

• (1425)

## FILM DISTRIBUTION INDUSTRY

### MINISTER'S MEETING WITH INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES IN MONTREAL

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister who is handling culture today, the Minister for International Trade. The Minister will recall that a couple of days ago I asked the Minister of Communications a question based on a memo prepared by representatives of the U.S. film industry in Canada which alleged that the Government was about to water down completely its commitments to the film industry. At the same time it said it was important to support the Government because this was related to the free trade agreement.

The Minister then said she was not interested in hearing what the Americans had to say but wanted to know what Canadians had to say.

Considering that she met with Canadian representatives yesterday in Montreal to go over the details of the package she will be announcing later today, and they agreed with the American lobby group that the Bill had been substantially gutted and watered down, will the Minister, who is now responsible for the trade deal, explain to the House why the Government has sacrificed the Canadian film industry in order to get an undesirable trade deal for Canada?

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, I believe that any objective observer, when he hears the policy the Minister is outlining today—

**Some Hon. Members:** Or she.

**Mr. Crosbie:**—he or she—when they see the legislation that is introduced, they will realize that the legislation has done precisely what we said it would do. It will put an end to Canada being part of the domestic market of the United States in connection with film distribution.

I might note that the president of the Quebec Distributors Association stated that the new policy must do exactly that, put an end to Canada being part of the domestic market of the United States. This is going to be a major step forward and the Hon. Leader of the second opposition Party should welcome that.

### GOVERNMENT POLICY

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Mr. Speaker, the Bill ought to do what the Minister has said. The representatives of the Canadian film industry actually had access to the information yesterday, and with all due respect to the Minister I say to him we are more inclined to accept their judgment than the Minister's judgment. They have said that the Government has betrayed them, that their interests have been sold out once again.

### Oral Questions

Considering that last October, when this deal was first announced, briefing notes prepared for the trade representative, Mr. Yeutter, in the United States, and Secretary of the Treasury Baker, said then that Mr. Valenti's interests would be met, that the Canadian Government would abandon its commitment to the film industry, why is it that the Canadian Government denied it then, denied it earlier this week, and the Minister is denying it today? Just for once, why does the Government not be frank and come clean with the Canadian people?

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, if the Hon. Member would only accept his own advice and start being frank and clean with the Canadian people, we might be able to have a sensible debate on the free trade agreement with the United States, which we cannot do now because of the misstatements of fact and errors the hon. gentleman and his Party continually promulgate about the country.

With reference to this question, it is a question of opinion, and it is our firm opinion that this is a major step forward for the Canadian film distribution industry.

The hon. gentleman opposite likes to take the opinion of anyone who might be critical of this Government. It does not matter whether they are Americans or what nationality they are. If that is the opinion he chooses to take, then he can take it.

### CONFLICTING STATEMENTS

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Mr. Speaker, I am not asking the Minister to accept our opinion. I ask him to consider they were briefing notes for Mr. Yeutter and Mr. Baker, American sources, not ours. It was a memo, an American briefing memo, three days ago that said the Canadian Government had sold out. It was the Canadian film industry spokesman in Montreal yesterday who said the Government had made a secret behind-the-scenes deal on free trade. Why is it that everyone, whether on the American side of the border or on the Canadian side of the border, says one thing, and the Canadian Government says the other on this important matter?

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, this is another case of anticipatory indignation from the hon. gentleman who seems to specialize in indignation. What do briefing notes from Mr. Yeutter have to do with it? This Government does not prepare briefing notes for Mr. Yeutter, or briefing notes for the Motion Picture Association, or briefing notes for anyone else. We prepare briefing notes for ourselves. Why does the hon. gentleman not quote from some relevant document, not from some American document, prepared by Americans for Americans?