

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, May 2, 1989

The House met at 11 a.m.

Prayers

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[*English*]

COLUMBIA RIVER TREATY PERMANENT ENGINEERING BOARD

TABLING OF ANNUAL REPORT

Mr. John A. MacDougall (Timiskaming): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 32(2), I am pleased to table, in both official languages, the annual report of the Columbia River Treaty Permanent Engineering Board to the Governments of the United States and Canada for the period October 1, 1986, to September 30, 1987.

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[*Translation*]

NATIONAL FILM BOARD

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, today we are celebrating the 50th anniversary of a prestigious organization, the National Film Board of Canada. The NFB has been honoured throughout the world, particularly at the film festivals in Los Angeles, San Francisco, New York, Nyon, Créteil, Annecy, Cannes, Berlin, Melbourne and London, to name only these.

On Friday, April 28, a resounding tribute was paid to a real genius who has spent his film career with the Board, Norman McLaren. The NFB main building on Côte-de-Liesse in Montreal will bear his name from now on.

NFB artists and craftspeople have been remarkably productive for 50 years: no less than 6,500 films in French and English for which the NFB has won over 3,000 prizes.

Over all these years, the National Film Board has been to a great extent directly responsible for the excellent reputation our country has acquired. Hundreds of millions of people first got to know Canada from NFB films distributed throughout the world. The NFB through its films is an excellent ambassador for our aspirations and our values. It has also greatly contributed to helping Canadians get to know Canada.

On behalf of all Members of this House, I extend our gratitude and most sincere congratulations to the official representatives of the NFB here present: Joan Pennefather, Anne-Claire Poirier, Colin Low and Jacques Godbout.

[*English*]

Mr. John Harvard (Winnipeg—St. James): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with the Minister this morning in paying tribute to the National Film Board, one of Canada's great cultural institutions. As the Minister has already noted, the NFB has won international acclaim for the quality of its productions. This has brought great honour to our nation. I am certain that the Minister would agree, however, that the National Film Board's greatest achievement is the contribution it has made to Canadian culture.

On the occasion of the National Film Board's fiftieth anniversary, it is fitting to reflect on the important role the NFB has played in the development of our unique national identity and our collective consciousness. For many, our earliest memories of the National Film Board are the educational productions that we saw in our classrooms. They brought history alive for us.

While it is best known for its educational productions, the NFB is also a leader in its presentation of contemporary issues that reflect social and cultural concerns of Canadian men and women. Animation, docudrama and feature films in both official languages capture the regional and multicultural flavour of Canada.

In the time the NFB has been with us, it has created 17,000 films, it has won eight Oscars and it is known as one of the best producers of animation in the world. Often, Canadians do not realize that NFB films have been and continue to be an ambassador for Canada all around the world. Thanks to the creativity of the National Film Board, more Canadians are now able to see more and more of its productions through enhanced