

Development of Film Industry

the hon. member for Prince (Mr. MacDonald), that not too much insistence be laid on total provincial involvement. Let us not fragment this industry before it is born. I suggest much of it will be centred in my own province, British Columbia, because of the tremendous natural advantages which it has for this type of industry. I believe the government of Canada should be quite prepared to go ahead with a subsidized industry which is centred mainly in one province, should that be the case. I know there are a variety of other industries which are highly encouraged by the government and which happen to be centred in provinces such as Ontario and Quebec. It is not beyond imagination that this industry could play a very important part in British Columbia. For the benefit of the hon. member for Prince I might suggest, for instance, that even "Anne of Green Gables" could be successfully filmed amid the beauties of British Columbia.

One other advantage which I think the development of a privately encouraged or subsidized film industry could have would be the gradual phasing out of the C.B.C. from some of its film making activities. A while ago we heard about established film companies making films for television. We have heard the suggestion that in Canada it should be the other way around; that is, that our television industry should make the films for our motion picture industry. I think the reverse should be the situation.

If the film industry as such is to develop, then I think the C.B.C. should be one of its customers and not one of its main suppliers. We will have more to say in respect of this bill when we study it clause by clause. I believe the idea is worth while. There will be serious problems for this industry and for the department which shepherds it along, but I hope that they will be successful.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Georges Valade (Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, I should like to make a few remarks on this bill and to point out first what is probably a misprint in the French version of the bill. On page 3, paragraph (b) of subclause 2 of clause 10 is shown as paragraph "(d)" instead of "(b)" and I am wondering whether it is a misprint or a new way of drafting a bill, unless the hon. minister is considering the inclusion between paragraphs (a) and (d) of unforeseen provisions. Anyway I wonder if it could not merely be a misprint.

[Mr. Johnston.]

In any case, Mr. Speaker, I should like to say that the intention shown by the government to give assistance to the Canadian feature film industry—and the word "Canadian" is stressed in the bill—should precisely be that, namely to promote more interest in the production of Canadian feature films on the part of our film-makers and artists.

Some time ago, perhaps a year and a half ago, the C.B.C. had a film produced by Seaway Films Limited, of Toronto, which apparently had entered into an agreement with the Associated Television Limited, of London, England, a private television station there, to produce a Canadian film on the St. Lawrence Seaway. They were to produce 30 one hour films, a venture which had cost the Canadian people \$3 million. As the estimates provide \$10 million apparently earmarked to promote the Canadian film industry, I wonder whether that amount will really be enough to develop and encourage that industry.

Those who are in the film industry will be in a position to judge whether this initiative can really promote this kind of industry in Canada or whether this is not merely a superficial attempt on the part of the minister to show to the artistic world that the government is interested in this field of Canadian artistic activities.

I note, however, that the hon. minister left out certain details which I feel are very important. For instance, the clause dealing with the objects and the powers of the corporation does not say anything about dubbing a film. And yet, film dubbing appears to be one of the most important considerations here in Canada, for it will enable Canadian films produced in the English language to be translated for distribution to theatres catering to French speaking viewers. The bill should provide that this dubbing will be done by French or English Canadian actors and actresses, or Canadian artists, at least.

If the hon. minister does not insert this provision in the bill, we will have to watch imported films, translated and dubbed by foreign artists, like those being shown every day on our television sets.

Here I wish to refer once again to this movie shown over the Canadian television network in which a well-known Quebec comedian, Mr. Rolland Bédard, performed. A French actor had dubbed his voice in Paris. Thus, we were presented with the peculiar situation where the voice of a French Canadian actor, performing in a film shown