

the request of the U.S. government to the European Common Market to further postpone scheduled cuts in United States tariffs on chemicals, has the government made representations to the United States government to comply with both the spirit and the letter of the Kennedy Round agreement in light especially of Canada's unilateral acceleration of tariff cuts under the same agreement?

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, this is a very complicated matter and I might as well read the answer prepared for me. Members will realize why I said that in a moment. This reduction arose from the Kennedy Round negotiations and the undertaking by the U.S.A. to eliminate the American selling price system of customs valuation on certain chemicals. The Common Market and the United Kingdom agreed to undertake tariff reductions beyond the first two stages only if the U.S.A. dropped the ASP system. As the United States Congress has not yet abolished ASP, neither Europe nor the U.S.A. will move to the next stage of reductions in 1970. The most important part is the next sentence. The effect on Canadian exports is calculated to be very slight.

[Translation]

#### NATIONAL FILM BOARD

##### INQUIRY RESPECTING PUBLICATION OF ANNUAL REPORT

**Hon. Martial Asselin (Charlevoix):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to put a question to the Secretary of State.

Does the government intend to publish soon the annual report of the National Film Board for the year ended March 31, 1969?

**Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State):** Mr. Speaker, I do not recall the date when the report is to be tabled in the House. I take note of the hon. member's question and I shall give him an answer later.

**Mr. Asselin:** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question.

Did the minister receive, in September last, from the directors of the National Film Board, a five-year organization program? If so, could he table in the House the text of this program so that hon. members may see what it is about?

**Mr. Pelletier:** Mr. Speaker, I have received several programs, some of which relate only

#### *Inquiries of the Ministry*

to financial matters and others to organization matters. I do not know which of these documents may be tabled and which ones contain government internal information but, after I have inquired, I will be glad to table those which may be tabled in the normal manner.

[English]

#### ORDER LEVYING CHARGES FOR USE OF FILMS

**Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. During the time of the uproar with regard to the Film Board, part of which has been solved, I think, by the decision to appoint someone to look into the staff problem, will the minister freeze the decision of the board to charge rentals for films to schools and educational institutions, pending clarification of this decision which was made unilaterally without consultation with the provinces?

[Translation]

**Mr. Pelletier:** Mr. Speaker, I have already replied to a question that was substantially the same as the hon. member's. I said that this matter was being discussed by the officials of the National Film Board and that, as far as I am concerned, I have not had the time yet to find out what it is all about. Therefore, I cannot announce the decision to impose any freeze whatsoever.

**Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question.

Why did the director for the Prairies area send a notice to every organization concerned, indicating the new rates set for films, from January 1, since the minister says that—

**Mr. Speaker:** I suggest that as put the hon. member's question is argumentative and is therefore not in order.

[English]

#### LAY-OFFS OF EMPLOYEES

**Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley):** Mr. Speaker, my question refers to a question and answer yesterday in the House on this subject. Is the independent person mentioned by the minister the same, a substitute for or supplementary to the one mentioned by the minister in regard to the report on all changes in the NFB which the minister said was on his desk on Monday of this week?