

SOCIETY OF FILMMAKERS



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That Viewpoint arose out of a comment Michael Spencer passed on to Sid Adilman in the Toronto Star May 25, 1974:

The filmmaker of the 70's is a versatile guy. I want to help these guys out, by aiding them to make short films, documentaries, TV commercials, TV movies and the like. Maybe even pilots for TV series.

Michael Spencer is at it again.

On November 22, 1973, he outlined this scheme for changing the CFDC's mandate in great detail before the Advisory Committee to the CFDC in Ottawa. All the film organizations, English and French were there. The subject was debated for more than three hours.

At the finish, Gratien Gélinas took a vote of the organizations to see who approved of the change in policy. The first vote was who approved of the CFDC changing its mandate to allow for the production of short theatrical films. The vote was 14 to 4 in favour of this policy.

The second vote concerned the CFDC expanding its mandate to include the financing of television series, television pilots, commercials, videotape, live production and the like. The vote was 14 to 4 against such a policy.

So here is Michael Spencer, true democrat that he is, expanding his mandate.

The CCFM has acquired information indicating that Spencer and the CFDC have gone to the Secretary of State with precisely this proposition. Against the overwhelming opposition of the industry spokesmen. We have further indication that the Secretary of State is thinking of accepting it.

Within the next month, the CCFM plans to draft a paper outlining in great detail, the perils of such reckless ventures, and we will publish the text here in this space.

The Society of Film Makers is made up of professional film makers in Canada and is a member of the following associations: The Canadian Conference of the Arts, The Canadian Broadcasting League, the Canadian Film Awards, The Canadian Film Development Corporation. The Society of Film Makers is not a guild or a union, but is the organization made up of film professionals from all disciplines, training, and vocation.

Following a consensus of the Executive, the membership of the Society of Film Makers is at the present time being asked to voice their decision on a constitutional amendment which, if passed, would increase the term of each Executive from one to two years, thus eliminating the need for annual elections. It was generally felt that we seemed to be in a near-constant state of elections and that at least a two-year mandate is necessary for any Executive to accomplish meaningful or longer range tasks. Each member should have received instructions and a ballot for recording his vote by mail, and we urge each member who has not done so to mail back his or her completed ballot as soon as possible.

Members are reminded that membership to the SFM includes free subscriptions to the magazines *Cinema Canada* and *Take One*. Any member who has not been receiving issues should contact their nearest SFM Executive member.

The next SFM Family Night will take place on August 2nd, in the Montreal region. Members will be advised on the family feature film to be shown, plus details on place and time later in July by mail.

SFM Director Wally Gentleman has been very active this summer. After completing the filming of three television commercials for Montreal's Disada Productions, he flew to Rome to begin work on an upcoming Italian feature. Our Secretary-Treasurer, Peter Benison, has been kept busy with sponsored films, most recently in Vancouver. Our Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, Pierre Decelles, has been working on principal animation for the cartoon Television Special, "Winnie Witch and the Giant Potato" at Disada Productions. SFM member Elias Cicvak is currently writing a screenplay based on his novel "The Sun Rises in the Evening".

The SFM deplores the cancellation of this year's Canadian Film Awards. The Awards took up the lion's share of external SFM activity last year, both in terms of time and funds. Problems could have been ironed out, we feel, and we intend to make a full disclosure of our views in a report this summer to our membership and to the other Executive Members of the Canadian Film Awards.

We wish to remind members that we are seeking news of their professional activities for publication in this magazine and also in mailings to members.

Memberships are now being accepted for the 1974-1975 season. Applications for membership to the SFM are available from the Society of Film Makers, P.O. Box 1118 Place D'Armes Station, Montreal, Québec, H2Y 3J6.

Memberships for a one-year period which entitles each member in good standing to all privileges, and to subscriptions to *Cinema Canada* and *Take One* are still available at \$1500 per year. Persons who have never been an SFM member in addition pay a once-in-a-lifetime initiation fee of \$10.00.