

Oral Questions

Ms. Copps: But not false.

Miss MacDonald: I would like to tell the Hon. Member and Members of the House that there are two issues with respect to the film industry, production and distribution. In the field of production, this Government has added \$165 million to production, set up a feature film fund, and set up a dubbing fund.

We are now moving to the issue of distribution. We have said that we will bring in, by legislation, the means to establish a separate market here in Canada for Canadian film distribution rights. We have said there will be other measures for Canadian film distributors. We have said we would do that, and we will do it.

NEW LEGISLATION—EFFECT ON INDUSTRY

Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal): Mr. Speaker, the last time I looked, I think the *Toronto Star* still belonged to Canadians. I think Mr. Sidney Adelman is a rather well respected reporter, and I think Mr. Millard Roth is still the head of the Canadian Film Distribution Association even if he speaks for the Americans.

Is it not true that the Minister is planning a giant loophole through which, by regulation, the Americans will still come out the winners and win all the major films that are coming in here? Does the Minister not realize she is just setting up another shell game so the Americans can maintain their status quo, and the interests of the Canadian film distributors and manufacturers will not be met with her new Bill?

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, Millard Roth, who the Member cites with such ease, is the Canadian representative of the American film industry. That is the person she is shilling for in the House.

Ms. Copps: That's what she just said.

Miss MacDonald: I just want to say to the Hon. Member that the Liberal Government had three Ministers that I know about, Mr. Faulkner, Mr. Roberts, and Mr. Fox, all of whom promised legislation. After 40 years, much of that occupied by a Liberal Government, there is no legislation. Nothing has been done for the Canadian film industry in this respect.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Miss MacDonald: Our legislation will not address the needs of the American industry. It will address the needs of the Canadian film industry, as I have said right along.

RIGHTS OF AMERICAN DISTRIBUTORS

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the same Minister. According to this report which came out today, the Canadian Government—

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): Just a pale echo of the Grits.

Mr. Broadbent: Joe is twitching again. Just calm down, Joe. It's all right.

Mr. Shields: Welcome back, Shirley Carr.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member will put his question.

Mr. Broadbent: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister. The same report that refers to the collaboration of the Minister's Department, even in writing the regulations with this group that is speaking for the American industry, has made the contention that the Minister has backed down completely. One way the Minister has of avoiding that accusation would be to assure the House today that the essence of what she promised in the old Bill, that never did appear, will be repeated, namely, the commitment that she made, and, if I understand correctly, the Prime Minister is also on the record as making that commitment, that American distributors of films in Canada would be restricted in their rights to films they had actually financed, or to films to which they had a world copyright. The net effect would have been to leave to Canadians some 15 per cent of the market.

Will the Minister guarantee that the Bill she has promised to introduce will essentially maintain these provisions?

• (1430)

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, I have said throughout from day one that what we will be doing here is taking the necessary step that has not been taken before. We will be setting up a separate market for distribution in Canada.

The Leader of the New Democratic Party may not think that that is necessary, but that is the first and most important step to take, and we will be doing it.

We will be bringing in regulations so that it is a workable scheme. We will also be introducing measures to assist Canadian distributors. We are gearing this toward Canada, not toward the United States.

DRAFTING OF REGULATIONS

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, Canadians who have been producing films from British Columbia to Newfoundland, and who want to have access to see Canadian films, will have heard what the Minister has said, which is not to confirm that she will stand by her rather tough legislation of before but, in fact, confirms that she has backed down once again to American pressure.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Broadbent: If she has not done so, we will give her a chance to answer the question again.

Will she retain the very tough minded points that she and the Prime Minister addressed before in her legislation? While she is answering that question, will she also reply to what I