General Secretary.

GROVE NURSERY SCHOOL,
35 Willcocks Street,
Toronto, Ontario.

The Grove Nursery School has been following with great interest the work your committee has been doing with regard to obscene literature and especially as it affects children.

Parents can no longer afford to ignore the facts presented in the press as a result of the light thrown on it. The fact that your young people have committed crimes whose pattern they found in comic books is damaging enough without all the other aspects involved.

We wish to commend you and your committee for the fine work you have been doing and to add our voice to all the other organizations we know to be behind you in this important work.

MRS. J. ROSS,
for the parents of the Grove
Nursery School.

From—SUDBURY LADIES AUXILIARY,
44 Portage Avenue,
Minnow Lake, Ontario.

At the last membership meeting, the Sudbury Ladies' Auxiliary of the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers voted to send a letter to the Committee investigating the publication and distribution of indecent books and pictures, to say that we mothers protest strongly the type of magazine that is being distributed to our children on the news stands today. Even when comparatively harmless "comics" are purchased by individual children, the present practice of "trading comics" among children, results in books with degrading moral standards, reaching even the youngest children who are able to read. News dealers tell us that they are required to take this trash along with their weekly allotment of other periodicals. Even the effort of parents and public libraries to provide good children's reading does not prevent our children from getting and reading these degrading publications, often not of their own choosing. It would be necessary to prevent these books from reaching the news stands, in order to keep them from being read in the comic book cultural pattern of Canada today.

MRS. ISABEL SMALLER,
Secretary.

A statement has been forwarded for the record by Rev. Canon W. W. Judd, M.A., D.D., D.C.L., of the Department of Christian Social Service, The Church of England in Canada, and is herewith presented with grateful acknowledgment.

June 17, 1952.

To the Honourable, the Chairman, and Members,
The Committee of the Senate on Objectionable Publications
and Pictures:

We in this department of the Church of England in Canada have been interested in the appointment of your committee to examine into the dangerous prevalence of salacious literature.

As we have no official committee of this department meeting in the near future, we are not presenting a formal "Brief", but I am making this statement as General Secretary, knowing well the opinion of my Executive, and, indeed, of the whole Council. We have dealt with this matter many times during the past years.

I therefore address you with some degree of church authority behind me:

I

(1) I presume that you are primarily dealing with publications which may be described as "salacious", or "pornographic" or "obscene",—publications which have to do with over-emphasis upon sex, or with its perversions. As I understand it, you are not dealing with "crime comics" and such like.

(2) Under your terms of reference I presume you will review such items as these:

- (a) *Cheap magazines* which carry pictures of nudes or semi-nudes and/or suggestive skits, short stories and jokes.
- (b) *Magazines carrying pictures*, or reproductions of photographs etc., of *nudes*, some of which may be respectable art, but much of which, in truth, is produced to invite sales by unhealthy sex interest. In some of these magazines there are written articles couched in very clever, equivocal language which might be construed as having to do with true art, or with wholesome ideals, or with proper bodily health, but which, in truth, may be a blind to cover up a designedly provocative stimulus to sex activity.
- (c) *The advertisements* which occasionally get into good magazines or occasionally into the daily press, but which are found profusely in the types of magazines which are described in (a) and (b) above. Many of these advertisements describe other books, magazines, and physical appliances related in one way or another to sex and sex relations. A good many of them are couched in most suggestive "sexy" terms.
- (d) *A few circulars* (apart entirely from books or magazines) which occasionally creep into the mails carrying a series of these advertisements.
- (e) *Books*, mostly novels, sometimes expensively produced, more frequently cheap in form, appearance and price, with lurid titles and covers suggestive of sex.
- (f) *Educational books on sex problems*, a very large spate of which has been appearing the past ten or fifteen years, some of which are legitimate and well intentioned, others, alleged to be educational, are so erotic as to be harmful.
- (g) *There may be other kinds* of publications of which your committee may be aware, but those mentioned are most frequently seen and, I believe, are doing most damage.

II

Except in (a) above, the perplexing question arises to all right thinking people as to what is good in art, or useful as information, or valuable for instruction of individuals and the public. This presents, I presume, the main problem faced by your committee.

Out of our experience, I can make these suggestions:

1. There are two sources of supply (a) importation from outside Canada, and (b) publications within Canada.

2. Both of these classes are vitally affected by whatever the law of the land allows. As your committee will know very well, "obscenity" may be regarded as the vital point of the Criminal Code which affects this matter. Action before the Courts regarding literature published in Canada is a very questionable proceeding at present because of this fact, since so many subjective factors enter into the question of obscenity.

We presume that the end most desired by your committee is to secure amendments to the law which will help the courts in this delicate matter, help them to decide between what is pornographic, salacious or obscene and what is wholesome and properly educational.

This, I believe, is the primary necessity today, having regard chiefly to publications within Canada, but also, in lesser degree, to those imported from abroad.

3. Regarding importations, I would say that we have had very fair response from the officials of the Department of Inland Revenue to whom is committed the responsibility of censorship.

We believe, however, that the effectiveness of this censorship might be enhanced if an advisory committee could be set up to review, from time to time, the actions taken.

The right of censorship must be safeguarded, and must be used wisely, lest in our democratic society, it become a menace. Your committee is dealing with only one kind of publications, namely those which are alleged to be pornographic, salacious or obscene. There are people or groups which would construe certain political or economic ideas as "obscene". Censorship, dealing with the subjects your committee is dealing with, must be careful to confine itself to this class of subjects.

(This, of course, is not in any way to assert that there are no other areas of censorship necessary as, for example, in the areas of social, economic or political matters).

We believe that some committee, probably representative of the arts, the teaching profession and church, might well advise from time to time the person or persons having the authority of censorship in this particular field. One individual acting as a censor may easily be biased, and certainly will find it difficult, alone, to resist the various pressures put upon him from time to time.

4. *The Mails.* A vital responsibility in this matter lies with the Post Office. Again we would say that we have had very fair response when we have protested against certain salacious magazines, advertisements, circulars etc. passing through the mails. We believe, as in (3) above that this authority should be retained, but that its implementation should be strengthened. Local postal authorities should be in more constant touch with their central authority regarding it. Also, as in (3) above, it might be wise to set up an advisory committee to assist the officer in charge.

5. It is in the local scene, at present, that better action should prevail. Even today, a body of citizens could improve the situation in most places if they would inform themselves about the problem and show greater determination to act. But some change in the law might make it more easy for them and for police to act. In this particular regard there are, however, one or two items in which your committee might assist:

- (a) Many dealers are compelled to receive from the wholesalers or the producers quotas of undesirable publications. It would seem to us that dealers should be protected from this unfair pressure. Can the practice not be made illegal?
- (b) If the Criminal Code can be made more definite, as suggested in II, 2 above, local police authority will be more willing to act heretofore. At present they are fearful of losing a case if it comes before the Courts.

III

- (a) There is one section of this field that puzzles us probably more than those I have dealt with, and yet it is one in which I do not know how Government or police can act, except in rare cases. That is, with the spate of books, educational and instructive concerning sex and marriage, or *allegedly so*, which is displayed on respectable book counters as well as in the back street dives. Much of this, and certainly the best of it, has been produced as a result of the acknowledged need of instruction regarding sex and marriage, and all that goes with that subject. But there is so much of it, and it is displayed so abundantly, that it tends (to say the least) to break down all modesty, a first step, I believe, towards the breakdown in morals. In addition, the need for the good publications among them lends a cover for less desirable ones. There should be some *restriction on the publicity* given this kind of material. To illustrate, the availability of the famous Kinsey Report on the sex habits of the American male should be limited to the Medical Profession: good books on sex and family life should be made available, but under some decent restriction: any other material for serious students or e.g. the Medical Profession should be restricted to channels which would convey them to such groups. This, I presume, could only be done by the censoring authority on imported publications and by restrictions imposed on Canadian firms publishing them here. This, we realize, is a major consideration for your committee. It presents a dilemma to you, for you stand between the need for just and proper educational matter and the ever-present desire of some to exploit that need in wrong directions.
- (b) Another delicate question arises for you when confronted with the *cheap novels* which suddenly began to appear some five or six years ago, and which today are displayed in every drug store, tobacco shop, railway station and street corner booth. Most of the contents is harmless, though most of it is trashy and in poor taste. Occasionally there are some definitely undesirable books among them. (By an appeal to the head of the publishing firm, we succeeded in having one withdrawn, since it described a definitely immoral episode.) But the worst parts of nearly all of these books are the *title* and the *cover*—which often are redolent of sex relations. It may be that the law can assist in this. I do not know what can be done. It is only as we can educate the Canadian public to better reading and induce our publishers to produce more solid novels and treatises *at low prices* and in attractive form, that we shall be able to have this trash superseded.

In regard to these two items we report that bodies of citizens in some centres have successfully (a) exhorted dealers to refuse undesirable publications or to refuse to exhibit them for sale (b) with police assistance, "put a scare" into unscrupulous dealers so that for a time, at least, they desist from exhibiting or selling undesirable publications, (c) on a wider scale, and again with police or provincial authority, put a similar scare into publishers (in Canada) of this material.

It is noteworthy, however, that when these publications (chiefly the cheap magazines) (Ia) are "scarced" off the market, it will be only for a time, for sooner or later they come back in some other guise and with some other name.

(c) A stricter censorship of the imported magazines could be exercised.

IV

To sum up, Sir, if I do not presume too far, I would suggest that your Committee *may endeavour* to do five things at least:

1. Secure such publicity for this problem as will impel citizens to take more notice of, and more action in, the matter.
2. Advise upon a more definite wording of the law, to permit of more specific action by police authority and in the Courts.
3. Secure through the offices of the Provincial Attorneys-General more unified and co-ordinated action across Canada.
4. Revise the method of censorship and advise upon the appointment of a suitable panel of persons for it.
5. Consider and advise regulations designed to protect minors from undesirable literature by restrictions regarding its display and sale. This is not necessary.

I have here said nothing about the responsibility of the home, the school and the church. The greatest responsibility lies on them, *for positive teaching and training*. This we acknowledge, but at the same time pray that both the legislative and executive arms of governments do all in their power to attack the evil by appropriate methods,

I have the honour to be,

Yours respectfully,

W. W. JUDD,
General Secretary.

1952

THE SENATE OF CANADA



PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Special Committee on Sale and Distribution
of Salacious and Indecent Literature

No. 5

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 1952

The Honourable J. J. HAYES DOONE, *Chairman.*

WITNESS:

Mr. E. D. Fulton, M.P.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

APPENDIX "C"

Briefs, recommendations and correspondence submitted to Chairman
by various church, social and civic organizations.

THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE ON SALE
AND DISTRIBUTION OF SALACIOUS AND
INDECENT LITERATURE

The Honourable J. J. Hayes Doone, Chairman.

The Honourable Senators

Bouffard,
Burchill,
David,
Davis,
Doone,
Duffus,
Fallis,

Farquhar,
Gershaw,
Lacasse,
McDonald,
McGuire,
McIntyre,
Pratt,

Quinn,
Reid,
Stambaugh,
Stevenson,
Vaillancourt,
Wilson,

Quorum 5

20 members.

ORDER OF REFERENCE

Extract from the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Senate, Thursday, May 8, 1952.

“That a special committee of the Senate be appointed, authorized and directed to examine into all phases, circumstances and conditions relating to the sale and distribution in Canada of—

1. Salacious and indecent literature;
2. Publications otherwise objectionable from the standpoint of crime promotion, including crime comics, treasonable and perverse tracts and periodicals;
3. Lewd drawings, pictures, photographs and articles whether offered as art or otherwise presented for circulation.

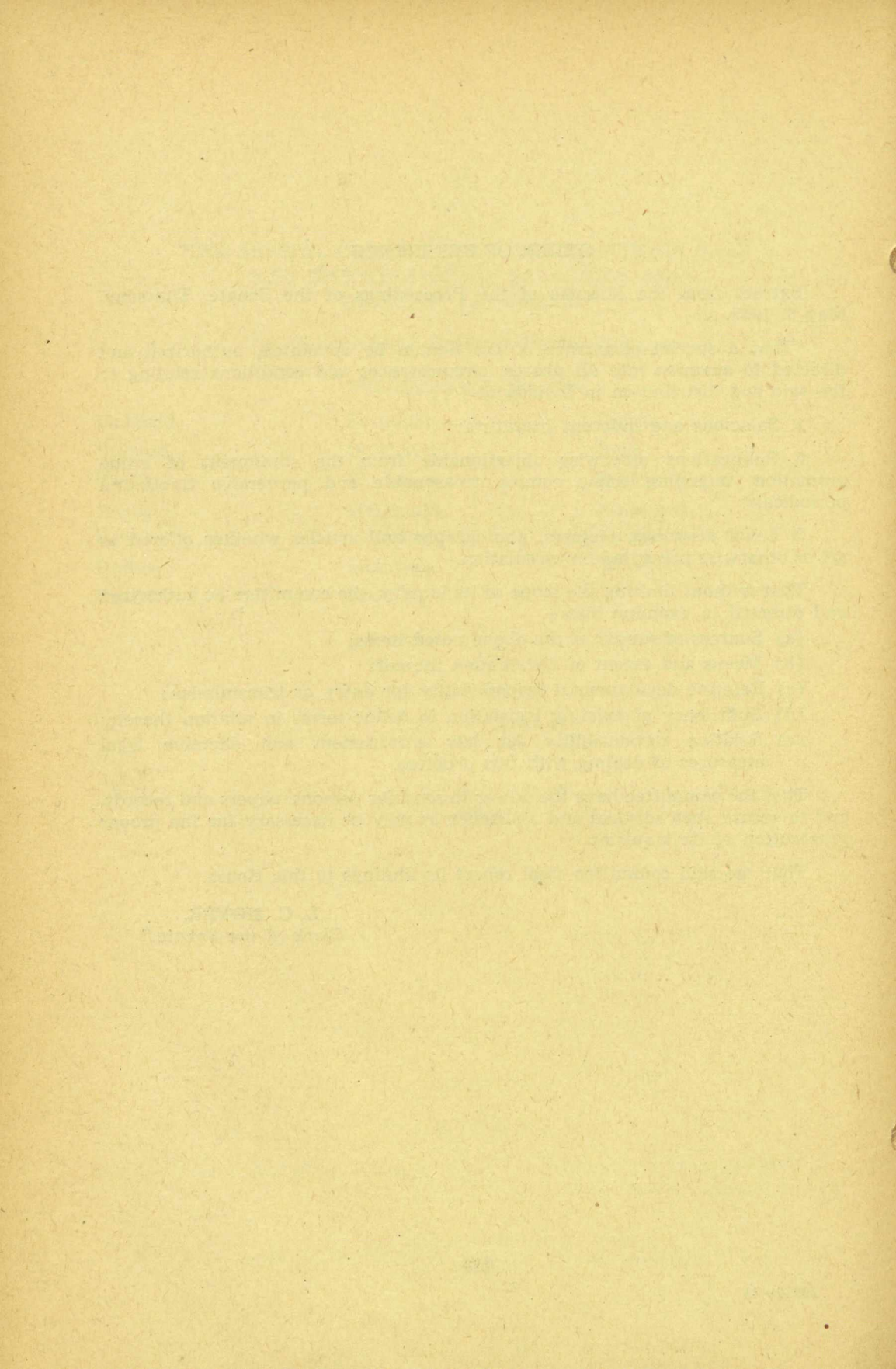
That without limiting the scope of its inquiry, the committee be authorized and directed to examine into—

- (a) Sources of supply of the above noted items;
- (b) Means and extent of distribution thereof;
- (c) Relative departmental responsibility for entry or transmission;
- (d) Sufficiency of existing legislation to define terms in relation thereto;
- (e) Relative responsibility for law enforcement and effective legal measures of dealing with this problem.

That the committee have the power to send for persons, papers and records, and to secure such services and assistance as may be necessary for the proper prosecution of its inquiries.

That the said committee shall report its findings to this House.

L. C. MOYER,
Clerk of the Senate.”



MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY, June 25, 1952.

Pursuant to adjournment and notice the Special Committee on Sale and Distribution of Salacious and Indecent Literature met this day at 10.30 a.m.

Present: The Honourable Senators: Doone, Chairman; Duffus, Fallis, Farquhar, Gershaw, McDonald, McGuire, Reid and Stambaugh—9.

Consideration of the order of reference of May 8, 1952, was resumed.

Mr. E. D. Fulton, M.P., was heard.

A draft of a Report, presented by the Chairman, was read, amended and adopted.

Briefs, recommendations and correspondence received by the Chairman were ordered to be printed as Appendix "C" to these proceedings.

At 11.30 a.m. the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chairman.

Attest.

JOHN A. HINDS,
Clerk of the Committee.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

THE SENATE,

OTTAWA, Wednesday, June 25, 1952.

The Special Committee appointed to examine into the sale and distribution of salacious and indecent literature met this day at 10.30 a.m.

Hon. Mr. DOONE in the Chair.

The CHAIRMAN: Honourable members, a list of church, civic and social organizations which have written in since our last meeting is herewith filed with the Clerk for entry in the minutes of proceedings (See Appendix C). Letters have been received from various organizations indicating a desire to be heard at a later date.

There are one or two corrections I wish to make in the record. At page 59 of the minutes of evidence, line 15, I am reported as saying that "this is the fourth distinction that Miss Charlotte Whitton has received": the number should have been "fourteenth" distinction. At page 103, line 14, it speaks of "W. W. Judd." This should be the Reverend Dr. W. W. Judd. Also on page 108, line 29, a name appears as "Reverend J. A. McLeod"; it should be "Reverend J. D. McLeod." If these corrections are made I would be most happy.

This morning we have with us Mr. E. Davie Fulton, member for Kamloops in the House of Commons, and we should be most pleased to hear from him on the matter of our inquiry.

Mr. E. D. FULTON: Senator Doone and honourable senators, I first want to say how much I appreciate the opportunity of coming here to talk this matter over, particularly at this late stage in the session when I know that both houses of parliament are anxious to finish up their work and get away; and if I appear rather to hurry through what I want to say, so that then perhaps we might have a short discussion, I hope you will excuse me; it is simply because there is a matter coming up in the house immediately after 11.00 o'clock this morning in which I have some interest, and I think I should be there when it is introduced. If you will permit me therefore, I will come right away to the core of the few remarks which I will take the liberty of addressing to you this morning.

It seems to me that, as has been expressed here before, we are faced with the old problem of reconciling the preservation of freedom of expression, with the prevention of licence and abuse. It is a problem which has existed since man began to worry about human welfare, and particularly the moral welfare of his society. I do not wish to be dogmatic in anything that I say to you this morning, or in anything that I suggest, particularly during the time that this matter is merely receiving general study, and it seems to me that all avenues of possible prevention of this abuse and leading to an improvement of the situation should be explored; but I would like to take the liberty of recording my own personal view—or, if you like, preference—that if at all possible, in dealing with this problem we should avoid the approach of direct censorship. That is only personal view, and I say "if at all possible". I would prefer to see the study start from the approach of enacting legislation which will carefully define the offence which we have in mind—if it is agreed, as I think it would be, at least by a majority in the country, that it is an offence to publish and sell the type of literature we have in mind—then I believe the approach should be to define that offence in clear

and workable terms, so that we could then submit to the courts, in accordance with the ordinary process of our laws and in accordance with our traditions of justice, the question of whether or not a certain individual had been guilty of the offence which we have so defined in our legislation. That would leave it to the courts and the ordinary legal processes, with all their safeguards of the liberty of the individual and their safeguards of freedom of expression, to decide whether an offence has been committed; and I believe that is the desirable course, rather than to start with the approach that we should set up a board or bureau, apart from the courts, to say to us and the other people of Canada what we can and what we cannot read.

If we accept this as a suggested line of approach, the problem would then seem to be to get legislation that will work. You will recall that two years ago there was an amendment to the Criminal Code, and the whole section dealing with offensive literature was revised. It was revised primarily from the point of view of the desire to deal with one specific type of literature, and that was the "crime comic". I am not saying that that was the only purpose, but it was the main occasion of the amendment, as you will remember; and I am going to say that as far as I can obtain information, the legislation dealing with crime comics has been relatively successful. Nothing is ever completely successful, but this has been, as I have said, relatively successful. I would like to see us apply something along the same lines in dealing with this problem.

But it must be admitted at once that we are dealing with something much more difficult than crime comics; because the crime comic itself was relatively easy to define in a bill, and the type of publication with which we were concerned, and which we wanted to make it an offence to publish, was one which portrayed the commission of acts which were already clearly defined as crimes, and it was therefore relatively easy to declare that their publication is an offence. Now we are dealing with something which is not a crime. Sex and love are not criminal; and I would be the last one to suggest that we should go so far as to declare that any literature dealing with them should be prohibited, because these matters, if treated properly, are far from crime. Obviously the perversion of them and the perverted treatment of them is a different matter; but you are dealing with the whole field of love, sex, and literature about love and sex; and as I say, you are concerned with a very different field, one in which it is almost impossible to say that you can make a general declaration drawing the line here between what is proper and what is not proper. That is a situation which did not exist when we were dealing with the crime comic.

But I believe, in spite of the difficulties, something can be done; and I suggest as a starting point that we look at the Criminal Code as it now exists. It will be found that the only word by which this type of offensive literature is described is the word "obscene". That is the word used in the Code—"obscene" literature. That is now an offence. There is no further or closer definition in the Code of the word "obscene". It has received judicial interpretation, but I am not going to detain you by going at any length into the judicial interpretation. I would like to point out to you that in the Oxford Dictionary they have to use, as I recall, five different phrases or sentences in order to say what is actually meant by "obscene"; and in Funk and Wagnall's, the American dictionary, there are three definitions. So it seems that the dictionaries have great difficulty in defining exactly what "obscene" means; and to me it is obvious that the courts are going to have equal difficulty; and it also seems to me, after such review as I have been able to make of recent cases dealing with this matter, that the judges have in effect said that they are reluctant to set themselves up as censors and to say what is obscene and what is not, because, as one judge admitted, what might strike him as obscene might not strike other people as obscene at all.

Of course you are also dealing with the difficulty created by the "purple passages" in literature of the type to which Dr. Whitton referred when she appeared before you, and I agree with her thoroughly that in the works of the greatest authors there occur passages which, if taken from their context and looked at along a certain line, may be taken as obscene, but left in their context they are works of art. So you have that difficulty also. It seems to me, therefore, that we should try to get into our legislation a definition of what we really intend to include in this type of literature which we think is offensive, a definition which is more workable than the single word "obscene", and which would enable the courts to arrive at a decision as to whether the piece of literature complained of does fall within the definition and is therefore an offence, or on the other hand does not fall within the definition and is therefore not an offence.

Let me give you an example. I know you have been showered with examples of obscenity and near obscenity and things which it would be perhaps impossible to classify, but I want to give you one illustration which at least defines the sort of thing I have in mind, and it might be used as a starting point. I have here one of these pulp literature magazines which contains, I maintain, obscene pictures. One of them is a panel of the "comic strip" variety. It is entitled "Undressed to Kill!"

It is a series of pictures of a bandit, so-called, holding a woman up at the point of a gun and forcing her to undress; and the undressing is revealed progressively until the culmination. The first picture has the caption—" 'What's coming off here?' the cool killer asks his beautiful victim." She has her dress about half way down. The next picture—"Too bashful to answer, April turns her back on the cad. Nice back." Let us say nothing about that—except that the dress is all the way down now. " 'O.K., Babe', he says, 'let's take off.' Our nervous heroine thinks he means this." By now the slip is coming off. In the next picture, "She gives him a different view of his work. Nice view."—showing a further stage of disrobing. "He sees this won't be an undercover job, and he likes what he sees." Then: "Fighting desperately for her life, she sends a warm breeze his way." And the final picture: "No use. A .45 slug rips thru pale flesh and April's out of season." She is by then completely undressed, and being carried off over the shoulder of the "bandit".

The point I want to make, hon. senators, is this, that this type of magazine comes without any difficulty into the hands of any age group in Canada that wants to buy it, and these magazines are being bought and have been bought in terrific quantities by young boys and girls. As you know, young children are born imitators. This, I know, is only one side, but I am stressing this because it is a problem that we must deal with. They imitate, not in the sense of whether it is right or wrong, but simply because it is what they have seen, and even if it happens to be wrong they imitate it, and the first thing they know they are accused of doing something wrong. We have seen countless such cases in our courts; and we all know of how, in our own homes children copy what parents do. You know how careful parents must be about their language, and little things like that, because children are born imitators; and any educator will tell you that the quickest way to teach a child is by way of illustrations. On the testimony of psychiatric experts, crimes have been committed simply as a result of this desire to imitate: grown-ups have been seen—or a picture has been seen of a grown-up—doing a certain thing, and the younger people do the same.

I ask you to imagine what would happen if this magazine or others like it fell into the hands of a gang of boys, perhaps twelve or thirteen years old. This is presented as a rather exciting thing. It would not be necessary that they would have any thought of a sex motive: perhaps at that age they are too young; I do not know; although I believe that the sex instinct begins to

develop at different ages. But it does not seem to me to matter whether the thought of sex is in their minds or not. Here is a rather exciting thing which they have seen illustrated, and they decide it would be fun to copy it. I believe, honourable senators, that all of you will be able to think back and recall from your own knowledge actual cases which you know of, or have read about, where boys and girls have got into trouble by doing that sort of thing in exactly the sort of way I am describing it. They may start by undressing their little sisters or grabbing a girl on the street and starting to undress her. In saying this I am not overshooting the mark. Undressing of others—and worse—has been done by gangs of school children in cities of the United States and our own country, on spare lots and elsewhere. Obviously such incidents are not the result of any one cause, but I do suggest that illustrated publications of this kind form one of the reasons why this sort of thing is taking place with such frequency today.

Hon. Mr. REID: Is that magazine sold in Canada?

Mr. FULTON: Oh, yes. I have here a group of magazines, all of which are sold in Canada. I would like to give you the name of one of them, if it can be kept off the record, and, for obvious reasons, I would ask also that it be not mentioned by the press. The title is This sort of thing is circulated freely in Canada among teen-age boys and girls and anybody else who wants to pick it up. It is interesting to note that these magazines—at any rate, all of those which I have here—are published in or near New York City. I assume the magazines themselves, not the plates, are shipped into this country.

Because of lack of time, and so that the issue before us shall be as simple as possible, I am dealing with only one type of literature, although I am free to admit that there are problems of equal importance with respect to the pocket book, many examples of which have been placed before you by other witnesses. All I can say on that matter is that I support the testimony and the opinions of those who have said that these publications require to be dealt with as well.

If, then, there is a problem regarding the pulp magazine and pocket-book types of literature, I am not prepared to admit that it is one which is beyond the capacity of senators and members of parliament to deal with in the Parliament of Canada for the benefit of the people of Canada. I have suggested that my approach would be towards strengthening and improving our legislation. I believe that we can strengthen section 207 of the Criminal Code so as to make the publication of the type of thing which I have outlined to you—illustrations of that kind—an offence, and punishable, without any danger of improperly restricting the freedom of literary or artistic expression. I believe it can be done by putting our minds to it and devising legislation which will work, by outlining exactly what we mean, and not leaving it just to the one general word "obscene".

Hon. Mrs. FALLIS: Apparently these magazines of which you have spoken, which are printed in New York, come in without any interference on the part of Canada.

Mr. FULTON: Well, as far as I know, hon. senators, that is true.

Hon. Mrs. FALLIS: That is, they come in freely?

Mr. FULTON: They certainly do, and they come in in terrific numbers, and are available on the newstands.

Hon. Mrs. FALLIS: When you speak of taking a test case to court and having the courts decide, you mean, deciding it under our present Criminal Code?

Mr. FULTON: No. What I was saying there, senator, is that my view of the approach to this problem is to avoid, if possible, direct censorship; rather, to define clearly in legislation what is the offence with which we are concerned,

and then to punish offenders in the courts through the ordinary process of our law and the Criminal Code; and I am now suggesting that the present provisions of our Criminal Code are not sufficiently clear and specific to be workable.

Hon. Mrs. FALLIS: I was not clear when you said to take a test case to the courts, whether you meant to test it under the Criminal Code?

Mr. FULTON: If I said "a test case" I used a word I did not mean to. I was dealing then with my general approach to this matter, and saying that I thought it was preferable to deal with it by action through the courts rather than by censorship. I did not intend to use and I do not recall using the words "test case".

Hon. Mrs. FALLIS: Perhaps not. I may have used that inadvertently.

Mr. FULTON: There will of course be a test case very shortly, as a result of the drive conducted by the City of Ottawa to clear up its news stands.

Hon. Mr. McDONALD: Are the offenders you have in mind the distributors?

Mr. FULTON: Perhaps we should start with the publishers, and make the penalty for them heavier. My own view would be to subject them to a heavier penalty than the distributors and the vendors. But I do not think you can absolve any one of these groups from responsibility. I am frank to confess that I think the initial responsibility lies with the man who will print and publish this material, and that the heaviest penalty should be there. Another reason I take that view is because the easiest place to deal with this is at the source. On the other hand, these things are printed and published in the United States, and it will be extremely difficult to punish them through any process in our courts. Therefore you have to include the distributor and the vendor.

Hon. Mr. McDONALD: That is why I suggest that in Canada it would have to be the distributors, because these magazines are imported into Canada.

Mr. FULTON: I quite agree with you, senator.

Hon. Mr. REID: Have you noticed any diminution in the sale of crime comics since the act was amended?

Mr. FULTON: I have no statistics, and as far as I know there has been no statistical study made of the matter, but from reports I have had from parent-teacher groups and similar bodies which have been interested and still are interested in this subject, and from such cursory examination of news stands as I have been able to make, it appears that the crime comic in its most objectionable form, as we knew it at that time, the straight crime comic, has largely disappeared. It may be that it is being supplanted by these things, or other and equally undesirable forms of literature. But as I say, there are no statistics available to prove it one way or the other. My general impression, and it seems to be supported by such evidence as has come to me, is that the crime comic as it existed at the time of the passage of the legislation has been very substantially reduced, if not eliminated.

Hon. Mrs. FALLIS: Might I ask Mr. Fulton another question. Some of us on this committee have held the opinion and have expressed it that the work of this committee should be confined mainly to material that is being sold to teen-agers, rather than to go into the field of adult literature. Would you agree with that?

Mr. FULTON: Well, I will put it this way, if I may, that the greatest offence and the greatest danger arise from the type of literature which is read so avidly by teen-agers. That is true, and it is because of that situation, and the danger to the morals of our youth, that I see this thing as having a great deal of urgency. But I do not see how you can legislate for only one group. You can by definition, I think, deal with the pulp magazine type

of publication, and it may be therefore that you would be dealing with the type read mainly by youth. On the other hand I have seen statements that this type of material is not read solely by young people. I repeat that I do not think you can legislate to affect only one, the teen-age group, although it may be that it is to these young people that our attention should be primarily directed.

Hon. Mr. FARQUHAR: What is your reason for being opposed to direct censorship?

Mr. FULTON: It may be a matter of personal instinct or personal reaction, but I must say that I personally intensely dislike the idea that any person or group of persons—no matter whom—should be set up with the right to say what shall and what shall not be published. That is, not in general terms, because broadly you are doing that if you pass this legislation. But what the censor does is to look at something which has been printed and say whether it may be circulated or whether it should be suppressed. He deals with individual cases. So he is saying to individuals, "This may be published; this may not be published." He will tell the people of Canada "You may read this, but you may not read that." A censor is not responsible to the people. Parliament is. And the trend towards dictatorship, which is established, it seems to me, if you resort to censorship, is one which we should fight if at all possible. I only go that far; I say "if at all possible". I believe that this problem could be dealt with without direct censorship; but I also believe that the problem is so urgent that if it cannot be dealt with without some form of censorship, it may be that I would have to modify my views.

Hon. Mr. STAMBAUGH: What you are actually advocating is that the matter should be left to a judge and not to a censor.

Mr. FULTON: That is true, but in accordance with clearly defined laws which are the same for everybody.

Hon. Mr. STAMBAUGH: Laws are never clearly defined, are they?

Mr. FULTON: Well, that is one of the difficulties. My suggestion is that we should work out a clearer definition than the present one in the Code. That is one of the reasons for our present difficulty. It is all left under the general word "obscene", and who is to say what is obscene and what is not obscene. I should like to see defined in the Code just what is meant by obscene literature. We should include in the Criminal Code a more specific definition of what type of literature we think is an offence against morality. It should be defined much more clearly and specifically than it is at the present time.

Hon. Mr. STAMBAUGH: Do you believe that you could draft a law which would clearly state what is desired so that a judge would be able to easily determine what is obscene and what is not obscene?

Mr. FULTON: I do not believe that I could do it myself, but I do believe that, for instance, a joint committee of the Senate and House of Commons with the talent and ability that would be brought to bear, would be capable of devising laws which would state as clearly as possible just what we mean. I do not think that the present law, which contains only the one general word obscene, is clear enough. It imposes too great a burden on a judge or jury. I am not prepared to say that laws can ever be drafted about which there will be no dispute, but I do believe that laws could be drafted covering this type of literature about which there would be much less likelihood of dispute than there is in the case of the present law.

Hon. Mr. FARQUHAR: I do not see how there can be any doubt about such literature being obscene, from what you have shown us this morning. I do not see how a judge would have difficulty deciding whether that literature is obscene or not.

Mr. FULTON: That may be so, and as Senator Fallis has pointed out, test cases will be coming up this fall right here in the city of Ottawa.

The CHAIRMAN: A decision given in Ontario will not be binding in British Columbia. It will only serve as a directive.

Mr. FULTON: Yes, if it is decided by a court of first instance in Ontario. If it is appealed to the Appeal Court, then the decision will have more force and effect.

In conclusion may I say that I know you cannot legislate morality. You cannot force society or people to accept different standards from those which they are willing to accept. They tried it during prohibition in the United States. As I say, I know you cannot legislate morality, but I do believe you can and should provide penalties for those who seek to pervert the morals of others, and a person who publishes and distributes magazines of this type can be considered to be doing nothing else than perverting the morals of youth.

Hon. Mr. REID: There are people who recognized this problem long before magazines were printed. In the time of Moses people were stoned to death for committing sexual crimes. They were not even taken before judges.

Mr. FULTON: I do hope the committee will excuse me if I ask now to be permitted to retire from the meeting. I am anxious to attend the sitting in the House of Commons, and I am only sorry that I am unable to stay longer.

Hon. Mr. REID: It can certainly be said that this committee has appreciated your attending its meeting.

Mr. FULTON: I hope that at the next session of parliament when private members' resolutions can be dealt with in our House, it will be possible to have a discussion on this, and as you know I have already suggested there that a joint committee of the two houses of parliament be set up to study this question. If you will permit me, Mr. Chairman, I should like to express this view should the matter come up in our house—and I should like permission to say that you concur in my passing word that the members of the Senate are agreeable to a joint committee.

Hon. Mr. REID: I think that is an excellent suggestion.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you ever so much, Mr. Fulton. Your remarks have been most helpful.

Honourable senators, that concludes our open sessions, and our purpose now is to decide upon our report.

The open meeting thereupon adjourned.

APPENDIX "C"

A list of Church, Civic and local organizations writing in since our last meeting is herewith filed with the Clerk for entry in the Minutes and Proceedings.

Ontario Women's Christian Temperance Union,
Canadian Council, The Girl Guides Association.

Catholic Women's League of Canada.

Vancouver, B.C.

Quebec, P.Q.

Milltown, N.B.

St. Patrick's Sub-Division, Hamilton, Ontario.

Toronto, Ontario.

Elora, Ontario.

Shannon, P.Q.

St. Fidele, P.Q.

Holy Name Societies—

Cathedral of Christ the King, Hamilton, Elora and Fergus, Ontario.

Presbytery Women's Auxiliary, United Church, Algoma West, Ontario.

Knights of Columbus—

Lindsay, Ontario.

Board of Cinema Censors—

The Province of Quebec, Montreal, P.Q.

L'Action Catholique des Hospitalises,

Laval Hospital, P.Q.

Maurice L. Faucher, V.A.,

Secretary-Treasurer General, L'Association Professionnelle Catholique,
Des Voyageurs de Commerce du Canada, Montreal, P.Q.

Reverend Kevin Sheridan,

Hamilton, Ontario.

Le Cercle des Fermieres,

St. Casimir, P.Q.

Ligue Independante Catholique de Montreal Incorporee,

Outremont, P.Q.

Rev. Pere Norbert-Marie Bettez,

Directeur La Revue "La Famille", Montreal, P.Q.

La Cooperative d'Habitation,

Plessisville, P.Q.

Rev. J. Allimon, M.S.C.,

Sana. Lac Edouard, Portneuf, P.Q.

Rev. Cesaire Arcan, O.F.M.

Commissariat Provincial du Tiers-Ordre Franciscain, Montreal, P.Q.

La Fraternelle St. Calixte du Tiers Ordre de St. Francois,

Plessisville, P.Q.

League of the Sacred Heart—

Charlesbourg, P.Q.

Donnacona, P.Q.

Bryson, Ontario.

- Catholic Scouts—St. Alphonse Church, Thetford Mines, P.Q.
 St. Charles Garnier, Sillery, P.Q.
 St. Fidele, P.Q.
 Mente Saint Coeur de Marie, Quebec, P.Q.
 Notre Dame de Quebec, Quebec, P.Q.
- Baptist Union of Western Canada,
 Winnipeg, Manitoba.
- St. Clare R.C. Parish,
 Toronto, Ontario.
 It might be noted that the letter received from St. Clare's Parish,
 Toronto, Ontario, had in excess of one thousand signatures.
- Congress of Canadian Women,
 Toronto, Ont.
- The Woman's Missionary Society of the United Church of Canada,
 Hamilton, Ont.
- St. Helen's Parish (Toronto) Credit Union Ltd.,
 Toronto, Ont.
- Corporation of the City of Kitchener,
 Kitchener, Ont.
- The Martha Guild,
 Women's Auxiliary of St. Michael's College School, Toronto.
- Canadian Home & School and Parent-Teacher Federation,
 Toronto.
- Mr. J. Z. Leon Patenaude,
 La Federation des Ligues du Sacre Coeur de Montreal, Montreal, Que.
- Owen Sound Ladies Auxiliary of the Canadian Legion, B.E.S.L.,
 Owen Sound, Ont.
- Sacred Heart School,
 Hamilton, Ont.
- Leisure Reading Room Committee,
 Quebec Federation of Home & School, Montreal, Quebec.
- Adoration Nocturne de Montreal,
 Montreal, Que.
- Rev. Frank P. Fidler, B.Sc., B.T.,
 Associate Secretary, Adult Life and Family Work, The Board of
 Christian Education, The United Church of Canada, 299 Queen St. W.,
 Toronto, Ont.
- Our Lady of Lourdes School,
 Waterloo, Ont.
- St. Louis School,
 Allan St. E., Waterloo, Ont.
- National Federation of Labour Youth,
 Hamilton, Ont.
- Mr. C. Lavoie,
 Le Directeur Général des Editions Fides, Montréal, Qué.
- L'Ecole des Bibliothécaires de l'Université de Montréal,
 Montréal, Qué.
- Conseil Central des Syndicats Nationaux de Montréal Inc.
 Montréal, Qué.
- Société Catholique de la Bible,
 Montréal, Qué.

- Association Catholique des Employés de Chemins de Fer du Canada,
Groupe St-Raphaël, Montréal, Qué.
- La Ligue du Sacré-Cœur de St-Aubert,
St-Aubert, Qué.
- The National Council of Women of Canada,
Ottawa, Ont.
- The Board of Christian Education,
The United Church of Canada, Toronto, Ont.
- Jeunesse Agricole Catholique,
Saint-Benoît, Deux-Montagnes.
- Le Secrétariat de l'Enfance,
3551 Est, Boul Gouin, Montreal North, P.Q.
- Les Equipiers Sociales,
Carrefour Saint-Paul, 3491 Drummond Ave., Montréal, P.Q.
- Mrs. J. D. Taylor,
President The Ontario Federation of Home and School Associations,
101 Dromore Cres., Hamilton, Ont.
- Women's Christian Temperance Union,
Palmerston, Ont.
- M. Damien Jasmin, Ph.D., LL.D.,
Le Président, Service des Loisirs du Diocèse de Montréal,
480 est rue Sherbrooke, Montréal, P.Q.
- Knights of Columbus,
Timmins, Ont.
- P. J. Brake,
Knights of Columbus, Timmins, Ont.

ONTARIO WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION

98 Prospect St.,
Newmarket, Ontario,
June 20, 1952.

We protest against the indecent literature which is being published today and the fact that the youth of our land is being exposed to this sort of literature.

Mrs. William Cashion, writing for the Vancouver Archdiocesan Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada, at the request of His Excellency Archbishop Duke, gave detailed information, as follows:

His Excellency, Archbishop Duke, handed to me for attention, your letter dated May 21st.

The Vancouver Archdiocesan Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada, has, for many years, strongly and consistently protested the sale and distribution of dangerous comics, magazines and pocket books—We have repeatedly, by resolution in Convention assembled, asked for the enforcement of laws governing the importation and sale of books and comics detrimental to the health and morals of our young and adolescent children.

On receipt of your letter a local survey was made by the presidents of our fifty parish units of the Catholic Women's League, with particular attention to the news-stands and stores in the vicinity of Grammar and High School—These reports have now been received, and the information contained in at least 98

per cent of the reports is alarming and shocking—I have checked and condensed this information, and attach hereto a list of the books, etc., displayed and sold in Vancouver—Many of the dealers cater particularly to school children. I am enclosing one complete report as received, for the reason that Mrs. Croquet, who made the survey and prepared the report, is our Diocesan Convener of Girl Guides and Child Health and Welfare, and has a special interest in this campaign.

You will notice that many of these publications are imported from the U.S.A.

Also, we are sending under separate cover, copies of a number of magazines picked from various news-stands in the course of our survey.

The Vancouver Archdiocesan Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada hereby protest the sale and distribution of salacious literature, books and comics.

Pharmacy—Broadway.

Black Cat Mystery (Comic) Home Comics, publisher, 420 De Soto Ave St. Louis; Suspense (comic) Broadcast Features, 350-5th Ave. N.Y.; Blue Bolt Weird (comic) Star Publications, 8 Lord St. Buffalo, N.Y.

Hit. pulp magazine—sex—Volitant Publications, 105-5th St. N.Y.; Laff. pulp magazine—sex—Volitant Publications, 105-5th St. N.Y.

Pocket Books—Tales from the Arabian Nights, Mildred Pierce.

Love Comics—Strange Confessions—Zeff Davis, Approved Comics, N.Y.; Wartime Romances—St. John's Publications; Perfect Love—Approved Comics—N.Y.; Pictorial Romance—St. John's Publications, N.Y.; Personal Love—Famous Publications, N.Y.; Darling Love—Bell Features, 165 York St. Toronto.

Drug Store—Broadway.

Comics—Frankenstein—Feature Publications, 1250 Camden Ave., Camden, Ohio; Adventures into the Unknown, Best Syndicated Features, 420 De Soto Ave.; St. Louis, Mo.; Astonishing, 20th Century Comic Corporation, 350-5th Ave., N.Y.; Black Magic, Crestwood Publishing Co., 8 Lord St., Buffalo, N.Y.; Out of the Shadows, Visual Editions, 10 E 40th St.; Strange Mysteries, Superior Publishers, 2382 Dundas St., Toronto; Nightmare, Approved Comics, 185 North Wabash, Chicago.

Love Comics—Teenage Romances, St. John Publishing Co, 545-5th Ave., N.Y. 17; Thrilling Romances, Standard Comics, 163 Prat St., Meridian Conn.; Sweethearts, Fawcett Publishing Co., Greenwich, Conn.; Diary Loves, Comic Magazines, 8 Lord St., Buffalo N.Y.; Lovelorn, Michel Publications, Inc., 8 Lord St., Buffalo, N.Y.; Young Love, Crestwood Publishing Co., 8 Lord St., Buffalo, N.Y.; Love Letters, Comic Magazine, 8 Lord St., Buffalo, N.Y.

Remark by clerk, "If they sell, we stock them". Also remarked that it is up to parents what their children read.

Pocket Book—Health, Sex and Birth Control, Percy E. Ryberg, M.D., states that it does not advise on birth control, then proceeds to do so. Real Story. pulp magazine—Real Story Inc., 535-5th Ave. N.Y.

Hedden's Confectionery, 2808 Commercial.

Love Comics—Love Tales, Zenith Publishing, 350-5th Ave., N.Y.; Girl Confessions, Cornell Publishing Co., 350-5th Ave., N.Y.; Love Adventures, 350-5th Ave., N.Y.; Best Love, Bell Features, 165 York St., Toronto.

Titter—pulp magazine—illustrations extremely lewd. 201 W 52nd N.Y.

Weird Comics, The Haunt of Fear, Superior Publishers, 2382 Dundas St., Toronto; Haunted Thrills, Farrell Comics, 30 E 60th N.Y. 22; Star Spangled Comics, National Comics, 480 Lexington Ave., N.Y.; Forbidden Worlds, Robot-

men, Avon Publications, 575 Madison Ave., N.Y.; Journey into Unknown Worlds, Western Fiction Publications, 350 E 5th N.Y.; Pix, 105 E 35th St. N.Y., sexy illustrations; Wink, pulp magazines., 201 W 52nd N.Y.

The weird comics are very unwholesome, having terrifying illustrations and most unhealthy subject matter.

There is also a magazine around titled 'Male', with illustrations etc., which are most unholy in their approach to life and sex, and certainly not the thing for youngsters to be able to procure.

Reliable Drugs—Found no objectionable magazines or comics.

List of comics, magazines and pocket books on display and for sale in and around the city of Vancouver and suburban districts.

Comics: Romantic Adventures, Romantic Secrets, Young Love, Love and Confessions, Haunted Thrills, True Life Secrets, Secrets of Love, Confessions of Love, Complete Love, Strange Love, Perfect Love, Strange Confessions, Love Experiences, Girl Confessions, Love Tales, Love Adventures.

Magazines: Sir, Male, Man to Man, I Confess, Eye Full, Eye, Life Romances, True Confessions, True Story, Sun Bathing, Never Love a Stranger, The Case of the Half Awakened Wife, One Lonely Nite, Errors in the Street, Career Wife, Homecide for Hamish, All the Girls He Wanted, His Eye is on the Sparrow, Honey in the House, The Red Dress, Weep for Me, Man Story, Focus—Sex Before Marriage, And Be My Woman, Man Story, We, Glamorous Models, Laff, Hit, Titter, Wink.

Pocket Books: Soldiers Daughters, Never Cry, Wreath for a Redhead, Suitable for Framing, Kill the Toff, Murder Queen High, Letters to Five Wives, The Wheel is Fixed, Edge of Panic, Health, Sex and Birth Control, Murder in Miniature, Corpse in the Corner, South Pacific, Love Stories of India, Uninvited Corpse, And Be My Love, Twelve Chinke and a Woman, That Girl From Memphis, Christ in Concrete, How I became a Girl Reporter, Dear Sir, Poison in Jest, All About Girls, Tuesday in Bed, With Naked Foot, Something for Nothing, And When She Was Bad She Was Murdered, Sin Ship, The Books of Erskine Caldwell generally, Chinese Room.

Catholic Womens League of Canada,
St. Patrick Sub-division,
Hamilton, Ontario.

We St. Patrick's Sub-division of the C.W.L. Hamilton, Ontario are in favor of stopping the sale of obscene publications, and will support effective measures with that end in view.

Mrs. Eldon Keon,
Secretary Treasurer, C.W.L.,
Bryson, Quebec.

On behalf of the Catholic Womens League of Bryson, I wish to thank you for your very commendable effort in removing salacious literature from the newsstands. We hope and pray that you will continue to be successful in this praiseworthy endeavour.

Miss A. Veronica Osborne,
President, Saint John Diocesan Council,
The Catholic Women's League of Canada.
Post Office Box 82, Milltown, N.B.

I wish to protest the sale, in Canada, of indecent literature—lewd and immoral comics and pocket size books and the importation of such to Canada; and request that you use your influence in banning from our great Canadian land these offending publications.

The Convention of our Saint John Diocesan Council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada, representing 5,000 Catholic women, will be convened the last of this month, and vigorous protests have been received from all Subdivisions to be incorporated in a resolution to be sent to you.

Thanking you for the interest already displayed in this Decent Literature Crusade, I am.

The Holy Name Society,
Cathedral of Christ The King,
Hamilton, Ontario.

The Holy Name Society of this Parish sincerely approves the bringing of legislation which will ban indecent literature from public sale and distribution.

As President I speak for 700 men of our Parish.

H. V. James, President,
29 Sunset Street,
Hamilton, Ont.

The following Resolution was received from the Women's Auxiliary of Algoma West Presbytery of the United Church.

We the members of Algoma West Presbytery, W.A. now in convention at Desbarats United Church, Thursday, June 12, request that action be taken to suppress the publication of obscene and objectionable literature, especially those displaying sexual pictures to catch the eye of the buyer, and this we pray.

President, Mrs. Eva Weir,
Secretary, Mrs. Garnet Bell.

Letters of recommendation were received as follows:

W. T. Callaghan,
Recording Secretary,
Council No. 1124,
Knights of Columbus,
Lindsay, Ontario.

That the Recording Secretary be instructed to write the Chairman of the Senate Committee and also Mr. Clayton Hodgson, local Member of Parliament for Victoria and Haliburton counties, regarding the Council's wholehearted approval of the Senate Committee's present drive to ban the sale of obscene and sedicious literature from our Canadian newsstands.

The Board of Cinema Censors of the Province of Quebec through its Chairman, Mr. Alexis Gagnon offered its cooperation in the following letter with attached detail of pertinent value:

I thank you most sincerely for your letter of May the 22nd 1952.

You will please find endorsed together with a copy of the law an up to date list of the magazines prohibited in the Province of Quebec.

Photo, Vue, Popular Teen Agers, American Photography, Mr, Intimate Confessions, Hello Buddies, Pin Up Cartoons, Salon Photography, Man to Man, Peep Show, Fun Parade, Screwball, See, Follies, Amateur and Screen Photography, Swagger, Eyeful, Flirt, Picture, Hit, Gala, Glance, Focus, Beauties, Final, Taboo, Eve, Night and Day, Between Us, Pace, Carnival of Beauty, Cover Girls Models, Famous Models, Laff, Glamorous Models, Picture Show, Beautiful Girls, Art Photography, Foto Parade, Sunbathing for Health Magazine, Sir, Pack'o Fun, Eye, U.S. Camera, Art Models,

Dr. Faust, Modern Man, Figure Photography Annual, Nus, Lilliput, Popular Photography and Tab.

June the 18th, 1952.

CHAPTER 12

An Act respecting publications and public morals

(Assented to, the 29th of March 1950)

His Majesty, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and of the Legislative Assembly of Quebec, enacts as follows:

Interpretation.

1. In this act, the following expressions mean:

“Board of Censors”;

a. “Board of Censors”: the Board of Cinema Censors established under the act 2 George VI, chapter 77;

“illustration”;

b. “illustration”: any drawing, photograph, picture or figure;

“immoral illustration”;

c. “immoral illustration”: any illustration, in the sense of the preceding paragraph, which evokes real or fictitious scenes of crime or of the habitual life of criminals, or morbid or obscene situations or attitudes, tending to corrupt youth and to pervert morals;

“publication”;

d. “publication”: any review, magazine or other writing published periodically and offered to the public, except the newspapers and other writings as governed by the Newspaper Declaration Act (Revised Statutes, 1941, chapter 53).

Exception.

This definition does not include publications of a religious character.

Declaration required.

2. No person shall, in the Province, print, publish, distribute or offer to the public any publication, or cause it to be printed, published, distributed or offered to the public, before the editor, if his domicile is within the Province, or his agent for distribution, if the editor's domicile is outside of the Province, has deposited a declaration in the office of the Provincial Secretary stating the title of the publication, as well as the names and addresses of its publisher and of every person acting as agent of the publisher to distribute it to operators of news-stands for sale in the province.

Delay.

Such declaration shall as regards publications already issued on the date of the coming into force of this act, be filed within sixty days from such date.

Change of publishers.

A new declaration to the same effect shall be made immediately after each change of publisher or distributor of the publication.

Offence and penalty.

3. Any person violating any of the provisions of section 2 shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable to a fine of fifty to one hundred dollars for the first offence and to a fine of one hundred to five hundred dollars for each subsequent offence, in addition to the costs.

Summary of proceedings.

The penalties contemplated in this section shall be imposed on summary proceeding under Part I of the Quebec Summary Convictions Act.

Examination of publications.

4. The Attorney-General may submit for examination by the Board of Censors any publication containing any illustration, either on the outside or within its covers, in order that the Board of Censors may decide whether or not an immoral illustration within the meaning of this act is involved.

Order.

5. The Board of Censors shall proceed forthwith to make such examination and, if it comes to the conclusion that an immoral illustration is involved, it shall issue an order accordingly.

Posting.

A copy of such order, certified by the president or secretary of the Board of Censors, shall be posted in public view, at the place where the Board of Censors sits.

Notice to publishers, etc.

6. Notice of such ordinance shall be forwarded by registered mail, to the publisher and to his distributing agents in the Province, to their respective addresses last furnished to the provincial secretariat under section 2.

Notice to Director or Q.P.P.F.

A similar notice shall be sent to the Director of the Quebec Provincial Police Force.

7. From and after the posting of the order of the Board of Censors pursuant to section 5, the publication concerned, subsequent copies included, can no longer be the object of any right of ownership or possession whatsoever in this Province and no person may claim such right as long as the order remains in force.

Repeal.

The Board of Censors may repeal the order when the publisher of the publication enters into an undertaking to eliminate from it in future all immoral illustrations and gives the Board evidence satisfactory to it of his intention to observe such undertaking. From and after such repeal, the provisions of the preceding paragraph of this section shall cease to apply, as regards the future copies of the publication, so long as the Board of Censors does not issue another censure order with respect to it.

Quorum.

8. A quorum of the Board of Censors, for the purposes of this act, shall be three members, and must include the president.

Seizure.

9. Any officer of the Quebec Provincial Police Force, constable or other peace officer shall, with or without warrant, seize in the Province, every publication subject to a censure order issued under section 5 and bring it before a judge of the sessions or a district magistrate.

Confiscation, etc.

Upon the production of a certificate, signed by the president or the secretary of the Board of Censors, indicating that such publication is subject to such order, the judge or the magistrate shall order the confiscation and destruction thereof.

Coming into force. (In force the 1st of May, 1950, O.G., p. 1201).

10. This act shall come into force on such date as it may please the Lieutenant-Governor in Council to fix by proclamation.

June 23rd, 1952.

The Rev. Césaire ARCAND, O.F.M.,
 Provincial Commissary for the Third
 Order of St. Francis,
 2080 Dorchester St. W., Montreal, 25.

Offered the following comments and recommendations.

Permit me to congratulate you on behalf of the 100,000 members of the third Order of St. Francis in the Province as well as in my personal name, for the noble gesture made by you and your Committee of the Senate in undertaking an investigation on the sale and distribution of salacious and provoking literature.

Our group have always taken the most vivid interest in this important question of cleaning the publications which are submerging our stores where periodicals are sold; for our members fight the diffusion of immoral literature.

This will show you, Mr. President, all the importance we find in your most happy initiative.

Would we be allowed to submit the following suggestions:—

Considering baneful influence of these undesirable publications, our Association is hopeful that

—The expression of “obscene” be defined in the Statutes because it actually has no official interpretation and is therefore too easily evaded;

—That re-impression of books, magazines, and other publications which the National Revenue forbids entrance in Canada be prohibited;

—That Distributors be forbidden from imposing certain magazines to small retailers, without leaving them the liberty of choosing.

On behalf of all our Associations, I thank you for your devotion to this cause of morality, and I pray you to accept our best wishes of success in the pursuit of this work.

A petition bearing over a thousand signatures was submitted by St. Clare's Parish in the City of Toronto, and is herewith set out.

I solemnly declare that all signatures on this attached Petition are genuine and have been given voluntarily by each signer, as proof of his or her interest in the work of your Senate Committee on Salacious Literature.

The Petition of the Roman Catholic Citizens of Saint Clare's Parish in the City of Toronto, in the County of York, in the Province of Ontario humbly sheweth as follows:

1. Your Petitioners, who have affixed their names below, are desirous of informing the Special Senate Committee on Salacious Literature of their disposition in regard to the growing flood of salacious, immoral and evil literature being distributed on the news stands, throughout the Dominion of Canada.

2. Your Petitioners are as one in their fear that the aforementioned literature will corrupt our youth and lower public morals.

3. Your Petitioners therefore pray that that the honourable committee will heed our voices joined with thousands of other citizens to recommend that effective legislation be enacted to halt the printing and circulation of this debasing matter.

And your Petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray, etc.,

Dated this 22nd day of June, A.D. 1952.

140 Cornell Ave.,
 Toronto 13.
 June 20th, 1952.

Senate Committee on Salacious Literature,
Parliament Buildings,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Sirs—

The Congress of Canadian Women support the Senate Committee on Salacious Literature and registers its strongest disapproval of this sort of reading matter sold in almost every store across Canada without restraint to minors.

The Congress views with alarm the deleterious effects it will have upon the adolescent. Never before has this type of publication been displayed so prominently for sale in this country. The mass production and distribution of sensational novels depicting lewd, repulsive and perverted behaviour of the characters as a normal way of life has superseded all other worthwhile publications offered for sale in Canadian stores.

Men and women are portrayed as monsters of perversion and the women pictured as Lesbians and modern Messalinas. Added to this is the continuous suggestion that crime and perversion is normal and big time gangsters are clever men and great lovers.

At the same time we forbid the sale of drugs, smokes and intoxicating drinks to minors. We drive indecency from our streets. We jail the bootlegger and arrest the drug addict. We punish the sex perverts or send them to mental hospitals. We spend millions of dollars on courts of justice and police to protect and defend the public good, yet we allow repulsive crimes of hideous sex perversion to be written and published for sale indiscriminately and presented in such a way as being the normal behaviour of adults.

We believe this is a deliberate attempt to vilify and belittle women in the eyes of youth in depicting immorality as a normal life for them, and are of the opinion that this is the most insidious offence of all against the public good. Irreparable damage, we believe, will be done to the healthy influence of home, church and school by the continued distribution of this type of publication which point no moral or good example but capitalize profitably in issuing for sale novels dealing only with sensational and abnormal behaviour of perverted characters.

We believe there is grave danger, not only to the young whose lives may be forever blighted at the outset by attempting to mimic the lives and actions thus depicted, but crime and disease may increase out of all proportion to the money we now spend on health, education and social welfare: Therefore, we urge the Senate Committee to continue and extend its inquiry so that the effects of this alarmingly widespread pernicious reading matter may be carefully checked and means established for its control in order better to assist the proper cultivation of sound morals and good living for Canadian youth.

We are,
yours very truly,

Hilda Murray,
The Congress of Canadian Women
(Toronto Chapter)
(Mrs.) Hilda Murray, secretary.

141 Cavell Avenue,
Hamilton, Ontario,
June 23rd, 1952.

Chairman Investigating Committee on Salacious Literature,
Parliament Buildings,
Ottawa, Canada.

Dear Sir:—At the Seventh Conference of United Church Women, held in McMaster University, Hamilton, recently, the following resolution was passed which we of the Hamilton Presbyterian Woman's Missionary Society endorse;

Urging that the Senate Investigating Committee improve legislation to prohibit the importation, manufacture, (block) distribution, and sale of books, magazines and playing cards, etc., which poison the minds and impair the moral integrity of our citizens, by exploiting sex for material gain.

Trusting you will bring this to the notice of your Committee.

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

(MRS. CHARLES) EDITH M. HAYWARD,
Corresponding Secretary,
Hamilton Presbyterian.

ST. HELEN'S PARISH (Toronto) CREDIT UNION LTD.

There are four hundred members in our Credit Union which we think of as a Family Credit Union and we speak for each and every one of the four hundred when we state that we favour stopping the sale of lewd and obscene publications and we will be pleased to support effective measures with that end in view. Perhaps you will see fit to license distributors or to censor all such publications before they are released for sale or to prosecute offenders therein or those who try to force newsdealers to take the bad with the good.

Regardless, we will stand behind you.

WALTER S. GLYNN.

P. Eng.

140 Rosedale Hts. Drive,
Toronto, Ont.
June 25, 1952.

Hon. Senator J. J. HAYES DOONE,
Senate Bldg.,
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Hon. Sir:—The Martha Guild, (Women's Auxiliary to St. Michael's College School, Toronto) membership (800) wishes to go on record in supporting you, in your drive against salacious literature, placed on our public newsstands.

We, in our work for young students realize to what dangers they are exposed through the wholesale presentations of such obnoxious reading matter, and strongly urge you to fight relentlessly to have it removed from newsstands.

Thanking you, for your good work, I am,

Respectfully,

PHYLLIS JEROME,
Corresponding Secretary,
The Martha Guild.

Miss Lillian CHARNEY,
The Canadian Home and School and Parent-Teacher Federation,
79 Queen Street East,
Toronto, 1, Ontario.

Your letter of June 6th was forwarded to Mr. G. F. Bruce, of the Department of Education, Edmonton, Alberta, who is the newly appointed President of this Federation.

His comments to me were as follows: "Please acknowledge receipt of letter of June 6th and assure Mr. Doone that we shall do all we can to provide him with a balanced expression of opinion. Kindly inform Mrs. Mellish of receipt of this letter. Perhaps it would be well to provide her with a copy and ask her to forward through our national office any additional information that she might have on hand. If there is anything arising out of the minutes regarding this matter, please inform Mr. Doone.

Note: Mrs Mellish is Chairman of the Children's Reading Committee. Copy of your letter has been forwarded to her.

You will be informed at the earliest possible time of developments in this matter arising from the minutes of the Annual Meeting.

THE BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

June 25, 1952.

Senator HAYES DOONE,
Parliament Buildings,
Ottawa, Ontario.

DEAR SIR: I have been instructed to write you on behalf of our Committee on Christian Family Life, and to advise you of our great interest in the work of the Senate Committee under your leadership which is investigating the sale and distribution of obscene literature with the hope of limiting their influence in Canada.

We realize how difficult is this problem and we sincerely hope that the wisdom of your Committee may lead to a more satisfactory situation.

We shall look forward to the recommendations which you have to make and the actions which result from them.

Yours most sincerely,
FRANK P. FIDLER,
Associate Secretary.

LADIES' AUXILIARY CANADIAN LEGION BRANCH
No. 6, OWEN SOUND

June 25, 1952.

DEAR SIR: We wish to go on record and submit an objection to the obscene literature that is being put on newstands in Ontario.

(Mrs) ELSIE WALKER,
The Owen Sound Ladies' Auxiliary to Can. Legion, B.E.S.L.,
Secretary.

Brief to Senate Committee investigating Salacious Literature

GENTLEMEN: The Hamilton Club of the National Federation of Labour Youth welcomes with hearty approval the establishment of a Senate Committee to investigate the effects of salacious and indecent literature on Canadians, particularly the youth of Canada. We feel that such an investigation is sorely needed at this time, and any recommendations arising out of your deliberations to rid our country of this type of literature will certainly meet with the support of our organization.

We note that included among the type of literature your committee is to investigate are the so-called "comic" books. Because we feel that this type of literature is a particularly serious menace to the minds of Canadian youth, it is our intention to devote the contents of this brief to this one aspect of your committee's investigations.

It seems to us that comics could be roughly classified into four main groups: crime comics, horror comics, sex comics and war comics. In many comics, all four of these elements are to be found combined, but for the purpose of examination, it is perhaps more expedient to classify the various comics.

It is almost impossible today to read the daily press or listen to the news on the radio without being constantly reminded of the effects of crime comics on the minds of Canadian youth. Scarcely a day passes without the appearance of one or more headlines telling of crimes committed by young people which find their source, and in many cases, guidance, from the comics. Headlines such as "Some only 9, nab 5, Break Comic Book Crime Gang", "Criminal Quintet Credits Comic Books for Prowess", "Faces Kidnap Charge, Boy Reads Comic Book", "Wouldn't Walk Trestle, Boy, 11, Shot", are but a few examples of the toll which crime comics are inflicting on the minds of our youth. While it is true that these comics always have the villain punished at the end, nevertheless the actual crimes and events surrounding them are made much more attractive to the imagination of young people than is the actual punishment of the wrong-doers, which is contained, more as a matter of form in only three or four frames at the end of the store.

Although many of the crimes committed in the crime "comics" are horrible enough, we feel there should be separate mention made of the "horror" type of comic book. This is the variety of "comic" which portrays weird and monstrous creatures emerging from the bowels of the earth or from other planets and preying on helpless victims. Also included in this type of comic are the ones which tell of demented scientists devising all sorts of fantastic devices for the ruthless and agonizing torture and death of their fellow humans. Some of the situations described in these comics are so fantastically gruesome as to make even an adult glance nervously over his shoulder if he happens to be reading them while alone.

In an age where perhaps the most often heard criticism of youth is that they are living "too fast", and that their code of moral standards is rapidly diminishing, it is high time we stopped and asked ourselves the question: "Why?" Your committee has already held several hearings on the general stream of salacious literature that is flooding the country, but the sex or "love" comic plays an important role here. Herein the heroine is usually persuaded by a "friend" to leave her dull and tedious job and get the good things of life the "easy way". The easy way turns out to be a life of prostitution, wherein the heroine actually does receive luxurious gifts from men and resides in a swank penthouse. Of course, the heroine usually manages to see the error of her ways and ends up by marrying some nice young man. But again, this takes place in only 3 or 4 frames and her life as a prostitute is made so enticing as to appeal much more to some young girls than does the ending of the story. Certainly this type of comic stimulates no respect for women in the minds of its male readers, but rather dispels any respect they may have had previously

and influences their thinking so that they come to regard women as just another commodity—something to be bought, enjoyed and then discarded. Many times, under the influence of these comics, teen-aged boys, with little “sophistication”, do not deem it necessary to “pay” anything, but rather merely take what they want by brute force. Inasmuch as these comics are available to the very young, we submit that it would be no exaggeration to say that many youngsters receive their first “lesson” on the “facts of life” from these comics.

War comics have perhaps the most serious and damaging effect on the minds of Canadian youth today. In their glorification of war, they imbue in the youth a sense that war is not something which means suffering and misery for millions of people, but rather that war is one big adventure and that the ultimate test of manhood is to become a soldier. By depicting the soldiers of the West or “white races”, as the heroes, these comics propagate racial discrimination—they picture the “white races” as being infinitely superior, not only militarily, but in every way to the people against whom they are fighting—many of whom are the coloured peoples of the East. At a time when international tensions are so strained the war comics certainly do nothing to promote the goal of world peace.

With few exceptions, the comics of today are anything but comical. With the “animal”, comics, and those which poke gentle fun at human foibles and weaknesses, we have no argument. But as far as the types of comics outlined above are concerned, it is our opinion that they represent one of the greatest dangers to the minds of young Canadians.

We feel that this opinion is shared by growing numbers of people. At its April meeting, UNESCO came out against what it called the “scourge of comics”. One delegate summed it up this way: “Some comics turn man into a gorilla, women into Hollywood film stars, a face into a mask, conversation into fight to the death, arguments into revolts, color into blotches, nations into sub-human beings, shouts into cries, heroes into bandits. And every full stop is turned into an exclamation mark”.

It is our opinion that the types of comics outlined in our brief should be banned from publication. Section 207 of the Criminal Code, as amended by the House of Commons in Dec. 1949, forbids crime comics. This law must be enforced and should be extended to cover the other types of comics referred to in our brief.

We feel that in so doing, Canadian youth will be freed from the insidious effects of present day “comics” and their minds allowed to develop along natural and intelligent lines.

Respectfully submitted by

Wm. DEVINE, *Chairman*,
National Federation of Labour Youth,
Hamilton Branch.

LA FEDERATION DES LIGUES DU SACRE-COEUR DE MONTREAL

June 25th, 1952.
8100 St. Laurent St.,
Montreal, 14.

The Honourable J. J. HAYES DOONE,
The Senate,
Ottawa.

Honorable Senator: The Council of the Federation des Ligues du Sacré-Cœur of Montreal wishes to congratulate you for the work the Senate Committee has undertaken in order to investigate the distribution and sale of salacious and obscene literature in Canada.

Our movement represents 40,000 members and thousands of chiefs of families; that is the reason why we are interested in the activities of your committee.

We request that the word "obscene" be defined in the Act in order to facilitate future law suits.

We are also requesting that there be a ban on the reprinting of books, revues and other publications whose entry into this country is prohibited by the Department of National Revenue.

We also request that distributors do not impose upon the vendors certain magazines without giving the latter the choice of accepting or refusing them.

Our Council is glad to support the move on behalf of having public morality observed, through banning immoral, obscene and salacious literature. We wish to congratulate you on this investigation in order to solve this problem.

Yours truly,

La Federation des Ligues du Sacré-Soeur de Montreal,
J.-Z.-Léon Patenaude.

The following letters indicating a wish to make representations in respect to the subject matter of enquiry are offered for the record.

Rev. Edward M. CHECKLAND, B.A. B.D.,
Chairman, Social Service Committee,
Baptist Union of Western Canada,
Winnipeg, Manitoba.

The Rev. F. W. Haskins, Director of Christian Education for the Baptist Union of Western Canada has referred to me as Chairman of the Social Service Committee of the Union your letter of the early part of this month regarding the Special Committee of the Senate to inquire into all phases relating to the sale and distribution of salacious and indecent literature.

Our Committee is grateful to you for your courtesy in drawing this matter to our attention. May we hear further from you regarding the times and places at which representations may be made to your committee? Our Committee most definitely would be interested in making representation, but it is unlikely that we could do so before Fall.

Mrs. Earl C. KNOPE,
President, Archdiocesan Council,
Catholic Women's League,
Port Credit, R.R. No. 3, Ontario.

With regard to your letter of June 6th, it was decided at our Annual Meeting that it was the wish of our Council, that I should appear in person, to lend the support of our members in the curtailment and suppression of the salacious literature and unwholesome pictures sold on our news-stands.

If it is your wish to suggest a date, we should be very pleased to co-operate.

Mrs. D. E. S. WISHART,
 Chief Commissioner,
 Canadian Council,
 The Girl Guides Association,
 891 Yonge Street,
 Toronto 2, Ontario.

Thank you for your letter of June 11th concerning the brief that the Canadian Girl Guides wish to present to your Senate Committee.

I am afraid, on account of the work we are undertaking for our National Camp, that I will be unable to present this until the fall.

June 26, 1952.

Hon. J. J. HAYES DOONE,
 Chairman, Senate Committee on Salacious Literature,
 The Senate,
 Ottawa.

DEAR SENATOR DOONE: Owing to the fact that National Council was not officially notified of the setting up of your Committee we found ourselves unable to prepare a Brief which we felt would merit your attention. However, the sale and distribution of salacious literature has been a matter of great concern to this Organization for a great number of years. We have from time to time forwarded to the Hon. Mr. Garson and his predecessors strong resolutions from all over Canada regarding this matter.

Attached you will find a resolution which was passed unanimously at our annual meeting held in Toronto from the 9th to the 14th of this month. We hope that your Committee will follow the suggestion embodied in this resolution. If a joint committee is not considered the answer, and if your committee is set up again, we hope that you will permit us to present our views.

Yours sincerely,

CAROLINE MENG.
 Mrs. L. H. Meng,
 Corresponding Secretary.

Resolution from National Council of Women—

Whereas indecent literature in the form of books, sex magazines, love comics and pocket books are being increasingly printed and sold in Canada (by) thereby evading Custom control.

Therefore be it resolved that the National Council of Women request that a Joint Committee of Members of Parliament and Senators be appointed to recommend legislation and other measures, under which the growing volume of filthy literature circulating in Canada can be effectively dealt with, without at the same time improperly restricting the freedom of the press or of genuine literary or artistic expression.

June 24, 1952.

Sir:—

At a meeting of City Council held on June 23, 1952, the following recommendation of the Legislation Committee was unanimously adopted:—

“That the Corporation of the City of Kitchener commend the work of the Senate Committee investigating the problem of the distribution of salacious literature in Canada under the Chairmanship of the Honourable

Senator J. J. Hayes Doone, and secondly, further inquire of the said Committee whether or not any further or other action should or can be taken by the Corporation of the City of Kitchener to further the work of the Committee”.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Yours obedient servant,

C. G. LIPS,
City Clerk.

Senator J. J. Hayes DOONE,
Parliament Buildings,
Ottawa, Ontario.
CGL/GE

139 Royal Avenue,
Hamilton, Ontario.
June 23, 1952.

Chairman of Investigating Committee,
Parliament Buildings,
Ottawa, Ontario.

DEAR SIR:—This Conference of United Church Women in Seventh Annual Conference assembled (June 5th), representing 30,000 women, noting the growth of exploitation of sex appeal for profits, submit the following resolution:

“Resolved that this Conference of United Church Women urge legislation to prohibit the importation, manufacture, (block) distribution, and sale of books, magazines, and playing cards, etc., which poison the minds and impair the moral integrity of our citizens by exploiting sex for material gain.”

Yours respectfully,

(Mrs. W. J.) OLIVE M. ROBERTSON,
Secretary for 1952-1953.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

TIMMINS COUNCIL, No. 2403

Timmins, Ontario.
JUNE 28, 1952.

The Honourable J. J. HAYES DOONE,
The Senate,
OTTAWA, Ontario.

Dear Senator:

At a recent meeting of our Council it was voted and unanimously approved by those present, that a letter be addressed to you stating that our Council, which has a membership of 250 will co-operate with you in helping to stop the sale of salacious literature.

We regard this matter as being one of the most urgent problems facing us to-day. We trust that you may be successful in preparing legislation that will stop the spread of this most insidious form of mental poison, so that the young people of our country will not grow up with the wrong point-of-view on matters of sex and morals.

Respectfully yours,

P. J. BURKE,
Financial Secretary.

Again demonstrating the unanimity of opinion in the Province of Quebec, and the widespread disapproval of existing conditions in the matter of the sale and distribution of unwholesome literature the following letters are annexed:

JEUNESSE AGRICOLE CATHOLIQUE

Saint-Benoît,
Co. Deux-Montagnes,
June 25th, 1952.

The Honourable Senator J. J. HAYES DOONE,
The Senate,
Ottawa, Ont.

Honourable Senator,

It has happened quite often in the past that, while studying the moral or other problems brought about by publications which are spread throughout rural areas, we have realized that there are legal loopholes which permit distributors to continue their trade even when magazines, books, etc., which they distribute are truly immoral and indecent.

It is with pleasure that we learn that the Canadian Senate has appointed a commission to investigate that problem. In your capacity of Chairman of that Committee, we wish to congratulate you, and thank you for your sincere efforts to solve this problem. May we state our attitude on this matter.

We hope that the word "obscene" be defined officially and in such a precise manner that the law may not be evaded as apparently can be done at present.

It would also be desirable to prohibit the reprinting of foreign publications whose entry into this country is prohibited.

It was recently endeavoured to grant greater freedom as far as prices are concerned. Is it not an odious practice to compell retailers to accept certain magazines so that they may sell others which they want? Is there any freedom in this?

This is the opinion which we took upon ourselves to communicate to you, with our best wishes for the success of your Committee. The citizens of this country, and, particularly, the younger generation, will derive great benefits therefrom.

Yours respectfully,

THE DIOCESAN COMMITTEE OF J.A.C.

By:—Edith Hotte.

Translation

LES EQUIPIERES SOCIALES

CARREFOUR SAINT-PAUL

3490 Drummond Avenue,
Montreal, Que.

Honourable Senator J. J. HAYES DOONE,
The Senate,
Ottawa, Ont.

Honourable Senator,

You will no doubt allow the "Equipières Sociales" whom His Excellency the Archbishop of Montreal has entrusted with the "Œuvre de Protection de la Jeune Fille", to congratulate you respectfully and sincerely for your initiative in starting an investigation on the sale and distribution of bad literature in Canada.

This initiative deeply interests us for many reasons. The "Œuvres de Protection de la Jeune Fille", as you probably know, is in charge of welcome stands in railway stations, similar to the Travellers' Aid stands. The observations transmitted to us by such agencies have made us realize the spreading of obscene and provocative periodicals, as well as their ill effects upon feminine youth to whom we specially attend, but also upon masculine youth. We are therefore deeply concerned with your important investigation, and even more still with its outcome.

May we be allowed, Honourable Senator, to offer the following suggestions which you may deem proper to submit to your Committee:

1. We would deeply wish that the same Act which prohibits certain books, magazines and periodicals from entering into this country, also forbid reprinting of same in Canada;

2. We would also wish that small retailers be not imposed the sale of such periodicals, but be at liberty to choose only commendable ones for sale.

3. We think that it would be most useful that the word "obscene" be so defined that it would reach the kind of literature the sale and distribution of which should be prohibited, and that an official interpretation of that word preclude any one from evading the law.

If we have taken liberty of offering you the above suggestions, Honourable Senator, you will no doubt realize that we consider them useful, and we also believe in the practical effects of a measure which everybody considers urgent.

Please accept, Honourable Senator, the expression of our respectful feelings and of our deep admiration.

(Sgd.) Jeannette Marie Bertrand, Ph.D., M.S.S., President,
L'ŒUVRE DE PROTECTION DE LA JEUNE FILLE."

LE SECRETARIAT DE L'ENFANCE

3551 Blvd. Gouin East,
Montreal-North, Que.

JUNE 24, 1952.

Honourable Senator J. J. Hayes Doone,
The Senate,
Ottawa, Ont.

Honourable President,

The "Secrétariat de l'Enfance", which looks after the education and re-education of young girls of separated parents, or of neglected or abandoned children, take great pleasure in congratulating you for your happy initiative in starting an investigation on obscene and provocative literature which is sold and distributed in Canada.

Is it not normal, indeed, that the educational organizations which realize every day the ill effects of poor literature in the homes should be the first ones to rejoice over such an investigation in the hope that an end will be put to this calamity? We are deeply interested by the work undertaken under your Presidency by the Senate Committee, and we hope that the results of your undertaking will be the very ones expected by all the Canadians who care for the moral standards of our country.

In order to show our interest in the matter, as well as to collaborate with your Committee, would you kindly allow us to offer the following suggestions that you might consider useful to communicate to your Committee:

—Our first suggestion would be to provide a clearer and more precise definition of the word "obscene", for it is most desirable that a vague interpretation of the expression permits no longer any one to evade the law.

—The second suggestion would be that, since the National Revenue Department has the power to prohibit a certain class of books, newspapers and other publications from entering into Canada, the reprinting of same be also prohibited, for similar obvious reasons.

—The third suggestion concerns distributors, and we wish that they would no longer have power to impose upon small retailers the sale of such and such magazines, but that small retailers be free to choose only the publications which are respectful of moral laws.

Kindly believe, Honourable Senator, in our deep admiration for yourself and all the members of your Committee, and in our most respectful consideration.

(Sgd.) DORIS JOHNSON,
Secretary,
"Le Secrétariat de l'Enfance",
3530, Boulevard Gouin-Est,
Montréal (12), P.Q.

Service des Loisirs du Diocèse de Montréal, through its president, Mr. Damien Jasmin, Ph.D., LL.D. has contributed the following suggestions and recommendations.

Translation.

SERVICES DES LOISIRS
Of the Diocese of Montreal,
480 East Sherbrooke St.

MONTREAL, June 28, 1952.

The Honourable Senator J. J. Hayes Doone,
President of the Senate Committee on
Indecent Literature,
The Senate, Ottawa.

Dear Mr. Chairman,

Through the newspapers, we learned that a Senate Committee, of which you are the Chairman, was created in Ottawa in order to investigate the sale and distribution of salacious and indecent literature. On behalf of the central office of the "Service diocésain des Loisirs de Montréal", which represents, with its numerous branches, approximately two hundred thousand members, may I offer you as well as your distinguished colleagues, our most sincere congratulations.

At the present time, when pornographic and filthy literature is invading all ranks of the Canadian nation and particularly our youth, an institution like yours is more urgent than ever. This seems to be a conspiracy of vice to corrupt the whole of our population, and it is urgent to stop as soon as possible this overflowing of immorality.

For this purpose, we are convinced that our Criminal Code should give a clear definition of the word "obscene" and thus avoid ambiguous interpretation of this word and also facilitate the execution of the orders of our Courts in this matter. Thus there would be no toleration of the following practices which are too common in our country: 1. The reprinting in Canada of publications prohibited by customs, and 2. The necessity, on the part of retailers, of accepting from distributors indecent literature and publications together with honest publications. Considering that several indecent volumes and pamphlets which may be found in public or private libraries are reprinted in Canada, and considering that many reprehensible original publications are

printed in this country, several of our Committees especially created to study this problem, have come to the conclusion that it is urgent to establish a National Bureau of Censorship in order to stop the ever increasing amount of indecent literature and the spreading of indecent pictures or photos which not only threaten but have already begun to corrupt a large part of our population. We believe that it is the duty of the Government, which carries greater influence and can exercise more adequate control, to remedy and control these evil practices as far as possible, and that this responsibility should not be left to individuals whose efforts might be very worthy but are definitely insufficient.

Please excuse me if I took upon myself the liberty of stating in those words our attitude on this matter. We believe that this problem is most important and we hope that your Committee will succeed in solving it in a most satisfactory manner.

Yours truly,

(Sgd.) DAMIEN JASMIN,

The General President of
Service des Loisirs du Diocèse de Montréal.

Stressing a different angle to the matter under discussion the Palmerston Branch of the Women's Christian Temperance Union has submitted the following observations.

Box 162, Palmerston, Ont.

June 28th, 1952.

Senator J. J. HAYES DOONE,
House of Parliament,
Ottawa, Ont.

Honourable Sir:

We of the Palmerston branch, Women's Christian Temperance Union have many times drawn attention to the insidious use of beautiful pictures, i.e. nicely colored bird pictures, natural scenery in relative colors all of which have a strong tendency to attract even Public School children and, adults towards the use of products of brewers and distillers who apparently are allowed to make use of such fascinating ideas.

Surely when the lives of our young people are so endangered and attracted towards the use of alcoholic beverages they are of more value than the money paid by the said firms etc. is it not high time something was done to prohibit the treacherous use of fine pictures not only in magazines of all kinds but on the screen.

Therefore our union has requested me to send to you our strong protest and kindly ask that you may try to do something to curtail the use of such pictures for evil purposes but rather use the beauty of Nature for the purpose Providence meant it to be used.

May we count on you to use your influence to make one step towards saving our country.

Thanking you,

Sincerely,

(Mrs) Florence Monteith,
Corresponding Secretary.

The International Conference in Defence of Children—quoting informed opinion from widely separated areas—voices a united expression of thought with respect to the demoralizing effects of unsavory literature. Its submission follows:

Special Senate Committee on Salacious Literature,
Senate Chambers,
Ottawa, Ont.

Honourable Members:

May we begin our submission to your Committee by calling your attention to the findings of two international gatherings with respect to the demoralizing effects of a high percentage of comic books on children and youth.

On April 17th, a Conference in Milan, Italy, held under the auspices of the United Nations Economic, Scientific and Cultural Organization charged that crime comics are turning the youth and adolescents of today into young ruffians and potential criminals. The Conference condemned "the murders, blood, sex, horrors, evil, gangsters, robbers, bandits" which are fed to modern youth through "various kinds of sensational comic papers".

The International Conference in Defence of Children, meeting simultaneously in Vienna, Austria, declared: "Important factors for the normal development of the child are security in the home, the school, the books it reads, the films and plays it sees and the radio programs it hears. It is all those which constitute in the main the social and cultural environment in which the character of the child is shaped and which determines its mode of behaviour. We view with concern the literature for children which glorifies brutality, violence and immorality."

The sentiments expressed by these two world gatherings are a true reflection of the anxieties and fears of countless Canadian parents, teachers, educators and those concerned with molding the character and enriching the moral, physical and cultural development of the future citizens of our great country.

The nationwide interest in the deliberations of your Committee and the earnest representations made to you by men and women from all walks of life are abundant proof that our people are determined to prevent the insidious influence of so-called "comics" from undermining the healthy development of their children and from destroying the devoted efforts of the home, the school and the church to imbue our children with high ideals, noble emotions and constructive action directed to the general good. We simply cannot stand idly by and permit the free circulation of poisonous virus as deadly to the tender minds of our children as those virus which attack their physical well-being and against which medical science has laboured for so many years.

We all recognize that make-believe is a need of all children. Their dreams of finding treasure, of desert islands, and heroic exploits are part of the joy of being a child. It is this need to identify themselves with actions and exploits beyond the restrictions and limitations of their own young lives which make it possible, through good literature, to help instill noble emotions and high moral standards in young children.

The converse, unfortunately, is equally true.

The underlying theme which pervades an overwhelming number of the so-called comics is one of violence violence as the basis of society and the "natural law" of mankind. It was with deepest detestation and loathing that the world reacted to the Goebbels theories of the master race and the glorification of war as a means of ennoblement of mankind, and yet these very ideas are being injected into our children by millions of comics every week. We should not make the mistake of underestimating the danger to civilization represented by this mass literature of violence.

The results of a study conducted by Dr. L. A. Averill of State Teachers College, Mass., showed that 99 per cent of the children under survey admired and identified themselves with the "heroes" of the comics. Who are these heroes whom our children would emulate?

Dr. Frederic Wertham, Director, Psychiatric Service, Queens General Hospital and Lafargue Clinic, New York, who in 1949 conducted an exhaustive investigation into the effects of comics on children, had this to say: "The tough guys, the criminals, the murderers are glamorized. Not until the very end does the villain have real trouble. But even if he loses out it is not by any orderly response of the community. His end is nearly always a bloody one. But even the so-called heroes of comic books, the supermen and superwomen, go in mostly for one kind of action—shocking violence and cruel killing. Particularly insidious is the harmful influence of comic books on the sexual development of children.

"Comic books," continued Dr. Wertham, "indoctrinate children with stereotyped images and prejudices against certain races and minority groups."

One instance of this was further borne out at an exhibit in the Royal Ontario Museum arranged by the Department of Anthropology of the University of Toronto. A case of toys, adventure magazines and comic books was displayed which showed how the Indian is portrayed as cruel or foolish. "We sincerely believe," said the Department, "that the knowledge of the Indian is based upon misinformation, misunderstanding and mythology fostered by such agencies as the movies, radio, toy manufacturers and comics."

Dr. Sidney Smith, President of the University of Toronto, commenting on the failure of 65 per cent of 600 University College students in a test in punctuation, expression, vocabulary and spelling stated on Feb. 8 of this year that the impact of comics, radio and cheap books created a real problem also in the teaching of English.

The constant reading of comic books is certain to stultify the very powers which education seeks to encourage; the use of books to extend knowledge, implant high ideals and develop the powers of reason.

We believe, therefore, that much of the responsibility for combating the evil effects of comics lies with the Departments of Education, whose purpose of providing our Canadian children with the broadest and most enriching education possible, is being steadily undermined by these pernicious influences.

It is, however, a problem which in our opinion necessitates the clearest thinking and decisive action, not by Governments alone, but by every section of our people.

We believe that much good can be accomplished by a consistent public boycott of harmful literature. Interviews which our members have conducted prove to us that such a campaign will receive hearty co-operation and support from the great majority of retailers who have no desire to handle such trash.

While Legislation on Statute books of our country was designed to meet the most harmful effects of both crime and sex comics, it is obvious that it is limited in scope and, up to the present, has remained inoperative.

We would ask therefore that your Committee:

1. Examine the reasons why the present legislation is inoperative and request that this information be made known to the general public.

2. Determine whether there is foundation for the charge that news dealers are forced by distributors to accept undesirable comics in order to handle recognized magazines and periodicals.

We would further ask that you give consideration to the following:

1. That your Committee recommend the setting up by the Department of Education in each province of an Advisory Council composed of representatives

from such organizations as the Home and School Association, the Canadian Teachers Federation, Canadian Library Association, etc., whose terms of reference would be:

- (a) the drawing up of desirable standards for comic books in relation to language and art work and to encourage contents which will stimulate the feelings of respect and friendship between peoples; humour that is genuine and heroes that are worthy of emulation.
- (b) to issue an "approved comic" seal to those comics meeting these standards.
- (c) to act as a liaison between Department of Education and the general public so that there could be the utmost co-operation between the Advisory Council and parents, organizations and all sections of the population in helping to solve this problem.

2. That your Committee recommend that the Federal Government allocate funds:

- (a) to increase the number of children's libraries;
- (b) to provide greater recreational and cultural facilities so that boys and girls of all ages have the satisfaction and enjoyment that comes from creative interests and endeavours.

Much of the literature that is being produced and read by Canadians today has nothing whatever to do with Canada or its people. This is particularly true of the comic books which deal almost exclusively with characters which reflect the manners, mode and background of the United States.

It is our earnest hope that the deliberations of your Committee will assist, not only in combating the effects of salacious literature, but also in the formulation of constructive proposals for the development of a truly Canadian literature which reflects the life, the hopes and the cultural heritage of our own Canadian people.

All of which is respectfully submitted for your earnest consideration.

On behalf of the Canadian Preparatory Committee

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN DEFENSE OF CHILDREN

Esther Carin,
Secretary.

The following letter with resolution attached, and information of a formal presentation at a later meeting was received from Mrs. J. D. Taylor, President of The Ontario Federation of Home and School Associations, Hamilton, Ont.

101 Dromore Cres.,
Hamilton, Ont.,

June 27, 1952.

Senator J. J. Hayes Doone,
The Senate,
Parliament Buildings,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Senator Doone:

Thank you for your letter of the 11th of June.

Our board of Directors felt that though it would be possible to send a delegation to this session, we would prefer to wait until a more careful presentation can be made. If it were urgent that we appear now, we could do so.

At our Board Meeting on June 20, the matter was discussed, and the attached resolution presented.

Any advice you would care to offer would be welcomed.

Sincerely yours,

Mabel P. Taylor, *President*,

The Ontario Federation of Home and School Associations.

Resolution

Board Meeting, June 20, 1952

The Ontario Federation of Home and School Associations Incorporated

Whereas, the members of the Ontario Federation of Home and School Associations Incorporated, who have studied the question of salacious publications, at the time of the introduction of the "Fulton Bill" presented a brief and petitions to the Attorney General, and

Whereas, the brief expressed strong disapproval of Crime Comics and other questionable publications in this same area of reading, and

Whereas, at that time also a study was made of other undesirable publications, as well as Crime Comics, which firmly established that individually and collectively all Home and School members in the Province of Ontario would support any measure which would control the distribution and sale of such publications,

therefore, be it resolved:

- (a) that the Ontario Federation of Home and School Associations Incorporated present a brief to the Senate Committee on salacious publications, unwholesome pictures, films and other salacious articles, at the earliest possible opportunity;
- (b) that a copy of this motion be transmitted to the Secretary of the Senate Committee on salacious literature, at once;
- (c) that a delegation from the Ontario Federation of Home and School Associations Incorporated, present this brief when completed, to the Senate Committee .

Inscribed herein is a resolution adopted by the International Conference in Defense of Children held in Vienna April 12 to April 16, 1952, attended by 558 delegates from 64 countries, and submitted by Mrs. Nora K. Rodd, secretary of The Congress of Canadian Women, 310 Patricia Road, Windsor, Ont.

RESOLUTION

ON THE INFLUENCE OF LITERATURE, PRESS, RADIO, CINEMA AND ART ON THE MORAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN

The Conference proclaims the right of all children in the world to grow up in a life of peace which favours their national, moral and cultural development.

Important factors for the normal development of the child are: security in the home, the school, the books it reads, the films and plays it sees and the radio programs it hears. It is all those which constitute in the main the social and cultural environment in which the character of the child is shaped and which determines its mode of behaviour. Along with the family, it is the school which moulds the future citizen and must give him together with scientific knowledge and the national and cultural heritage, the fundamental principles of social morality.

In colonial and semi-colonial countries and in the countries with oppressed minorities children are completely deprived of the benefits of the systematically suppressed national culture. We also view with concern the fact

that in a great number of other countries too, racism, chauvinism and militarism are encouraged in school education. These trends are also found in literature, magazines, films, broadcasting and television programs which glorify brutality, violence and immorality, aiming to turn children into men without conscience, capable of any vile acts, especially those of war.

The effects of this situation are particularly noticeable in the U.S.A. where 720 million copies of comics were published in 1950 alone, and where films, which are not only without any educational value but actually harmful, are shown in the cinemas and on television. These films and journals are systematically exported in great numbers to many countries with the approval of the respective governments.

Everywhere in the world there are people who are deeply concerned about this systematic degradation and poisoning, about the moral and physical harming of youth which entails an increase of juvenile delinquency in many countries; they have begun the fight against these criminal activities which are part of the psychological war preparations.

The healthy forces within the child demand expansion, and wherever governments, organizations or social communities strive to create a healthy environment for the child its life becomes richer and more beautiful.

One of the tasks of this conference is to rouse public opinion to the danger menacing the children and the cultural development of many countries.

The conference proposes that everyone take on the task of carrying out the following measures:

To conduct a campaign among parents and teachers for the banning of all direct and indirect war propaganda among children and to brand as criminal any teaching of hatred between the peoples, violence and moral corruption;

To achieve respect for the culture of every nation so that the children derive all the benefits of their countries' cultural heritage as well as of the culture of all mankind;

To conduct a campaign for the boycott and limitation of the influence of all harmful magazines, picture books, books and pernicious films and for effective regulation of the publication, screening and sale of such books and films, while respecting the freedom of the press and of opinion;

To set up national and local committees composed of people from all walks of life—experts or not—who are interested in the fate of children in order to

- (a) fight all harmful literature, films, radio and television programs,
- (b) oppose all aggressive tendencies in education and all forms of chauvinism and racism as well as the misuse of religious sentiments for political and militaristic aims;
- (c) to further by active initiative the establishment of publishing houses and libraries for children, the production of good newspapers, films, plays, radio and television programs and all measures for the establishment of sports grounds and youth hostels which provide healthy recreation;
- (d) to create and develop organizations to educate children and young people in out-of-school activities which will develop their personalities in the spirit of understanding and friendship between the nations and encourage peaceful relations between young people of different countries;
- (e) to do, therefore, everything to make the governments enlarge their cultural budgets considerably and in adequate measure, at the expense of military expenditures;

- (f) to appeal to writers, playwrights, poets, film producers, actors, theatrical producers, composers and artists to join the struggle against the degradation of young people's minds and to produce works which will raise the moral and cultural level of children and adolescents, for the sake of peace and the happiness of mankind.

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