

**Canadian films in U.S. limelight**

Although Canada did not win any "Oscars" at this year's Academy Awards in Hollywood, the National Film Board recently received wide recognition in the press and laurels at film festivals abroad.

First, the fifth Annual International Children's Festival, Los Angeles, conferred its highest honour on Canadian film-maker Co Hoedeman of the National Film Board for his animated film *Tchou-Tchou*. In presenting the Gold Star award to Mr. Hoedeman, puppeteer Shari Lewis said that the prize was in recognition of "conspicuous creative achievement". The film, which was chosen over 60 others, also won first prize as the best children's film at the Annecy Festival in France, and also the British Film Award for the best animated film in 1974.

**Filmex special tribute**

Then came a special tribute to the National Film Board and its chairman, Sydney Newman, from Hollywood's own



Canadian-born film star Walter Pidgeon (centre) talks to Canadian Film Commissioner and NFB Chairman Sydney Newman (right) and Consul-General Donald Gilchrist at a reception in Los

Angeles, when Filmex (the Los Angeles International Film Exposition) showed a special program of Canadian films entitled "A Tribute to the National Film Board of Canada".



Vanguard photo, L.A.

At a recent party at the official Canadian residence in Los Angeles, which was held in honour of Canadian nominees for "Oscars" at this year's Academy Awards, Donald H. Gilchrist, the Canadian Consul General (second from

right) is shown with (from left to right) Mordecai Richler (*The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz*), Maurice Solway (*The Violin*), Robert Verrall (*The Family that Dwelt Apart*), and Peter Foldes (*Hunger*).

film festival, Filmex, the Los Angeles International Film Exposition, when some 800 people jammed the Festival theatre to see 17 Canadian productions in a program called "A Tribute to the National Film Board of Canada". Richard Whitehall, Professor of Cinema at the California Arts College in Valencia, California, who wrote the introduction to the program says: "Sometimes, to outsiders, it seems as if Canadians take the excellence of the National Film Board entirely too much for granted, seeing its faults more clearly than its virtues. To us the National Film Board is a model of what such an organization should be...." He continues: "The films in the Filmex retrospective are, many of them, not only and deservedly film classics but often stand as superior to anything subsequently attempted in their particular field...." And, "The record of the National Film Board is one of unequalled excellence."

In a press story of the Filmex Expo by Bob Thomas of Los Angeles, and syndicated by Associated Press to more than 1,500 newspapers throughout the world, the opening sentence said: "At long last, the Hollywood film community has acknowledged the contributions of Canada."