

*Point of Order—Mrs. Finestone*

of incentives which would indicate to her the kinds of programs. It seems to me we spent one full day in this House defending what the National Film Board does. The Minister's Parliamentary Secretary gave a rousing speech on the role of the NFB, and I defended that. Furthermore, she just brought in permanent funding for Telefilm. We gave an impression as to how we felt artists should be supported. We told the Minister to bring in the cinema Act and a film policy. We said do not cut out capital cost allowances. How the heck did you ever get involved in a White Paper reform that is going to kill the film industry and broadcasting?

I do not know what more the Minister wants by way of directives from this side of the House or from a committee which is dedicated to Canadian culture. Either the Minister has absolutely been bought or is having her arm twisted—

**Miss MacDonald:** Oh, wait a moment. You withdraw that.

**Mrs. Finestone:** You are right. I am sorry, I do withdraw that.

**Miss MacDonald:** You ought to be ashamed.

**Mr. Speaker:** I am sure the Hon. Member did not mean to cast aspersions on the character or integrity of the Minister and I thank her for immediately withdrawing that comment.

This may be of some help to the Hon. Member in concluding her remarks. The Chair has listened very carefully to this entire debate. As was pointed out by the Hon. Minister of State (Mr. Lewis), it is not the first time it has been brought to the Chair's attention. I ask that the Hon. Member close off her remarks and stay exactly on the procedural point that I now have to decide.

**Mrs. Finestone:** Mr. Speaker, in no way did I intend that to be an attack on the Minister's credibility or integrity, for which she has a very fine reputation. If that is what it sounded like, I withdraw that and deeply apologize to the Minister.

My concern is that the Minister has constantly talked about the fact that we have 97 per cent of our screen time being used by non-Canadians, particularly Americans. She wants to do something about that. Then she came up with some ideas. The industry and the Canadian people were very excited about her cinema Act. They were pleased she was putting more money into a number of areas. Now they see this as a withdrawal of either interest or active participation in moving forward the cultural sector. We appreciate her very intense concern for the telecommunications sector but she has two mandates and the other one deals with broadcasting and other cultural issues.

I bring to your attention the fact that we have found this to be an inadequate report. The fundamental policy issues were not addressed. If the Minister felt she wanted it to be otherwise and she would now like us to deal with those policies, I suggest that would have been a more effective and efficient way to address the issue. To go about this in a patchwork way

is not good and I certainly do not expect to see another Bill for the CBC.

**Mr. Jim Caldwell (Essex—Kent):** Mr. Speaker, I had not intended to intervene in this discussion, but as a member of the committee I would like to add a couple of comments.

I guess the question centres around what is a comprehensive reply and this is what the discussion is about. The chairman of the committee already indicated that we did not feel it was a comprehensive reply. However, as the Minister indicated, does a reply have to be given immediately or can she do it later? I feel there is a possibility of getting the answers from the Minister other than during this debate or through messages being sent back and forth.

The Minister indicated today that our work will be followed up in detail, which I am very pleased to hear. In the past the Minister, one of the hardest working Ministers, has taken our advice, for example on the museums corporation. I see she is now acting on that. I have no doubt she is willing to listen to our recommendations and I am very pleased with what she has said today.

As the Minister pointed out, this is a very complicated subject. She indicated some of the things she cannot do because there is no legislation to permit her to do them. I only wish she had said that in her reply, but I am pleased that she has indicated that she is going to follow up on some of these things. As a member of the committee, I can say we are going to hold her to that.

**Miss MacDonald:** Thank you.

**Mr. Speaker:** I want to thank all Hon. Members for their interventions on this important matter. I want to especially thank the Hon. Minister. We all know the demands on a Minister's time and she stayed throughout this entire debate. I am sure Hon. Members appreciate that. I want to thank the Hon. Member for Mount Royal (Mrs. Finestone) for so graciously accepting my invitation to adjourn this application some days ago in order to give the Minister an opportunity to be here. I think all Hon. Members are impressed that the chairman of the committee took part in these deliberations, as did the Hon. Member for Broadview—Greenwood (Ms. McDonald) and the Hon. Member for Essex—Kent (Mr. Caldwell).

There is nothing particularly easy about these complaints which have been brought to the Speaker. The Minister of State (Mr. Lewis), in his succinct and I think apposite comments, noted the difficulty that the Chair could get into in trying to determine what is or is not comprehensive. However, we have a problem which has been brought to the Chair and the Chair will consider this matter, along with some others which are pending, and try and bring a comprehensive report to the House which will be of assistance to all Hon. Members.