

*Oral Questions*

• (1415)

**AIRPORTS**

SYDNEY AIRPORT—RECLASSIFICATION OF CATEGORY LEVEL

**Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of the House a matter which concerns the Sydney Airport in Nova Scotia. The Department of Transport has reduced the CFR level of service at the Sydney Airport from a category 6 level to a category 5 level. The Department believes there is not enough air traffic to justify a category 6 level.

The downscaling of the airport will mean there will be a downscale of employees at this airport. These employees include firefighters and safety personnel. I call upon the Minister of Transport (Mr. Bouchard) to assure the House that this downscaling will not result in the loss of any jobs to those workers at the Sydney Airport, as well as to ensure that safety standards at this airport will not be affected in any way.

**ORAL QUESTION PERIOD**

[English]

**FILM DISTRIBUTION INDUSTRY**

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION—REQUEST THAT REGULATIONS BE TABLED

**Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal):** Mr. Speaker, it is clear the Minister of Communications is prepared to sacrifice Canada's film industry and cave in to the demands of U.S. movie mogul, Jack Valenti, in order to save the Prime Minister's trade deal.

As this legislation is pointless without the regulations, and as the Americans say they have a secret deal with the Minister, can the Prime Minister remove the cloak of secrecy around this entire film legislation deal? Will he insist that his Minister, to save his face, table not only the legislation but all the regulations that will attend that legislation, and indicate that we intend to capture part of our Canadian market?

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Communications fully responded to this question, and others like it, yesterday. She is going to be discussing the new film distribution policy with representatives of the Canadian film industry, I think it is tomorrow. An announcement is going to be made at that time.

There is no secrecy involved. The secrecy was that during the last 40 years the Liberal Governments of those days did absolutely nothing—

**Mr. Gauthier:** Sit down!

**Mr. Crosbie:** —in connection with the motion picture industry in Canada, absolutely nothing, whether it was secret or was not secret. That is the problem.

**Mrs. Finestone:** Mr. Speaker, if this Minister was less facetious and a little bit more honest, and would stop trying to rewrite history—

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Member will put her question.

**Mrs. Finestone:** My Tory colleagues agree in this instance.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

CANADIAN FILMS' SHARE OF MARKET

**Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister knows that Australian films take up 20 per cent of its market, British films take up 26 per cent of the British market, Italian films, take up 44 per cent of the Italian market and French films take up 46 per cent of the French market. Canadian films take up only 3 per cent of our market. Historically, this is a sad situation.

I wonder if the Minister, who is responding to the question, will ensure on behalf of the Minister of Communications that there is the potential and that he will ensure the potential for recapture of 15 per cent of the market for Canadian film distribution.

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, certainly the Canadian film industry is an industry that needs assistance and we have established a \$165 million fund to assist the Canadian feature film industry. Prize winning films are being produced with those funds. It is quite possible they might get the scenario for another film from last week's activities, which certainly would permit another epic, something like *Gone With the Wind*, which is what the Hon. Member and her colleagues seem to want to have happen with respect to the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition.

• (1420)

MINISTER'S POSITION

**Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal):** Mr. Speaker, I am so glad that the Minister of—what are you, international funny?

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Rossi:** International clown.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Member will put her question.

**Mrs. Finestone:** Mr. Speaker, the Minister has just brought to our attention the importance of the development of the film industry. He forgot to add that the Minister of Finance just cut the wings out from under it with the cutting of the capital cost allowance.

The Minister said that she plans a tailored in and made for Canada film distribution policy, just like she said she planned a made in Canada protection for the cultural industries, which she did not do—she broke her promise.