

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, November 30, 1966

The house met at 2.30 p.m.

PRIVILEGE

MR. LANGLOIS (MÉGANTIC)—COMPLAINT CONCERNING INITIAL SHOWING IN UNITED STATES OF NATIONAL FILM BOARD PRODUCTION

Mr. Raymond Langlois (Mégantic): Mr. Speaker, I rise at this time on a question of privilege regarding a matter drawn to my attention, and this is the first possible opportunity I have had to do so.

My question of privilege is based on an article which appeared in the *New York Times* on Sunday, November 20, 1966 regarding the first presentation of a film produced by the National Film Board of Canada. According to the article in the *New York Times* this film was presented in New York last Friday. It is a 60 minute film entitled "Memorandum" and, according to the heading on the article, the "film remembers Nazi death camps". The first part of the article reads as follows:

A detailed and moving account of the Nazi death camps, where 6 million Jewish men, women and children were slaughtered, is offered by a prize-winning film that is being prepared for distribution to Jewish and other groups throughout the country.

The 60-minute film, entitled "Memorandum", was produced by the National Film Board of Canada, and had its first private showing here last week, World Federation of Bergen-Belsen.

I do not wish to discuss the contents of the film, but it is my belief that any Canadian production of a film by the National Film Board of Canada, whatever the subject matter, should not be presented first to a United States society but rather should be presented first to the Canadian people.

I do not intend to read the whole article, but I should like to read the concluding words of the president of that federation who commented on the subject matter of the film as follows: "We shall not forget and we shall not forgive." Apparently the subject matter of this film, the slaughter of millions of Jews during the last world war, was produced in a raw manner. I do not comprehend or support this type of presentation at this time, particularly since on November 10 a report by a

special committee on hate literature was tabled in this house.

I do not know what the subject matter of the film is, and apparently not very many Canadians know because it was first presented in the United States of America to a private group. My question of privilege is that we should have had this film in Canada first; and in view of the fact that we are trying to prevent all kinds of racial discrimination, I do not see the purpose in re-establishing past facts that might cause more difficulty in the future.

I intend to follow up my question of privilege with a motion, seconded by the hon. member for Villeneuve (Mr. Caouette), to the effect that this matter be referred to the standing committee on arts, films and broadcasting for consideration, and that they report back to this house at a later date.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I doubt that hon. members want at this moment to become involved in a debate on the matter raised by the hon. member. I have listened to him with attention, and I fail to see how his privileges as a member of parliament have been adversely affected, or affected in any way, by the incident to which he has referred. The hon. member may have a grievance which he may want to bring to the attention of the government and the minister concerned; but I have to rule that there is no prima facie case of privilege.

QUESTIONS

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

TAX DEDUCTIBLE EXPENSE ACCOUNTS

Question No. 1,677—**Mr. Mather:**

1. Has the Department of National Revenue studied tax deductible expense accounts with a view to eliminating unjustifiable claims?
2. If so (a) have unjustifiable claims been discovered (b) what, approximately, is the saving in dollars of National Revenue receipts as a result of the government's action?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of National Revenue and President of the Treasury Board): 1. Yes.

2. (a) Yes. (b) Not available.