employees of the Quebec government who were shooting porno movies in the basement of the National Assembly building in Quebec City.

That’s the truth, the skeleton on which Quebec MP Guy Moreau is shooting Scandale, a film that’s not as reprehensible as it sounds.

In fact, Mihalka even sounded a bit poetic in the way he spoke of the crew’s attitude as being “perfectly in tune with the Art of Filmmaking.” “Bend like the willows in the wind” he said was their motto. And there was some genuine enthusiasm residing in the film about the contributions of Francois Prota, the director of photography (Les Raffles, and Nanette Workman, who apparently knows the five cabinet numbers in the film.

In progress.

Mihalka said to me at one point, “Criticism. After having done Pinball Summer and My Bloody Valentine, I’ll laugh it off.” Well, start laughing. George Mihalka, because I really didn’t like the cut of the suit I saw being made for the Porno scandal. Not that it was actually allowed to see any cuts for a moment. It seemed a little, well, skittish about that idea.

But...Mihalka and the others involved in Scandale for having the nerve to deal with such a touchy subject, especially since this is Mihalka’s first film in the country. They won’t go out of their biggest problems was to cast the film,” given that so much of the artistic community in Montreal is so politically active, and so ‘Parti Quebecois.”

But summoning up the nerve to do the film seems to have exhausted their supply. Rick Wallace said, “In my opinion, there’s not a character that specifically represents anyone” and Mihalka said, “we could have satirized Quebec but we could have satirized government.”

And what that means is that the concrete target of that two scenes that Mihalka described as being satiric highlights are one in which a government minister being interviewed doesn’t notice a bathtub being wheeled by his office and another scene in which a minister enters his office, finds it empty, and says: “Where are my employees? On coffee break or on strike?”

Well, some people might call that sensitivity to the feelings of the people queer. But I call it pulling your punches.

David Clarke

The Pedlar

Three cheers for the co-op

Mebel, Manitoba, is the perfect setting for the bleak final scene in The Pedlar, a small town, with a horse-drawn carriage as it once was in the 19th-century past, in the hardscrabble Interlake district of central Manitoba. Even when it’s hot here the place makes you sweat.

Mebel is a small general store, three houses, two churches, a parish hall, and lots of sand. In the worst drought of the century, the general store was shot made even approaching perfection impossible. Speaking of the probability that there are going to be technicolor movies in the future, Wallace said, “I think the worst drought of the century, the general store is the perfect setting for the bleak final scene in The Pedlar, a small town, with a horse-drawn carriage as it once was in the 19th-century past, in the hardscrabble Interlake district of central Manitoba. Even when it’s hot here the place makes you sweat.

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