



**BAPTIST PRESS**  
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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September 26, 1969

**House Subcommittee Seeks  
Ways To Curb Pornography**

WASHINGTON (BP)--A house judiciary subcommittee has opened hearings on what one republican member called "the deadly serious business" of pornography. The hearings, likely to go on for sometime, concern some 150 anti-obscenity bills sponsored by more than 200 congressmen.

This material the committee is dealing with "is worse than salacious, beyond what is indecent and reflects a serious depravity...", declared Rep. Richard H. Poff (R., Va.), the ranking minority member of the subcommittee.

The principal target of the bills, many of which are similar, "is not the street corner hawker," Poff continued. It is the "arrogant baron of pornography" who is contemptuous of the laws and is getting rich from peddling filthy materials.

On the opening day of hearings, the chief concern of the witnesses was how to draft legislation to keep sexually-offensive matter from persons under 18 and to ban unsolicited sex-oriented materials from being mailed, and yet not run afoul of the U.S. Constitution.

Rep. Emanuel Celler (D., N.Y.), chairman of the full judiciary committee said he would not support legislation unless "it can be done constitutionally."

"Censorship has no place in a free society like ours. We avoid censorship because it seems to us to strike at the very roots of democracy," he declared. On the other hand, he continued, "there is obscenity and, more particularly, its gross public exploitation of sex."

Celler went on to say that some of the material received by members of the committee is "disgusting and wholly indefensible" in terms of value.

A republican from Ohio, Rep. William M. McCulloch, said that congress must "jealously guard" the right of every citizen to be free to think whatever he wishes, to read whatever he wants to, and to hold whatever moral and spiritual values he chooses.

"We must respect the right of a citizen to expose himself to pornography if he desires," McCulloch declared. "We must also respect the right of persons not to receive this material when it arrives unsolicited in the mail."

Two bills supported by the Nixon administration are representative of the large number under consideration by the subcommittee. One would prohibit the use of interstate facilities, including the mails, for the transportation of "matter harmful to minors."

This is spelled out in the bill to mean written materials, pictures of records that depict, describe or represent "in actual or simulated form, nudity, sexual conduct, or sado-masochistic behavior."

The bill also would forbid mailing to minors any information regarding where such materials may be obtained.

Standards by which these materials would be judged, the bill states, would be those which are "offensive to prevailing standards in the adult community concerning what is suitable material for minors" and those "without redeeming social value" for children under 18.

Assistant Attorney General William H. Rehnquist said the primary purpose of this bill is "to prevent the indiscriminate interstate sale of sexually-oriented materials, such as so-called 'girlie' magazines, to minors." He said the measure would not suppress or "unduly burden" interstate sales of sexually-oriented but non-obscene materials to adults.

The other administration bill focuses on the commercial exploitation of sex. It would prohibit the transportation of sexually-oriented advertisements for the sale of other materials

Rehnquist said that under this measure "the character of the materials offered for sale would be irrelevant to whether a violation has occurred."

The subcommittee also heard testimony from Congressmen William T. Cahill (R., N.J.) and Charles E. Bennett (D., Fla.). Both said their constituents were "outraged" at the flood of pornographic materials into their homes.

Bennett pointed out that estimates on the total cost of pornography varies from \$500 million to over \$1 billion annually. He said the post office department in fiscal 1968 received over 167,000 complaints about obscene mail. During the first 11 months of fiscal 1969, according to the postmaster general, the post office had more than 200,000 such complaints.

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Business Executives Ask  
End Of Vietnam War Now

9/26/69

WASHINGTON (BP)--A leading republican banker added economic reasons to the normal religious and humanitarian arguments for a United States pull-out of the war in Vietnam.

J. Sinclair Armstrong, executive vice-president of the United States Trust Company, urged congress to rescind its authorization to spend \$25.73 billion on the Vietnam War in fiscal year 1970.

Armstrong represented the business executive move for Vietnam peace. This is an organization of 2,600 owners and executives of American business corporations in 49 states. It is dedicated to "open and lawful means to bring about an end of U.S. participation in the war in Vietnam."

The BEMVP spokesman is a former chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission and former Assistant Secretary of the Navy under President Eisenhower.

The business executives voiced their views before the Committee on Appropriations of the U.S. Senate.

The normal objections to the Vietnam War come from religious leaders, pacifist, conscientious objectors and humanitarians of various kinds. The economic factor of the U.S. national interest was emphasized by the businessmen.

Referring to the \$25.73 billion, Armstrong said: "We urge this committee to hand this request back to the administration, and to require a new estimate based on a planned, phased, complete withdrawal from Vietnam of all U.S. forces."

"The economics of the situation tell us that the Vietnam War should be ended by now, in the vital interest of our free American society," the businessmen continued.

Armstrong cited the "destabilization of our domestic and international finances" brought about by the excessive cost of the Vietnam War. He pointed to uncontrollable inflation, high taxes, restrictive monetary measures, high interest rates and the curtailment of domestic programs as economic effects of the war.

The business executive viewed the Vietnam War as "unwinnable." They continued: "The U.S. has no vital strategic or economic interest in Vietnam. That tiny country is no threat to U.S. Security. We continue to waste our resources--men and materials--there for no vital security reason."

Armstrong based his testimony largely on the U.S. condition of peace as free elections in Vietnam, supervised by an international authority.

"We believe that the only course that will bring this about is announced, complete, total U.S. withdrawal, beginning now. Only then will the recently narrowed South Vietnam government be broadened. Only then will it have to enter into coalition and make peace," Armstrong said.

The business executive declared that "the administration's strategy fails to confront the three stubborn central facts" that stand in the way of peace. According to Armstrong these are:

"1. There can be no negotiated settlement unless the present Saigon government is significantly broadened....

"2. Troop withdrawals have little overall significance unless they are rapid and deep....

"3. As long as U.S. policy continues to underwrite the thieu regime and insists upon a settlement that the South Vietnam generals will accept, North Vietnam and the NLF are furnished no inducement to make peace, and have no alternative but to continue the war."

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