

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
9TH ASSEMBLY, 10TH SESSION**

TABLED DOCUMENT NO. 8-83(1)

TABLED ON FEBRUARY 10, 1983

PO Box 563
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

The Honorable Dennis Patterson
Minister of Education
Government of the Northwest Territories
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

February 4, 1983

Dear Sir,

Enclosed is an advertisement for the Playboy Channel of First Choice Pay TV. Mackenzie Media (CABLE TV) is proposing to bring this pornographic channel to Yellowknife.

As you are aware, television has a profound influence on the shaping of young people's minds, attitudes and actions. This channel is, supposedly, aimed at adults and offered late at night. The advertisements for it though, are run during prime time. Any child who stays up late has access.

This is a foot in the door. After soft core comes hard core and child pornography. Already, children are desensitized to violence; accept it as the norm. So do most adults. We do not need to add a mishapen and unhealthy attitude towards sexuality and women.

Once this stuff is in Yellowknife it will spread to the communities. It is just a matter of time.

Please use your influence and concern using the Legislative Assembly forum to assist those of us who are concerned in preventing the Playboy Channel from coming North. I cannot emphasize enough my outrage at this and my protest at having pornography introduced on Northern television.

Also attached for your information are copies of some the press coverage of the reaction of many Southern Canadians.

Your support is appreciated.

Sincerely,



Sheila Keet

c.c. Lynda Sorenson
Bob MacQuarrie
George Braden

The Playboy Channel—only on First Choice Pay TV.

First Choice has it because First Choice is Canada's only 24-hour, coast to coast Pay TV.

Wickedly sophisticated and outrageously funny, the Playboy Channel brings you the most adult of adult entertainment.

Starting in February, late night weekends will be your Playboy time on First Choice—full of TV like you've never

seen before. Sizzling entertainment! More and more of the Playmate of the month. Sexy Shannon Tweed, movies no other channel dare bring you. And that's the bare truth.

First Choice is the Playboy channel. We have over 100 movies and features in the first 90 days, plus the Playboy weekend features.

When you're making only one choice, make it First Choice.



FIRST CHOICE

Look out for our next feature announcement.

| | | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|--|
| <p>K-VISION SERVICES LTD. New Glasgow 752-0310</p> | <p>First Choice for Feb.</p> | <p>DARTMOUTH CABLE TV LTD. 190 Victoria Rd 469-9640</p> | <p>First Choice for Feb.</p> | <p>CAPE BRETON CABLEVISION LTD. 61 Maleny Lane, Sydney 784-7249 539-9525</p> |
|--|----------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|--|

We the undersigned absolutely oppose the introduction of a Playboy Channel through the First Choice TV being offered by Mackenzie Media's CABLE TV

NAME

ADDRESS

Globe Jan 19 p.1

Women — and men — gather on Ottawa's Parliament Hill yesterday to protest against soft porn on pay-TV.

Groups protest Playboy TV deal

From Staff, CP

Hundreds of Canadians defied the cold in noon-hour rallies across the country yesterday to protest against the proposed use of Playboy television features on the First Choice Communications Corp. pay-TV channel.

Women's groups are advocating a boycott of the Eaton's department store chain over the Eaton family's financial involvement in the production of the programs.

Eaton's president Fredrik Eaton responded by emphasizing the independence of the retail chain from the family's other investments.

"The Timothy Eaton Co. Ltd. has nothing to do with the production of television programs," he said.

Feminist activist Helen Lafontaine told about 250 supporters at a rally outside Toronto City Hall, "The Playboy philosophy is based on violence, and it's violence against women."

The crowd cheered loudly when a light-blue Eaton's credit card was symbolically snipped in half by Anne Moon, a public relations officer for the Toronto public health department.

About 400 people demonstrated on Parliament Hill in Ottawa and there were protests outside Eaton's in Edmonton, Regina and Saskatoon and outside the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission offices in Montreal. Letters of protest were read by women's groups in the Westimes.

The Eaton family's involvement in the furor over adult pay-TV stems from its 80 per cent ownership of a holding company that ultimately controls Baton Broadcasting Inc. of Toronto.

A wholly owned subsidiary of Baton, Glen Warren Productions

PLAYBOY — Page 2

● From Page One

Ltd., will produce the largest share of Playboy sex movies and other specials for First Choice.

First Choice, which goes on air Feb. 1, plans to show the Playboy material in two-hour blocks starting at midnight every Friday and Saturday. First Choice executives have described the Playboy material as "adult" or "erotic," but not pornographic.

Toronto Alderman Anne Johnson told the demonstrators that the founder of the department store chain, the late Timothy Eaton, "must be revolving in his grave" over the profits his descendants stand to make from Playboy programming.

Fredrik Eaton, in his statement, said "The Eaton family has no equity interest in First Choice or Playboy Enterprises, and in fact they have no equity interest in any of the three pay-TV networks."

First Choice defended its agreement with Playboy Enterprises less than an hour after the Toronto demonstration.

President Don Macpherson said he was surprised by the reaction to the deal. Asked whether the demonstrations would make them alter their programming, Mr. Macpherson replied "That someone cuts up their credit card is not going to affect our programming judgment."

Mr. Macpherson agreed that "the resultant publicity has been some help in the marketplace."

Mr. Macpherson said that the Playboy-First Choice programming would be "a true reflection of the quality and style of the same magazine that's been on sale on newsstands and corner stores in Canada for almost 30 years. It's been a long time since anyone branded Playboy magazine pornographic, or claimed that it goes beyond accepted community standards."

Mr. Macpherson said that First Choice would determine at the end of a year whether to renew its contract with Playboy Enterprises, largely through asking its subscribers. "Ultimately, the people will decide whether we are right or wrong in our marketing and programming decisions."

Responding to the criticisms of Minister of Communications Francis Fox, who said on Monday he was "very disappointed" by the First Choice-Playboy deal and that "the Government would not have licenced a channel if we knew it was going to be pornographic," Mr. Macpherson denied that the Playboy programming could be termed pornographic, and said that "there was nothing in our licence that said we wouldn't have adult programming. I don't think we have sneaked anything by."

Mr. Macpherson also said he didn't think First Choice was violating either the letter or spirit of Canadian content regulations set out by the CRTC. "Mr. Fox is committed about not having a branch-plant economy for television production, and I share that commitment."

Yesterday, Mr. Fox bounced the question of what might be done about the plans into the hands of the CRTC.

Mr. Fox told the House of Commons that, while it was not the Government's intention to launch a pornographic film industry in Canada with pay television, authority over content belongs to the CRTC, which has the necessary powers to examine the whole question.

But, no matter how hard he was pressed by Lynn McDonald (NDP, Broadview-Greenwood) and John Bosley (PC, Don Valley West), Mr. Fox would not say whether First Choice's plans violate the Broadcast Act or what he told CRTC chairman John Meisel when he phoned him to express his concern with the situation.

He indicated, as he had previously, that if First Choice's plans had been known, it would not have been granted a pay television licence last year. "Our intention is to see that pay TV helps Canadians and the the Canadian production industry to develop world-class programming."

When Miss McDonald quoted a section of the Broadcast Act that prohibits abuse on the grounds of race, religion or creed and asked why sex should not be added to the list, Mr. Fox referred her to a section of the CRTC regulations that prohibits indecent or obscene material from being broadcast.

The Gazette

ENTERTAINMENT

MONTREAL, MONDAY, JANUARY 17, 1983

Women's groups to protest First Choice-Playboy pact

TORONTO (CP) — Women's groups across Canada are organizing demonstrations for tomorrow to urge consumers to boycott First Choice or the pay-television network's recent \$30-million agreement with Playboy Enterprises. Protest organizers also say they'll recommend a boycott against T. Eaton Co., because Glen Warren Productions Ltd., which figures the First Choice-Playboy agreement, is controlled by a company in which the Eaton family has a major ownership.

Maude Barlow, of Ottawa, said rallies are planned in front of city halls or Eaton's outlets in a dozen cities and predicted response will be the greatest ever attracted by women's groups. Barlow, director of Ottawa's municipal Office of Equal Opportunity for Women, said organizers began planning in earnest only two days ago but all major women's groups have indicated their support, including the country's two largest, the National Action Committee on the Status of Women and the National Advisory

Committee on the Status of Women. Barlow said opponents to the First Choice-Playboy pact fear Canadian pay-TV will follow the example set in the U.S. "Pornography is the fast-growing segment of pay-television in the U.S., and we have seen it start from simple (nudity) to hard porn. We know what's coming here." She accused the Canadian Association of Broadcasters of "lying to us." "They agreed to ensure that women would be treated with dignity

on future programming, and they've flunked out. It was because of those assurances that the CRTC (Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission) decided not to regulate on the pornography on television." Last September, after three years of study, a CRTC task force on sex role stereotyping recommended the broadcasters' association be entrusted with regulating its members for at least two years. Barlow said First Choice's announcement this week that it will

broadcast several Playboy shows seen on U.S. stations, as well as co-produce films through Glen Warren with Playboy in Canada, has intensified the situation. She said demonstrations have been confirmed for noon tomorrow in Victoria, Vancouver, Calgary, Regina, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, London, Ont., Toronto, Ottawa, Halifax, St. John's, Nfld., and in the Yukon. In response to the protest, Phyllis Switzer, senior vice-president of programming for First Choice and a member of the CRTC task force,

said: "Nobody's lying to anyone. I think this group is reacting to a marriage, to a name (Playboy) and a philosophy. None of the programs have even been selected yet." Switzer agreed the programs were sexist. "But that's what the public wants, and I'm not about to educate the public." In a survey done for First Choice, 70 per cent of respondents said they wanted adult movies, Switzer said. "Of that group, 61 per cent were women."

globe, Jan 20, p.1

CRTC orders a meeting on erotic TV

OTTAWA (CP) — The chairman of the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission has ordered executives of the First Choice pay-TV service to meet him this week over the company's plans to carry erotic programs.

CRTC chairman John Meisel said late yesterday after meeting

Communications Minister Francis Fox that he wants the company to explain its plans.

Mr. Meisel said the CRTC has the power to revoke the company's licence but he wouldn't say what action he might take over the issue.

Women's groups have been protesting against the national pay-TV service's plans to co-produce and show programming with Playboy Enterprises.

John Bosley, the Conservative CRTC — Page 2

CRTC seeks explanation

• From Page One

Party's critic on cultural policy, told the Commons yesterday the CRTC knew pay-TV would be showing so-called adult entertainment because the matter was discussed during licence application hearings.

Mr. Fox has said the CRTC wouldn't have licenced the pay-TV firms if it thought it was establishing a pornographic television service.

Mr. Fox, under considerable pressure from opposition MPs and members of his own caucus to block the First Choice plan, hasn't the power to regulate broadcasting.

And the CRTC tends to respect the rights of broadcasters to show what they want, letting individuals bring the matter before the courts to decide what is obscene.

But the federal regulator of broadcasting can bring any licence holder before it for hearings at any time. And it can revoke a licence if the broadcaster is irresponsible. Pay TV starts Feb. 1.

More than 1,000 people rallied at noon on Tuesday across the country to protest against the First Choice plans.

They said the Playboy films, to be shown late Friday and Saturday

nights, are sexually exploitative and offensive.

They also worry that airing the films will be a dangerous first step toward harder-core pornographic material.

First Choice has defended the move, saying that the films are no more offensive than Playboy magazine.

Meanwhile, sales figures from one Toronto-area cable company indicate that First Choice may be cashing in on the notoriety created by its plans to carry Playboy programs.

Spokesmen for Scarborough Cable Communications Ltd. said yesterday that Superchannel, an Ontario regional channel and a rival of First Choice, is still well ahead in over-all sales. But since the deal between Playboy and First Choice was announced last week, First Choice has increased its share of pay-TV subscriptions purchased.

Before the Playboy deal was announced Jan. 10, orders for Superchannel at Scarborough Cable were running at 58 per cent of total orders, compared with 34 per cent for First Choice. Superchannel is still ahead in over-all sales with 55.8 per cent while First Choice has increased its share to 37.9 per cent.



The Canadian
Association of
Broadcasters

L'Association
canadienne des
radiodiffuseurs

165 Sparks Bldg Floor Box CP 627, Stn B
Ottawa Canada K1P 5S2
(613) 233-4035 Telex 053-4133
KXXK 3127

news/nouvelles

| | |
|----------|-------------|
| RECEIVED | RECEIVED |
| 58633 | JAN 18 1983 |
| RECEIVED | RECEIVED |
| 1014 | Rebecca |

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OTTAWA, January 17, 1983--The Canadian Association of Broadcasters (CAB) stated today that Canada's pay television licensees should abide by sex-role stereotyping guidelines recommended last September by a CRTC task force.

Responding to recent accusations by women's representatives that the CAB had lied to women's groups about broadcasters' commitments to the task force guidelines, Association President Ernest Steele said, "There is absolutely no question that the CAB is strongly supporting adherence to the guidelines by its members."

Steele noted, however, that none of the pay television networks is a member of the CAB and, consequently, the Association has no comment to make about their programming decisions.

The CAB, which represents the majority of private broadcasters providing free over-the-air television and radio services, was one of a number of participants in the CRTC Task Force which developed the stereotyping guidelines.

The task force recognized in its report that the newly licensed pay TV licensees would become additional participants in the broadcasting system. Although there were no pay TV representatives on the task force, the report urged all licensees to adopt the programming recommendations.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Pierre Madeau

CAB (613) 233-4035

(42)

By Kirk LaPointe
Canadian Press

Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission chairman John Meisel has ordered executives of the First Choice pay-TV service to meet with him this week over the company's plans to air Playboy skin flicks.

Meisel said late Wednesday after a meeting with Communications Minister Francis Fox that he wants the company to explain its plans.

He said the CRTC has the power to revoke the company's licence but he wouldn't say what action he might take over the issue.

Women's groups have been protesting the national pay-TV service's plans to co-produce and show programming with Playboy Enterprises.

Meanwhile, Fox said Wednesday that pay-TV operators who show pornographic movies are only asking for government intervention "and if that's what they want, they'll have it."

Fox told reporters after the regular weekly Liberal caucus meeting he and his colleagues are "very upset" at First Choice's plans to show the Playboy programming.

"What I would say to First Choice is this: When one looks at the history of government intervention in democratic societies, government intervention is normally the result of an excess by private enterprise."

"If First Choice is on the road to excess, they are certainly looking for government action. If that's what they want, they'll have it."

Fox declined to say what options he has.

But he said he has no power to ask the CRTC to revoke the network's licence.

Some Liberals said Fox's strategy is to give First Choice time to back down and the CRTC to intervene if necessary. If neither works, legislation may be required.

(CRTC, page 4)

CRTC orders firm to explain porn plan

CRTC knew of pay-TV plan to air 'adult' entertainment

(From page 1, CRTC)

By Kirk LaPointe
Canadian Press

Conservative culture critic John Bosley told the Commons Wednesday the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission knew pay-TV would be showing so-called adult entertainment before the recent announcement by First Choice that it plans to show programming co-produced with Playboy Enterprises.

Bosley said the matter was discussed during licence application hearings.

Communications Minister Francis Fox has said the CRTC wouldn't have licensed the pay-TV firms if it thought it was establishing a pornographic television service.

But CRTC chairman John Meisel was quite candid when asked if he knew restricted movies and programming were planned by the firms.

"We were aware of that," Both Fox and the CRTC seem handcuffed on the issue.

Fox, under considerable pressure both from opposition MPs and members of his own caucus to block the First Choice plan, hasn't the power to regulate broadcasting.

And the CRTC tends to respect the rights of broadcasters to show what they want, letting individuals bring the matter before the courts to decide what is obscene.

In a related development Wednesday, the CRTC said it will not allow pay-TV companies to preview full-length movies or other programs longer than 10 minutes on cable television.

Last Friday, the CRTC thwarted pay-TV plans to show full-length films starting this week on cable channels at a time when ratings services were taking surveys of commercial television audiences.

It was thought the films could be shown later, when the ratings surveys were completed. But the commission ruled that out Wednesday, saying no promotional clips for pay-TV can exceed 10 minutes.

CUPE joins protest against porn on TV

By Don Collins
Citizen staff writer

People in key positions didn't appear willing Wednesday to let the Playboy bunny lead them into a political briar patch.

Some remained out of sight and others talked carefully about the "delicate" nature of the issue as the battle over sex on pay-TV raged on.

And two giant union organizations representing more than 500,000 workers found themselves on different philosophical platforms.

Grace Hartman, president of the 281,000-member Canadian Union of Public Employees, fired off a telegram asking CBC president Pierre Juneau to join the boycott against First Choice pay-TV network by refusing to run any more commercials plugging soft-porno films.

The 243,000-member National Union of Provincial Government Employees, like some others, appeared to be caught in the non-man's land between pornography and censorship.

The two-million member Cana-

dian Labor Congress has no official thought on the matter.

Women's organizations across the country, with considerable male support, have been railing against the intention of First Choice to collaborate with Playboy Enterprises in presenting sex films when pay-TV finds its way into Canadian homes Feb. 1.

In her telegram to Juneau, Hartman called the move an "affront to the women of Canada who have fought long and hard for sexual equality."

John Fryer, president of NUPGE, the umbrella organization for provincial government unions, said the issue involved a very delicate balance between the showing of pornography and the right of the individual to make a choice on what he or she sees.

He said he and other union officers had discussed the matter and the consensus was that "the best way to demonstrate against these programs is not to sign up with them (First Choice)."

"Yes, we're opposed to pornography," he added. "But we're also opposed to state censorship."

(4)

Planning Playboy protest 'fun': Barlow

By Julian Beltrame
Citizen staff writer

It took just two days for Ottawa feminist Maude Barlow to become a national cause célèbre.

And today, if all goes well, the city hall watchdog for women's rights will reap the fruits of her short labor as thousands of women join hands in sistership in 19 cities across Canada, including Ottawa.

They will be protesting First Choice's \$30-million sweetheart deal with Playboy Enterprises to air bouncing bunnies on pay-TV.

"It was a fun day... power is wonderful," Barlow said, recalling the hurried planning that went into the protest.

It was a fun day for Maude Barlow — "call me Maudie," she says, and who can resist — that heaped more power on her lap than she has ever accumulated in 2½ years as director of Ottawa's municipal Office of Equal Opportunity for Women.

It began last Tuesday, when she read of the *Playboy* deal in *The Citizen*; a deal that has catapulted First Choice to a position in the Canadian pay-TV market commensurate with its name.

"Wednesday, I started getting phone calls. Wednesday night, I talked to several women in my home and we decided on an Ottawa protest. By Thursday morning, we talked to some women in other cities, and by Thursday afternoon, it was a national protest."

Since then, the National Action Committee on the Status of Women, the National Advisory Committee on the Status of Women, ACTRA (the Canadian actor's guild), the NDP caucus, Ottawa Mayor Marion Dewar and most female MPs fell under Barlow's spell.

It's a spell that is not hard to understand.

Witty (she tells dirty jokes), intelligent (she shades her arguments with reservations, anticipating objections), beautiful (see accompanying photograph), powerful (city hall aldermen are genuinely afraid of her), complex (she adores rocker Mick Jagger "even though he is terribly sexist"), Barlow is less feminist than fascinating.

She is candid about her life, her age — "I love being 35" — and about her ambitions — she may run for a federal seat.

Her talent for getting things done was shown last year when she pushed through a bylaw on sexual harassment in the workplace, making Ottawa one of the first municipalities in Canada to enact such a law.

John Cyr, Ottawa's city director of personnel, credits Maude Barlow with having a great ability to get things done.

"She engineered that thing (a bylaw on sexual harassment) through various committees with great panache," he said. "She has an uncanny ability to get things done."

Although city officials say statistics won't be available for a month, they say a study currently under way will show more women and more female directors have been hired since Barlow took over Ottawa's Office of Equal Opportunity for Women.

And she's pushed through a job-sharing scheme allowing two workers to share one job so women may spend more time with their children, persuaded the human rights commission to agree to allow the city to fill five traditionally male jobs with women — a form of reverse discrimination — and according to Cyr, has gotten high-ranking city officials to think about women's issues.

Ald. Graham Bird says Barlow has become so powerful that male aldermen are afraid to speak out against her.

Bird said he has reservations about Barlow using the prestige of her office to fight private battles, although she has the support of the mayor and most aldermen, including Jim Durrell, who believes Barlow should speak out on non-city hall issues affecting women.

"In something like equal opportunities, it's hard to draw a line on what is city matters and what is outside but may affect city matters," Durrell said.

"She's difficult to go after," Bird said. "It's difficult as a male on council to comment or question her because it is seen as a criticism of the work in general and we're all supportive of equal opportunity."

"Well, he's right," Barlow laughed when told of the comment. "But really, I don't think they're afraid of me."

Becoming involved in women's issues, she divorced and took on the vice-presidency of a consulting firm specializing in affirmative action programs. She joined city hall because of the high-profile nature of the job, saying she took a pay cut at the time. She now makes \$39,800 a year.

While working in both jobs, she maintained an active role in women's and minority causes outside the office. She has worked with women prisoners, women alcoholics and makes many public appearances.

But it's her crusades against pornography — her crusades against scantily clad beauties on OC Transpo bus ads, against display of pornographic magazines on store shelves and against *Playboy* — that grab the headlines.

"I'm not Ottawa's Mrs. Grundy," she says. "When someone called me that, my son said I should send them a picture of me in a bathing suit. I'm against pornography, I'm not against eroticism."

While she says her anti-*Playboy* protest is not official city hall business, she concedes the public will perceive her private and public crusades as one.

Reporting directly to city council, she says council has given her a free hand to use her judgment and so far, whether because they are afraid or support her, no alderman has taken her to task for her outside activities.

Or is it that they've given her enough rope to hang herself?

"If this thing (the protest) doesn't come out of the response isn't massive, I'm moving to Tibet, baktu," she jokes.

gazette Jan 22/83
p 10

Censorship issue splits feminists

OTTAWA (CP) — Some feminists are steering clear of the campaign against Playboy movies on Canadian pay-TV because they do not want to be associated with censorship.

For example, feminist Penney Kome, now writing a book about the women's lobby on the Constitution, says, "I have really grave concerns about censoring something, forbidding people to have access to something, forbidding freedom of expression, without

having seen what's involved," she said.

Pat Hacker, a women's rights activist and a key organizer of the Constitution lobby, says women's groups did not appear to have fully analyzed the situation before the campaign caught hold this week.

"It's all well and good to remove offensive material — clearly violent stuff I don't think anybody has any difficulties with — but we start to have trouble when we ... can't

tell the difference between erotica and pornography."

Doris Anderson, president of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women, a leading group in the campaign, said censorship "is the stumbling block. I think everybody has over this whole thing." Her executive is meeting this weekend to discuss the issue.

But Anderson personally does not believe a question of censorship is at stake.

CRTC did ask about Playboy: Fox

OTTAWA (CP) — Communications Minister Francis Fox said yesterday the president of First Choice pay-TV service didn't tell reporters the entire truth about his meeting with Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) officials Thursday.

It had been thought that Don MacPherson was summoned to the meeting because of his company's plans to air Play-

boy skin flicks. But he told reporters after the two-hour meeting that little time was spent on the matter and that First Choice's plans weren't challenged by officials.

But Fox said yesterday he was told by CRTC Chairman John Meisel that commission officials asked plenty of questions on the subject.

Women's groups and broadcasters are upset about the national pay-TV service's deal

with Playboy Enterprises Inc. to co-produce and show erotic programming. They say the shows will be obscene and pornographic and are urging Fox and the CRTC to act.

Exact figures aren't available, but a First Choice official said Thursday that subscriptions to the pay-TV service beginning next month have sharply increased since the Playboy issue has received attention.

24 DEC 1982

B.C. women fed up

VANCOUVER — Imagine a billion dollar industry in North America, partly underground, that is run by women.

Imagine that the industry is based largely on depictions of the naked male body, with emphasis on genitals being twisted and pulled and threatened with mutilation.

Imagine that the industry had progressed from sleazy, grungy movie theatres and had progressed to the stage where you could rent your female amusement video cassettes of these playful exercises so that you could take them home and play them for your friends.

Imagine how long this society, which is run by men, would find the whole caper amusing — and how long it would tolerate it.

This, essentially, is the way to look at the interesting events in British Columbia where women, fed up with male indifference, decided to fire-bomb three Red Hot Video shops that make pornography fun and profitable.

No one is in favor of fire bombings but what has startled the local community (i.e. the one run by males) has been the widespread grudging support for the terrorist end of the feminist movement that planned and carried out the violence.

In a decision that rather discombobulated the leaders of public opinion (i.e. male), representatives of some 36 groups in the B.C. Federation of Women issued a careful, guarded statement giving support to the essential aim, if not the method, of the fire-bombers.

As an interesting off-shoot, there is proof once again that Canada is a country made up of regional air-proof pockets.

There was the follow up story out of Alberta, after the Vancouver torchings, expressing some amazement. The very same tapes — gang rape, sadism and all that fun stuff — are widely popular in that province and no one has ever received a complaint.

Exactly.

The reason British Columbia is regarded in the rest of the land as slightly loony, slightly on the edge, is because people here take to the streets in outrage over customs that are regarded as ho-hum elsewhere.

There is a parallel between the fact that Alberta



Allan Fotheringham

with every one of its MPs Conservative does not send a single woman to Ottawa — and the fact that no one in Alberta apparently objects to the thought that pain-for-profit is okay.

B.C. has always led the country in the participation of women in politics.

The percentage of women in the B.C. legislature has been the highest in the country since the 1930s. Parliament Hill in Ottawa has made a big fuss about Jeanne Sauve becoming the first female Speaker. B.C. had the first female Speaker in the Commonwealth, Nancy Hodges, more than 32 years ago.

B.C. provided the first serious female challenger for the leadership of the New Democratic Party in Rosemary Brown, who frightened the jockey shorts off the liberated Ed Broadbent.

It is now providing the closest female challenge ever for the Liberal leadership in the ambitious Iona Campagnolo.

Two thirds of the female NDP MPs in the Commons, Pauline Jewett and Margaret Mitchell, are from B.C., and a smashing 50 per cent of the Tory female contingent, Pat Carney, is from the same angry place.

B.C. is the street theatre capital of the country, the edge of the frontier which staged the first police riot against the hippies in the bad old days of Mayor Tom Terrence, where John Diefenbaker and Lester Pearson had to flee rallies that had turned into brawls and where the handlers of Joe Clark, so nervous were they did not stage one indoor meeting in the city in the 1979 election.

Just as it leads the nation in strikes, it leads in an outrage. The outraged women of B.C. are saying to Red Hot Video that they are mad as hell and they aren't going to take it anymore.

The men of B.C. are rather startled. That, too, is a first.