

# Pornographers 'don't deserve protection'

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The Canadian Press

Pornographers should have no protection from the Charter of Rights and Freedoms because pornography "affects society adversely," the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada, a rural women's organization with 48,000 members, contended Saturday.

The federation was appearing in Ottawa before a federal committee on prostitution and pornography, chaired by Vancouver lawyer Paul Fraser. The committee is to report later this year to the federal government.

The federation said prostitution is "a threat to moral standards" and the law must protect morals.

"It is true that strict laws would only force prostitution underground but it would have the effect of eliminating a good portion of it and of get-

ting it off the streets and out of sight of young people."

The federation and the Canadian Coalition against Media Pornography, which was formed to fight pornography on pay TV, both advocated broad censorship to combat pornographic magazines or films.

The coalition said, however, that it isn't against erotica, which it defined as "mutually pleasurable sexual expression between people who have enough power to be there by positive choice."

It said pornography should be made a crime and proposed a broad definition that would, among other things, make it a crime to depict women as "sexual objects, things or commodities" or to portray them as "whores by nature."

The Canadian Teachers Association

said videotapes that can be shown on home television sets should be censored in the way movies are. There should be tough new rules to prevent televised pornography.

Both the coalition and the teachers federation were generally critical of the effect television has on children.

The Hastings-Prince Edward County Roman Catholic Separate School Board told the committee it has family life and sex education courses that begin in kindergarten and continue through Grade 13.

Fraser asked whether pornography is ever used in these courses.

"It depends what you mean by pornography," a board member replied, adding that television programs are used in school to develop some critical ability in children.

## Miramichi Lodge holds

by Ethel White

The April birthday party was held in the auditorium of Miramichi Lodge recently with the ladies of Westmeath Women's Institute as hostess group.

A birthday cake prepared by Mrs Joan Dingle centred the table and red and white carnations were presented to the celebrants who also received birthday cakes.

Mrs Christine Reaurn was MC for the sing song which included old favorites,

"When You're Smiling, April Showers, I've Got Sixpence, Lily Marlene, Mocking Bird Hill and When It's Spritme in the Rockies."

Afternoon tea was served by the institute assisted by the lodge staff and co-birthday convener Mrs Blanche Graham.

Congratulations were extended to Gustav Lehman born April 7, 1882; 102 years young; Reinholdt Scheuneman born April 30,

## Lynch mob

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Some of the nation's anti-pornography crusaders are showing a disturbing tendency toward frontier justice. If they had their way, alleged pornographers would be given a fair trial — and then hanged, figuratively speaking.

The Federated Women's Institutes of Canada, with 48,000 members mostly in rural Canada, is a case in point. Its representation to the federal committee on prostitution and pornography suggested that the Charter of Rights and Freedoms *not* apply to pornographers.

In the name of protecting public morals, the Federated Women's Institutes would set aside the principle that the constitution is there for everyone, subject to judicial interpretation.

Lynching pornographers, metaphorically speaking, is not an ethical response to an issue of ethics and morality.