

government? Is it her intention to intervene so as to give very precise directives in the co-ordination of the CBC, the National Film Board, the Canada Council, etc.?

I think that up to the present, this has not been defined, and we cannot therefore blame the Minister for not having used the power she might have used since Parliament would have been the first to blame her for doing so.

As we are discussing the question—perhaps this outrides the question of the CBC—but I think we should know exactly what are the Minister's intentions, so that in the future, if the Minister intends to use such prerogatives, all of us present would be witnesses to the fact that we have been sufficiently warned.

Miss LaMarsh: It is the reason why the Secretary of State was established: in order to bring together the different involvements of the Film Board, CBC and others.

My deputy minister is working very hard to build . . .

Mr. G. G. E. Steele (Under Secretary of State for External Affairs): . . . to bring together and co-ordinate the activities of these agencies.

Allow me to continue in English . . .

(English)

Mr. Goyer: Yes, of course.

Mr. G. G. Steele: I do not think that even the fact that these various agencies have been co-ordinated under one minister has done anything except to create a situation where at least the officials associated—whether it be the Under Secretary or the heads of the various agencies—can discuss these matters informally and perhaps bring to the attention of one the views of the other about their ability to assist, through their own activities, in carrying out the responsibilities of the other agency.

You have cited the case of the CBC and their film activities. There is a standing committee of officials of l'Office National du Film and of the CBC, as you may know, sir, which does meet to discuss film activities. The decisions, however, rest with the responsible agencies. They have certain joint functions which they carry out, and have had for quite a number of years, but I do not think it was intended, through this co-ordination, that all films, for example, would be done by the

National Film Board. In other words, there is a lot yet to be learned about co-ordinating these various activities. As the Minister has indicated, we certainly regard it as one of our responsibilities to try to work out mechanisms without, as you have indicated, using the power of the Minister—which one question is really there—to intervene by giving them directions about how they will carry out their affairs.

(Translation)

Mr. Goyer: But should we not go a little further in this co-ordination of policies, that it be not just an indicative type of co-ordination, but also a coercive type of co-ordination. I believe we could save the Canadian-people a lot of money if for example, the relationship between the CBC and the Film Board could be directed in a firmer way than it has been to date. We are not making sufficient use of the material at the Film Board, because of friction which should not exist and which should be settled in a radical way; whatever agency is involved, whether it is CBC or some other sacred cow against which the Minister cannot raise criticism.

I do not share that opinion because I think that to say the National Film Board should be able to sell its films to CBC and the CBC ought to buy its films from the Film Board is purely an administrative problem. I think it is just horse sense, but I do not think this is happening in fact.

(English)

Miss LaMarsh: The brief of the Canadian Association of Broadcasters, which I think has been sent to all Members, contained a similar suggestion. I am sorry. It may have been ACTRA. They suggested the insertion of a provision, which we would be very happy to see requiring the various agencies to work together. I would like to give the credit to the right outfit. Mr. Henry Como, the President, is here and he is in a hurry to accept the credit.

Mr. Como: Any time.

• (4:10 p.m.)

Miss LaMarsh: This suggestion we did not think was in the right place; to read that the Corporation should co-operate with the Canada Council, the National Arts Centre, the National Film Board, the Canadian Film Development Corporation, and such other bodies in the encouragement of the Canadian cultural expression in all its forms. This does not specifically meet your point with respect