



Robert C. Ragsdale

Stratford Festival production of *Arms and the Man*, Douglas Campbell as Major Petkoff and Helen Carey as Raina.

committee, this represents only 1.9 per cent of the total federal budget which they suggest is too low for a society such as Canada's.

One of the report's central themes is to keep a safe distance — "arm's length" — between the government and the cultural agencies that exist under its wing. The report warns that "the well-being of society is threatened if the state intrudes into the cultural realm in ways that subordinate the role and purposes of the latter to the role and purposes of government itself — or of any other spheres of activity".

Insisting that cultural agencies should be exempt from political direction, the report also contends that there must be freedom from ministerial and central government agency direction in financial and personnel administration. It urges

that those appointed to the boards of cultural agencies be chosen for their experience and demonstrated interest in the fields concerned.

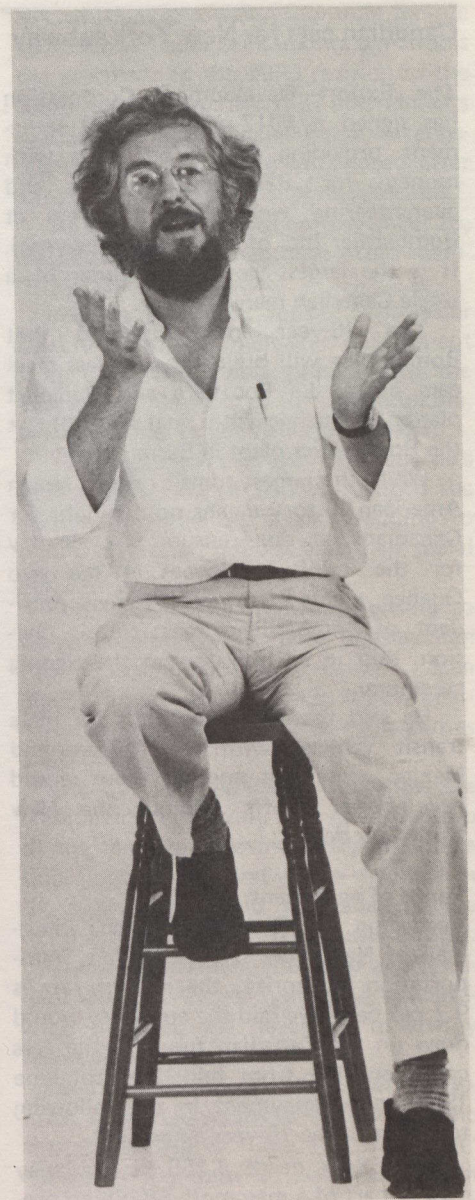
Canada Council

The importance of the Canada Council "as a primary instrument of support of the arts" is reaffirmed in the report. The committee says that not only should the council's independence from political interference be further strengthened but as federal funding of the council has not kept pace with inflation since 1975, it recommends a large increase in the council's appropriation from Parliament.

For the artists themselves, the report recommends new tax provisions which would place them on a more equitable footing with other Canadian citizens. The committee says there is "overwhelming evidence" that Canada does not provide an adequate living for most professional artists. One example: the average annual income of a dancer employed with one of Canada's three major ballet companies is only \$14 000.

"It is clear to us that the largest subsidy to the cultural life of Canada comes not from governments, corporations or other patrons but from the artists themselves through their unpaid or underpaid labour."

The report also warns that many of "the most prestigious performing arts organizations in the country" will go bankrupt unless there is a solution to their chronic deficits. Recent surveys show that 110 groups with annual revenues of more than \$100 000 share a collective accumulated indebtedness of more than \$7.6 million.



Allan King, film-maker.



Mia & Klaus

Micheline Légendre, puppeteer.



The Nutcracker, National Ballet of Canada.