

Development of Film Industry

that the dubbing of films produced in this country shall be done by Canadian actors and players and that the moral standards shall be respected in all the works to be financed by this crown corporation.

[English]

Mr. Grant Deachman (Vancouver Quadra): Mr. Speaker, I have a few remarks to make in respect of this bill. Let me first say that I am very much in favour of the principles embodied in the bill. We have observed the very excellent example in Canada over the past years of the development of Canadian talent by the Canada Council. As a result of its efforts a great deal of talent from many communities has come to light.

The Canada Council has accomplished three things. It has found a great deal of Canadian talent in many communities where many people probably thought talent did not exist. It has devoted its efforts over a wide area, and has looked for talent in areas beyond the reach of other government agencies associated with the arts. It has also given opportunities to many small groups which, without this assistance, certainly would not have had the opportunity to accomplish the very fine goals they have reached. If the proposed corporation handles itself in the same manner as the Canada Council, I think the feature film industry in Canada will progress in the same way as many other areas of artistic endeavour have progressed, through the assistance of the Canada Council.

It seems to me that the C.B.C. in recent years has followed the opposite trend, by bringing increasingly questionable material to the attention of its viewers. The C.B.C. has recently become no more than, to use Mr. Ouimet's words, sleazy and slipshod. I am thinking particularly of the production "Harvest of the Sea", which has been a source of embarrassment to the fishing industry in Canada, and has also embarrassed the Department of Fisheries. I have in my hand a letter written by the deputy minister of fisheries to Mr. Alphonse Ouimet. The deputy minister says in this letter, among other things, the following:

Representations have been made to my minister by the fishing industry of Canada protesting that considerable damage may have been done to the country by the poorly researched script which in some instances presented the industry in a very poor light. There is also the fact that the program made almost no reference to the work carried out by the Department of Fisheries of Canada and the Fisheries Research Board of Canada;—

[Mr. Valade.]

He then states:

The commentary leaves much to be desired. It more than implies that Canada has done nothing about conserving and managing its fishery resources.

Later he states:

This department was not consulted by anyone connected with the program to verify facts;—

Later he said this:

It would seem to be obvious, also, that the C.B.C.'s farm and fisheries department would have been in a position to provide constructive advice to the producer.

● (5:30 p.m.)

Finally the deputy minister wrote:

It is regrettable that what could have been an informative program should be so marred by lack of research and inadequate preparation, and that the orderly development of Canada's fisheries, which is achieving a great measure of success, should be ignored.

One result of this bill will be the creation and development of a trend in the opposite direction. Perhaps this will improve Canadian film productions and assist in the development of Canadian talent in respect of feature films and documentaries. Surely this is a move away from what is becoming an ingrained difficulty in respect of this crown corporation.

In conclusion let me compliment the minister for bringing this bill to the house. I support it wholeheartedly, but I should like to ask one question about it which I think the hon. lady will answer to my satisfaction when she speaks on this subject. Why cannot the objectives of this bill be carried out by the Canada Council? Why do we need another crown agency to accomplish what could be very well accomplished by one more competent committee of the Canada Council, which has already shown its competence to deal with many fields of the arts to the satisfaction of Canadians from coast to coast?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Richard): Shall the motion carry?

Mr. Churchill: Mr. Speaker, is the minister not going to say anything at all in this debate? I have been waiting for the minister to rise and speak on this matter. I realize that if she spoke she would close the debate, but I had hoped she would have something to say in this regard.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Richard): Order. The Chair did not rush to put the motion. However, if the minister wishes to rise at this