

# Canada Weekly

Volume 2, No. 26

June 26, 1974



Ottawa, Canada.

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MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES ÉTRANGÈRES

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## National Film Board wins prize at Cannes Festival

*La Faim* (or *Hunger*), a National Film Board animated short by Peter Foldes, has received an award at the Cannes Film Festival by winning the Special Jury Prize for best short films.

Since 1972, the National Film Board has earned major prizes at Cannes. Last year, *Balablok*, by Bretislav Pojar, won the Grand Prix for short subjects and in 1972 *Zikkaron*, by Laurent Coderre, received the Uniatec award. Canada's first Palme d'Or in 1955 was awarded to Norman McLaren of the NFB for *Blinkity Blank*.

*La Faim*, which was produced by means of animation assisted by computer, presents a stark picture of affluent over-indulgence in a world where many people starve.

For several years, Foldes has been experimenting in this type of computer-produced animation and in 1972 his film *Metadata*, which represented the NFB at the Oberhausen Short Film Festival, won a special diploma.

The National Film Board of Canada Now in its thirty-fifth year, the National Film Board continues in its traditional role of producing and distributing films in the national interest. Currently, the problems of energy resources, ecology, and the environment are being given particular emphasis.

Located on a 12-acre complex in the Montreal suburb of Saint-Laurent, NFB produces some 150 films in the country's two official languages, English and French, each year. They range from documentaries on a wide array of social problems, animated films, experimental movies and cinematic social work with community organizations through a program known as Challenge for Change/Société Nouvelle.

Many NFB films are translated into some 20 other languages and are seen in Canada and abroad by an estimated 766 million people.

Over 1,300 prizes have been won by the Board with citations that range from industrial awards to the highest accolades from Hollywood and film

festivals at Cannes, Venice, Berlin, Chicago and San Francisco.

Financed largely by an annual grant from the Canadian Government, the NFB operates independently in all the film and audio-visual fields. It employs some 900 people engaged in almost every phase of film production on a national and international scale. In Ottawa, the Still Photography Section conducts travelling exhibitions and publishes books for the purpose of showing the national scene by Canadian photographers.

The chairman of the Film Board, who is also the government film commissioner, is appointed by the Federal Government, as are the members of the board of governors — three from the federal public service and five from the public at large representing the various regions of Canada — who determine general policy.

## NFB — the eyes of Canada

The incumbent commissioner, Sydney Newman, started with the NFB as a film splicer in 1941 and later went on to a varied career in television and filmmaking in Canada, Britain and the United States.

The late John Grierson, the dynamic, legendary Scot who had developed the documentary into a high art form in Britain, recommended the establishment of the NFB. The National Film Act was passed in 1939 and as its first commissioner he stated: "The National Film Board will be the eyes of Canada. It will, through a national use of cinema, see Canada and see it whole...its people and its purpose."

## Distribution offices

Outside Canada, NFB distribution offices are located in London, Paris, Tokyo, New Delhi, New York, Chicago and San Francisco. They handle commercial activities such as the sale of prints and contracts with television and theatrical distributors. Some 85 Canadian embassies and trade posts abroad have libraries of NFB films available for non-commercial use.

In Canada, the NFB operates 27