



Peter Desbarats, standing, and Terry Mosher

Political cartoon book recalled over bad joke

MONTREAL (CP) — Cartoonist Terry Mosher says an offensive drawing that caused McClelland and Stewart to recall 1,500 copies of *The Hecklers*, a newly-released compendium of Canadian political cartoons, was a joke that got into the book accidentally.

Mosher, who goes by the pen name of Aislin, said Wednesday the cartoon depicts a small, terrified frog and a large vibrator marked "Souvenir of Ottawa." It was meant to illustrate relations between Quebec and the federal government.

In issuing the recall order,

publisher Jack McClelland said he felt the cartoon could offend a lot of English-speaking people.

"I agree with Jack McClelland 100 per cent," Mosher said. "It was an obscene drawing."

Mosher, co-author of the book along with journalist Peter Desbarats, said the whole thing was a joke that began last spring when he doodled the cartoon while going over the book with a representative of the publisher.

"I said, 'I bet you couldn't get this in the book.' I was really surprised it got in at

all."

McClelland said the drawing was discovered by the company's production manager when he was editing the proofs.

"He stopped the presses but some foul-up occurred. I think Aislin and some of our designers were having fun.

Only 1,500 copies of the 6,000 or so printed in the first run contain the drawing.

McClelland said disciplinary action was unlikely because "these things are impossible to pin down. The cover-up is probably already starting."