

FILM DISTRIBUTION INDUSTRY

DRAFTING OF REGULATIONS

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver—Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I would like to return to the Minister of Communications. I want to quote a line from the memo that is in issue from the basically American industry, as the Minister said. It states: "We do have an understanding with the Department of Communications that quiet collaboration is available on the wording of supporting regulation". Is the Minister saying that that is false?

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, I am saying that it is false.

CONTENT OF MEMORANDUM

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver—Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, also in the memo the American industry—

Mr. Shields: She said it was false, you clown.

Mr. Riis: How do you think of those catchy lines, Jack?

Mr. Waddell: Mr. Speaker, the Canadian people do not think that selling the whole film industry to the Americans is very funny.

I want to ask the Minister this. It also states in the memo:

It is important that we will be clearly perceived as being opposed to this approach, so as not to dislodge support from either the Canadian cultural milieu or the opposition parties.

Is it any wonder the Canadian people do not trust this Government in the sense that here is an American industry saying that it has a deal with the Canadian Government? Not only has it got a deal, but it will turn around and enter a pro forma protest.

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, I have said before to the Leader of the New Democratic Party that I base my responses on Canadian documents, not on American documents. If the NDP wants to use American documents, I am sure that there are many openings, many avenues. The Hon. Member can go to the American Embassy. He can go to any number of places to get them.

When we are dealing with Canadian industries we should be basing it on Canadian facts, figures, and statistics. Nothing is more important—

Mr. Blaikie: Show us the Bill!

Miss MacDonald: —than the fact that this year the Canadian film industry, with the help of Telefilm financing, has been winning prize after prize in national and international film festivals. That is the kind of work that we have been supporting as a Government.

Oral Questions

Un Zoo la Nuit won top prizes, as did *I've Heard the Mermaids Singing*. These are the kinds of films into which we have been putting our money.

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● (1440)

ENERGY

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND—DELIVERY OF REASONABLY PRICED ELECTRICITY

Mr. Mel Gass (Malpeque): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

Several weeks ago I raised the issue of the long-standing concern of Prince Edward Islanders, namely, a secure, long term, reasonably priced supply of electrical energy. I know that negotiations have been ongoing between Quebec, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island regarding this issue.

Can the Minister inform the House and the residents of P.E.I. what progress has been made for the delivery of reasonably priced electricity to P.E.I.?

[Translation]

Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, we are, of course, monitoring very carefully the negotiations that are now taking place between Hydro-Québec, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick. The solution to the problem of electric power rates in Prince Edward Island lies, first and foremost, in long-term contracts that would stabilize prices, and that is why the present negotiations are so important. The Department of Energy, Mines and Resources in Ottawa is not directly involved in these negotiations, since they are taking place between the utilities, the parties concerned. However, we are keeping a very close watch on the situation, and we have the firm conviction that with the co-operation of all involved, the people of Prince Edward Island will finally have a long-term solution that is in their best interests.

[English]

POSITION OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Mr. Mel Gass (Malpeque): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the same Minister. What efforts has the federal Government made on behalf of P.E.I. to ensure that Québec and New Brunswick can come to a negotiated compromise and therefore deliver reasonably priced electricity to P.E.I.?

[Translation]

Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, we have urged the utilities to negotiate amongst themselves because that is the level at which the decisions are made. Second, as the Minister responsible for Energy, Mines and Resources in Ottawa, I have had several meetings with my colleagues in Quebec and