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her or him, and they build up a following." This is how the stars have been built in Quebec, but English-speaking Canada is conservative. It's almost as if they are embarrassed by any publicity. But it's tremendously exciting and I'm learning a great deal. Which is what I like. If someone were to come to me and say "Listen, we're going to be studying underwater for six months to try and find the Loch Ness Monster which is no longer in Scotland but is in the depths of the Pacific Ocean", I would find that a tremendous challenge. I would go; that's how my life has been. Modelling, for instance, was terrific because it allowed me to travel, to live in different places and at the same time make a little money so that when I'm old and grey I'll have no worries. But modelling is over now, done. I have no interest in it because I can't go any further than I've gone.

AK: Is that how you got into films, through modelling?

TL: Yes.

AK: Both films you have acted in so far were fairly innovative, a musical and a period comedy. Could you talk about them?

TL: Well, *Star* has not yet been seen. But *Why Rock The Boat?* is a very Canadian story and it's entertaining. It's beautifully filmed and excellently directed by John Howe. It's a success. Audiences think it's terrific. They're also surprised because it shows that Canadians have a sense of humour; most films usually are sad and dreary. I'm not saying they're bad films. But I would not like to pay three dollars to see a film that makes me feel ten times more depressed than the morning newspaper did. I want to be entertained and if it has a little bit of a message and if it shows me a little bit about Canadians, then I think that's great.

And *Why Rock The Boat?* did that. I think I would now like to do something where I could dress up in costumes. Maybe a cowboy kind of thing, but not cowboys fighting Indians. The Americans haven't really had any film which depicted the Indian, the history of the American Indian. Maybe that's what we could do in Canada.

AK: The National Film Board of Canada had a training programme for native film makers and there are now several qualified North American Indian film people. It would be fun perhaps to do a combined effort with a team composed of a mixed group of whites and North American Indian film makers.

TL: Yes, that would be very interesting.

AK: Your name, incidentally, is a bit unusual, even in Canada, and certainly to people here in India. You have mentioned that your family is of Estonian origin. Would you tell us a little more about your background and the contribution of Estonian Canadians?

TL: Well, it is a background that is entrenched in me. I can't avoid it or get away from it, nor do I want to. I think Estonians make tremendous citizens because they're very education-oriented. Maybe because their country was never really their own they are prepared to live in another country and make it their own. Estonian gymnasts, for instance, are known throughout Canada and the United States. They have not only brought prestige to the Estonian community but also to Canada. You name it and you'll probably find an Estonian involved in some area of Canadian life. ●

Another scene from 'Why Rock the Boat?'. The film is set in the Montreal of 1947.

