

Development of Film Industry

annual deficit. Did we not have terrific deficits under the previous government? The Liberal party government has cut these deficits down drastically, but we are still operating on a small deficit. We can always tell the aged and the infirm that we have not enough money to increase pensions from \$75 to \$100 a month, which we should be planning for every hour of every day. We have not enough money for that, but we have \$10 million to aid in the development of a feature film industry in this Dominion of Canada.

I notice that the resolution is prefaced by the usual remark in its introduction in the house. It starts off by saying in the habitual way—

—that it is expedient to introduce a measure to establish a corporation to be known as the Canadian Film Development Corporation.

It goes on to point out that the first sum cast into the pot will be in the amount of \$10 million. I do not like that word "expedient". That word means the useful or the politic thing to do, as opposed to the just or right thing. Frankly I am too fond of the right to pursue the expedient, and I would sooner see the pensions of the aged increased from \$75 a month to \$100 a month than to see \$10 million put out for the development of a Canadian feature film industry in 1966. I want everyone who is over 65 years of age living in Canada to know there is at least one person in this house who is not going to vote for putting \$10 million into a national feature film loan fund before the aged have their compensation increased from \$75 a month to \$100 a month.

I made some inquiries among elderly people over 65 years of age during the past few weeks, asking them whether they would sooner have \$75 a month and a feature film industry in Canada or \$100 a month and no feature film industry. Do I have to tell you what their answers were? I do not think I need to inform the members of this house what those people who receive \$75 a month to live on told me when I asked them if they would not be happy with a feature film industry and \$75 a month rather, than an upgrading of their compensation to \$100 a month.

Mr. Herridge: There is no relationship.

Mr. Cowan: I thought this money all came out of the taxpayers' pockets. The British Columbia boys are hopeful of having a second Hollywood on the B.C. coast, but we

[Mr. Cowan.]

cannot pay too much attention to their support for this idea. I am speaking for the aged from coast to coast, not particularly those from my riding, as are some of those members from the west coast who are hopeful of having this development located in their own ridings.

● (7:30 p.m.)

Might I tell them that I am of an age where I can remember that Canadians were going to develop a feature film industry in the town of Trenton, Ontario. They went to great lengths, and considerable sums of money were spent down there to develop a feature film industry around a central point. Where is the feature film industry in Trenton? Some would be Canadian film developers took over the old Ravina rink in Toronto some years ago. They were going to develop a feature film industry there. It has gone with the wind. Ravina rink no longer stands today; the site has been turned into a park. The fallacy in saying that Canada will become a centre for the feature film industry is well epitomized in those two cases. I could give further examples, because over the course of the years many people have advocated the development of a feature film industry in this country as opposed to the importation of films from other areas.

The former secretary of state when speaking in Montreal pointed out that Canada has become one of the richest countries in the world, with which I have to agree. I believe that because of our wealth we should be paying the aged \$100 a month rather than the \$75 a month they are now getting. But of course we are told that we cannot afford to do this—let us start a feature film industry and we will share the profits of that with the aged.

The former secretary of state passed the further remark that one must say that in cultural matters a country cannot continually live by borrowing its material from others. Well, we talk about having two cultures in Canada. Personally I think there is only one culture; it is a blend of all the refinements of different civilizations, tongues and races. Some people like to say bicultural, but I say cultural. I thought we drew on matters of a cultural nature from such sources as Israel, Greece, Rome, Canterbury. We still like the works of Liszt, Brahms, Wagner, Beethoven, Cervantes, one of the world's great writers out of Spain, Hugo out of France, Coppée, that great French writer with whom is connected the expression that all of you know.