

# *Disposition of resolutions continued*

have recently been passed by the Ontario legislature. This legislation will bring commercially distributed videotape cassettes under the authority of the Ontario Censor Board, now named the Ontario Film Review Board, and provides for the licensing of video distributors and retailers.

For years Mr. Murtry has been expressing alarm at the wide-spread and increasing distribution in our community of publications and video tapes catering to the most twisted and vicious instincts of some cruelly sick men and women. If he can discourage the publication and distribution of any magazine or book or film that panders to that kind of instinct, he will. Recently Mr. McMurtry proposed the establishment of a small federal-provincial task force to plan better responses to violent crime in Canada. Enclosed was an eight page copy of a partial text of remarks he made at the Confederation Club, Kitchener, October, 1984, referring to publications that glorify violence and that an aroused community can make a difference.

In his reply to this resolution, the Minister of Communications, Mr. Masse, thanked Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario for providing him with our views on pornographic material on television, an issue of considerable concern to the government.

He stated that, "Action has been taken at both the legislative and regulatory levels to ensure that sexually abusive programming is not available on the Canadian broadcasting system and to promote more positive portrayals of women in the broadcast media. Bill C-20 was introduced in the House of Commons on Dec. 20, 1984, (by Mr. Masse). Bill C-20 will deal with the problem of abusive programming, particularly as it relates to women. Bill C-20 will amend the Broadcasting Act to make explicit the government's commitment to the principle that all Canadians have the right to programming that respects the dignity and equality of all individuals and groups.

Short of legislative reform, federal initiatives in this area must, of course, be taken within the con-

straints of the existing legal framework. Pursuant to the Broadcasting Act, broadcasters themselves are responsible for the material they air. The act also states that the CRTC is responsible for the regulation and supervision of all aspects of the Canadian broadcasting system.

For its part, the CRTC has taken regulatory action to prohibit abusive programming. On November 8, 1984, in CRTC Public Notices 1984-274 and 275, the CRTC announced the enactment of new pay television regulations, as well as amendments to the radio and television regulations dealing with abusive programming. These regulations prohibit the broadcast of "any abusive comment or abusive pictorial representation that when taken in context tends or is likely to expose an individual or group or class of individuals, to hatred or contempt on the basis of race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, age, or mental or physical disability".

## **Resolution 8. Re — Violent repeat offenders.**

This resolution was forwarded to the Minister of Justice, The Honourable John Crosbie, and to the Attorney General, The Honourable Roy McMurtry.

Mr. Michael Leshner, Counsel, replied for the Attorney General. He stated that the Criminal Code contains provisions dealing with dangerous offenders who repeatedly commit crimes involving violence and/or sex. The Attorney General has consented to more dangerous offender applications than all the other provinces combined. The success ratio of those applications has been very high. When a person is declared by the Court to be a dangerous offender, he or she is held in custody for an indefinite period until the National Parole Board determines that the person can safely be released into society.

The Honourable John C. Crosbie, Minister of Justice, asked the Chief of Staff, James A. Good to reply to the resolution on repeat offenders.

Mr. Good thanked Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario for informing the Minister of the concern

expressed by our members in regard to repeat offenders. He also apologized for the delay in replying.

Mr. Good stated that, "The Minister is presently reviewing legislative proposals which would provide the courts with better means for protecting the public against violent and dangerous criminals, fundamentally reform the sentencing provisions of Canadian criminal law, and include several provisions designed to make the criminal justice system more responsive to victims of crime. Mr. Crosbie intends to proceed with such amendments to the **Criminal Code** as soon as possible."

## **Resolution 9. Re — Urging the Canadian Government to strive to be a leader in the global nuclear disarmament movement.**

This resolution was forwarded to The Right Honourable Brian Mulroney, Prime Minister of Canada.

In his reply to this resolution and the correspondence concerning it, Mr. Mulroney thanked me for writing on behalf of our members on the important issue of nuclear disarmament.

He stated, "I share the profound concern felt by Canadians over the threat of nuclear war and believe that we, as a middle and non-nuclear power, can be influential in the search for a lasting peace. During my recent meeting with President Reagan, I addressed the issue of nuclear disarmament. I told the President that while we are encouraged by the resumption of talks between his administration and the Soviet Union, we realize that the negotiations may be the beginning of a long and arduous process. Nevertheless, we remain hopeful that mutual, balanced and verifiable arms control agreements can be reached. Only through a reduction in the dangerously high levels of nuclear weapons will we create a more stable world. Our greatest obligation is to leave our children a world in which they can live harmoniously, secure in the knowledge that there will be a promising future for succeeding generations. Together, we can work to realize this objective.