

Oral Questions

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I do not have to convince the refinery or union workers who are here. They know the situation. They know that four similar industries had to close down: three did so as a result of unilateral decisions by the Liberals, there is one left and we are trying to save it in co-operation with the Quebec Government. Our approach is directly opposed to what yours was—we are saving jobs instead of exporting them elsewhere.

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● (1450)

CULTURAL AFFAIRS**INQUIRY IF GOVERNMENT DISPOSED TO INSIST ON CANADIAN CONTROL OF FILM INDUSTRY**

Ms. Lynn McDonald (Broadview-Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Communications, who said he wanted to consult with his provincial counterparts before commenting more specifically on the recommendations made yesterday by the Task Force on the Film Industry.

My question is about the principle. Does the Minister agree with the principle the task force is proposing, namely to eliminate vertical integration in the industry and insist on Canadian control over the film industry?

Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, with respect to the film industry—and I will explain why it is essential to work together with the provinces—the federal Government has very specific responsibilities in the production area, and through Telefilm, the National Film Board and the CBC, we invest money in this industry. The Department of Finance has a regulatory role from the taxation point of view.

As for the distribution aspect of the film industry, this is a responsibility that, it is broadly agreed, belongs to the provinces. And that is why the Government of Quebec has adopted legislation concerning that aspect, and why other provinces can take similar action. If we intend to achieve the objectives mentioned by the Hon. Member, I think it is essential to define, not a national policy, set up by the federal Government, but a Canadian policy that will provide a framework for the provinces and the federal Government to work together on various objectives, including the patriation of our cultural industries. That is how we want to work. That is why the February conference is so important.

Mr. Speaker: Order! Supplementary.

REQUEST CONCERNING GOVERNMENT FUNDING OF CANADIAN FEATURE FILMS

Ms. Lynn McDonald (Broadview-Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary about a matter that does not

require the participation of the provinces, and I am referring to the proposal to set up a feature film fund.

Does the Minister intend to grant the \$60 million recommended by the task force for financing Canadian feature films?

Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, the Department of Communications and the Minister received the report during the day yesterday. It has been published and we are going to read it, analyze it and report to Cabinet, which will announce its position.

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PUBLIC WORKS**SALE OF GOVERNMENT REAL ESTATE**

Mr. Bill Attewell (Don Valley East): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Public Works.

[*English*]

I was pleased to hear about two decisions which resulted from the work of the Nielsen task force; first, the control of most real property will be under the Treasury Board and, second, property management in construction projects will be centralized under the Department of Public Works. Besides providing better control, will the bureaucracy be down-sized?

An Hon. Member: Come on!

Mr. Gray (Windsor West): Order.

Mr. Gauthier: Order.

Mr. Attewell: And what will the savings be to taxpayers? Merci, le président.

An Hon. Member: Your French is worse than mine.

Hon. Roch La Salle (Minister of Public Works): It is a great pleasure for me, monsieur chairman—

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

An Hon. Member: Perfect English.

Mr. La Salle: It is a great pleasure to have an intelligent question.

[*Translation*]

As you know, Mr. Speaker, the Nielsen task force reported on the importance of doing away with duplication in real estate, a sector which henceforth will be under the responsibility of Treasury Board within which a specific office will identify—

Some Hon. Members: Order.