

*Development of Film Industry*

house. We would certainly be agreeable to this committee rising and reporting progress and we would suggest that a motion be presented then to commit the bill to the standing committee on justice and legal affairs.

**The Chairman:** Is that course agreeable to the committee?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

Progress reported.

**Mr. Cardin:** Mr. Speaker, I move:

That the subject matter of Bill S-9 be referred to the standing committee on justice and legal affairs.

Motion agreed to.

### CANADIAN FILM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

#### PROVISION FOR DEVELOPMENT OF FEATURE FILM INDUSTRY

**Hon. Judy V. LaMarsh (Secretary of State)** moved the second reading of Bill No. C-204, for the establishment of a Canadian Film Development Corporation.

**Mr. David MacDonald (Prince):** Mr. Speaker, if the minister would like to make a few remarks I would be quite willing to defer to her, but it is my understanding that she would rather wait and perhaps make her remarks later on. It is an unusual situation to find the Secretary of State speechless. However I will take advantage of that situation and make a few remarks on what I believe to be a very important bill.

I have been very disappointed by the fact that the government has seen fit to let this particular item languish on the order paper for such a long period of time. Indeed it could be said that not only has it languished on the order paper for a long period of time but it has languished in the area of political promise for a long time. We have now reached the stage at which we were three years ago when the minister's predecessor promised in somewhat specific terms that a new corporation would be set up, the responsibilities of which would be to encourage a feature film industry in this country and to which, I think, an initial sum of \$10 million would be granted. That was in 1964, and here we are in 1967 finally coming to grips with this matter.

It may seem perhaps to many hon. members in the house and to many people across the country that whether or not a feature film industry is established in Canada is not a matter of terribly pressing concern. After all,

we can leave the chamber at this very moment and go down into the heart of the city where we can find half a dozen places where feature films are shown. I could even tell you the names of three or four of the films that are showing at present, being myself a feature film fan. We might think that there is no pressing need for the establishment of a feature film industry and in particular for the government to take an interest in this question. However, I think that if we compared ourselves in this regard to many other countries in the world we would be shocked to discover how much we have neglected this area, considering Canada's position in so many other cultural endeavours, and considering also the overall strength of our economy and our privileged position in terms of affluence and education. There has been a shocking neglect in this field. I remember that when a few years ago, upon visiting South Korea, I went for a walk in a park one Saturday afternoon, I suddenly discovered there a full fledged film crew in action. I watched them for a few moments and turned to my host, a Korean gentleman, to ask him what was going on. He told me that one of the South Korean film companies was making another feature film. I looked at him incredulously and asked: "Do you mean to tell me that you make feature films in South Korea?" to which he replied "Certainly; doesn't everybody?" I had to admit that as far as I knew in 1961 the thought of establishing a film industry in this country was by and large ignored and thought superfluous.

From the beginning we have relied basically on two areas for our feature film entertainment, the United States and Great Britain.

**Mr. Prittie:** And France.

**Mr. MacDonald (Prince):** The hon. member reminds me that we have also relied on France. What has this meant to those of us who have grown up in Canada over the last 30 or 40 years? It has meant that throughout a whole generation we have identified ourselves with certain alien cultural values and certain entertainment personalities, and subconsciously adopted standards that are not basically our own but which exist in other countries. We have never had the privilege, which a great many countries have had in the last 30 years, of identifying ourselves with fellow Canadians through that extremely important cultural instrument, the film. I think it is true to say that basically most people regard feature films as a source of entertainment. However, my belief is that feature films