



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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THE INFLUENCE OF FILM ON THE
GROWTH OF CULTURE

An address by the Honourable Lucien Cardin, P.C., M.P., Associate Minister of National Defence, at the closing luncheon of the Art Film Festival and Seminar sponsored by the Canadian National Commission for UNESCO, Ottawa, May 25, 1963.

...Even though one fully appreciates the merits and the high significance of the present event which is taking place under the auspices of the Canadian National Commission for UNESCO, it is a fact that NATO's important session has nearly monopolized the press headlines this week. This could have been a source of annoyance to you, and I can well imagine the concern that may have been felt by the organizers of the Festival and Seminar, who were also trying to attract public attention. Such misgivings, however, were not justified, for your meetings had been carefully prepared and the high standard of lectures and exchange of views have fully come up to your expectations and purposes. You had, moreover, a major asset with regard to public information, since your seminar is the first of its kind in Canada. It is, indeed, the first time that the Canadian National Commission has had the honour to present an art film festival and seminar.

Need I say how pleased the Government has been to act as host to the Conference? Since I was called on to replace Mr. Pickersgill, who is responsible for the main cultural institutions of the federal state, it is not in my capacity as Associate Minister of Defence that I address you. On the other hand, I can hardly speak to you in the name of my distinguished colleague, as I should find it awkward to venture into a field of which Mr. Pickersgill has a superior knowledge, and I should be vexed with myself for betraying his thought. I should like, therefore, to act as spokesman for the Government I represent, and my remarks (I hope you will forgive me for this) will necessarily be very general in nature. Furthermore, I am happy for the unexpected duplication of personality afforded to me by this talk, as it enables me to dwell on the diversity and complexity of the tasks of a modern state. In this wide range of activities, I should like to stress the importance we attach to the development of culture. In order to be truly constructive, statesmanship cannot ignore any area of human activity, and it is normal that, beyond their special sphere, Cabinet members should keep, like the gentleman of the classical period, a keen and constant interest in all that concerns man.