

UNITED STATES



OF AMERICA

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 91st CONGRESS
SECOND SESSION

VOLUME 116—PART 7

MARCH 23, 1970, TO MARCH 31, 1970
(PAGES 8495 TO 9922)

That was the sole purpose of the Act, and there was no intention to impose a literacy requirement on anyone.

It is passing strange that the present administration, which has been trying to curry favor among the electorate in the South would interpose an objection to an Act which would have the effect of broadening the electorate and giving servicemen and others a chance to vote.

Does the present administration wish to go record as preventing the thousands of servicemen from Alabama from becoming registered voters? Perhaps you would prefer to send Federal Registrars to Viet Nam, Laos, Cambodia, and other places throughout the world to register all servicemen, white or black, whose homes are in Alabama.

I suggest that common sense dictates that you should reconsider your objection to said Act No. 604.

Very truly yours,
MACDONALD GALLION,
Attorney General.

ARMS SHIPMENTS TO THE MIDEAST

Mr. MONDALE. Mr. President, I have grave doubts about the wisdom of the administration's recent decision not to sell Phantom and Skyhawk jets to Israel.

I appreciate the great dangers of an arms race in this area. The big powers must resist the temptation to exploit tensions or to seek their own spheres of influence at the expense of the stability of the Middle East.

At the same time, I do not think that stability in this case is enhanced by unilateral action by the United States with absolutely no promise of a reciprocal restraint on the part of the Soviet Union.

The Secretary of State admitted yesterday that there was no sign of willingness on the part of the Soviet Union to discuss joint limits on arms shipments to the Mideast. On the contrary, Russia has recently destabilized the situation by introducing in Egypt the advanced SA-3 missile with Soviet personnel to deploy the weapon.

Libya, as we all know, has recently contracted to buy 108 Mirage jets from France—a massive striking force which can only have Israel as the target.

Furthermore, there appears to be no breakthrough in the refusal of the Arab States to allow Israel the right of peace and nationhood. Their demand continues to be for nothing short of the extinction of Israel.

What little peace or "balance" is now being preserved in the Middle East is due to the superiority of Israeli air power. Given her absolute inferiority in terms of population and strategic position, her continued superiority in the air is essential to any reasonable concept of "balanced power."

I am glad that the administration is continuing to seek the cooperation of the Soviet Union in finding a way toward permanent peace in the Mideast. I am pleased that the administration is prepared to commit economic aid to relieve Israel of the crushing burden of her war debt. And I am at least relieved that we have promised to replace downed planes and retain the option of arms sales at a future date.

But I would urge the administration to carefully review their current assess-

ment of the Mideast situation and, hopefully, to give Israel further support in her continuing fight for survival.

SMUT PEDDLERS: THEY PREY ON THE YOUTH OF AMERICA

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, the U.S. mails are the hub of the distribution system for the multimillion dollar pornography business in this country.

Much of the objectionable and obscene material that is mailed is unsolicited, and much of it is directed to children.

The Subcommittee on Juvenile Delinquency has been fighting the traffic in pornography for years, but it is a matter that requires constant watchfulness at all levels.

In an article on the wave of pornography flooding the mails, in the March 1970 issue of VFW, the magazine of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Jean E. Laird says that everyone in America with a mailing address is on the pornographers' list. She states further that 80 percent of the more than 100 million items of objectionable material mailed each year ends up in the hands of children.

Mr. President, because of the concern we all feel over this continuing problem, I ask unanimous consent that the article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

SMUT PEDDLERS: THEY PREY ON THE YOUTH OF AMERICA

(By Jean E. Laird)

Pornography is flooding the mails. Much of it is reaching our nation's youth. No reliable statistics on the amount of mailed obscenity exist, but postal authorities estimate over 100 million items of objectionable material are sent out each year.

The circulars, brochures, catalogues, pictures, books and records find their way to at least a million school children. And each of these youngsters may be passing the filth along to a half dozen others.

It is believed that 80% of all pornographic literature in the United States falls into the hands of children. William Foley, Vice-Chairman of the Citizens for Decent Literature, reports, "Children get this stuff accidentally or otherwise, then pass it among themselves at school and hide it in their lockers."

What can be done about the rising flood of pornography? Foley says citizens must pressure local law enforcement agencies, including prosecutors, to enforce existing obscenity laws.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States at its 70th National Convention in Philadelphia passed a resolution denouncing the sending of unsolicited obscene material through the mail and called for legislation to prevent it. This is a step towards shutting down the dealers in smut.

As a major target of mail order pornography, youngsters have sometimes found themselves deluged with offers of filth after innocently answering an ad for camera equipment, rare coins and stamps, or acne remedies.

This is how most people get on mailing lists of obscenity dealers. Within weeks after buying a European-made car, a Missouri housewife received an offer from Europe "of modern pornographic pictures—10 for \$11." Postal inspectors caught one Louisville dealer who used the published names of blood donors as prospects for his material. And some producers of indecent publications reportedly

go to the extent of purchasing grade and high school graduation lists in soliciting prospective customers.

Obscenity is a lucrative business. A Knoxville dealer had been in business only eight months, yet had already cleared \$20,000 and had 100,000 new circulars ready for mailing before his arrest.

Still photos are the most common obscene item sent through the mails. These are not September Morn nudes or provocative pinups, but males and females in perverted poses. They frequently sell at \$3 to \$5 apiece, or six-for-\$10.

Pornographic records, costing up to \$6.95 apiece, rank second in volume. A firm that has mailed out tens of thousands of copies of a pornographic record catalogue was indicted as part of a crackdown by the Post Office. Still the help of parents to stop this deluge of obscenity is sorely needed.

A Detroit father of a teenage boy tells us he had caught his son reading obscene literature. Ads for it had been sent through the mail, and the boy ordered the material. He impressed upon his son the fact that peddlers of such filth use young persons as "suckers" for their racket, and are interested only in making a profit at the expense of the teenager's well-being. Instead of punishing the boy, he appealed to the boy's intelligence and sense of decency to rebuff the smut merchant and his wares.

When that teenager gets to the mail box before his parents do, and finds pornographic reading material what effect does this have on him? The experts say teenagers are deeply affected for either good or bad by what they read. Often reading pornography, they see something they had not known before, and try it out. This statement is backed by FBI records all over the country.

Dr. William E. Abramson, of Baltimore, Md., said the problem with such smut is that it "arouses and then miseducates." He explained that arousing curiosity is basically good: "That is what a professor does, he arouses curiosity and then he educates."

But, obscene literature warps the viewpoint of the child whose curiosity it arouses, Abramson pointed out. Overexposure to pornography without compensating education "is to leave the child hung up, and from hung-up kids come hung-up young people and hung-up married couples, and the continuation of the 30 or 40% divorce rate we have today," Abramson added.

President Nixon recently announced his intention to wage a "war on smut." He recognized the grave danger in the blatantly sexual materials, the sort of books typically delivered unsolicited in plain brown wrappers. This is the material against which the "war" is to be directed. A report in October states: "Uncle Sam's war on hard-core pornography will be stepped up this month. Of the 20 recognized hard-core pornographers in the nation, 12 have already been put under indictment. Four more will get the same treatment shortly."

As effective as the government's crackdown is trying to be, it is still being impeded by the soft penalties handed out by many judges.

Consider the case of two large-scale operators convicted in Ohio. At their arrest, a ton of obscene material was confiscated, along with numerous mailing lists. One of their mailings consisted of some 8,000 catalogues so vile that the Post Office was flooded with complaints from irate parents and even from businessmen whose secretaries open the mail.

Neither dealer had to serve a day in jail. Instead, the two were fined and placed on probation, even though an Act of Congress provides that sending obscene material through the mails may be punished by a prison term up to five years and a fine up to \$5,000.

Recently, a Chicago man found his 12-year