

while and he has had time to think about it. The excuse that consultations must be held with the provinces just cannot last too long. It would be far better for the Minister to take some leadership, to say that this report contains good recommendations so as not to close the door on every nuance or, perhaps, the recommendations could be improved upon in particular places. He should be showing some leadership and say that this is a part of our culture that must be reclaimed. If he wants to be serious about bringing back Canadian culture, as we brought back our Constitution, this is the place for him to be acting. The time is now.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Jim Edwards (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Communications (Mr. Masse) and his Parliamentary Secretary entirely agree with the Hon. Member for Broadview-Greenwood (Mrs. McDonald) about the Canadian cultural sovereignty objective.

[*English*]

I can honestly assure the Hon. Member, and I remind her as well, that one of the commitments this Government made as a Party prior to the election, and one which it has consistently honoured, is that of national reconciliation through negotiation. Consultation with the provinces is an essential part of that mechanism.

Yesterday, the Hon. Member raised two questions with respect to the recently report of the Task Force on the Film Industry. One was with respect to whether or not the Government subscribes to the view expressed in the report that measures should be implemented to eliminate vertical integration in the film industry. The second was with respect to whether or not the Government will grant the \$60 million the task force identifies as necessary for the financing of feature films.

On the principle endorsed by the report that vertical integration be eliminated, the House will appreciate that the measures necessary to accomplish such a major structural change in the industry will involve the co-operation of two and possibly three orders of Government. The responsibility for distribution and exhibition in the film industry falls largely within the competence of the provinces. Any action taken on

Adjournment Debate

recommendations of the task force which fall within these areas will require concerted action. The Minister of Communications (Mr. Masse) has already conveyed the task force report to his provincial colleagues and plans have been made to meet with his counter-parts from the provinces to discuss the matter. The course of action to be taken by the Government of Canada will be decided upon following this meeting and pending analysis of what would be involved in implementing the recommendations of the task force.

It would be premature to predict the ultimate position of the Government of Canada on the vertical integration question. It is certainly fair to say, however, that the Minister of Communications is well aware of difficulties posed for the Canadian industry by its present structure and is intent on rectifying those structural problems as far as it is possible to do so.

In addition to seeking the advice and assistance of his provincial colleagues, the Minister will be consulting with his colleagues in Cabinet, particularly the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Côté), who is responsible for competition policy, and with the industry itself in order to determine the most effective response to the recommendation.

On the matter of the recommended fund for the financing of feature films, the task force has obviously recognized and documented a serious need. The implementation of such a fund, however, is a costly measure, both in terms of where the resources might be found and in terms of assuring that such a measure would, in fact, complement other forms of assistance now in place. The Minister and his Department will be looking at that recommendation very carefully over the coming weeks and his conclusions will be brought to Cabinet for review. They will obviously have to be considered among all the other demands on the public purse. However, the Minister's commitment to the betterment of the Canadian film industry is firm. He will do all in his power over the coming months to assure that the industry has the resources it needs to develop its evident potential.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The motion to adjourn the House is now deemed to have been adopted. Accordingly, the House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 11 a.m., pursuant to Standing Order 3(1).

The House adjourned at 7.05 p.m.