

C.R.T.C. Hearings — Vancouver

CRTC opened hearings in Vancouver on April 22nd to receive applications for Channel 10, the last remaining VHF channel in southwest B.C., and for Channel 26, the UHF channel.

The well conducted hearings provided one of those rare opportunities for concerned people to make their feelings known BEFORE important and far reaching policy decisions are made. The public availed themselves so well of the chance that M. Juneau, the Chairman, was prompted to remark upon 'the fantastic ganging up' against the applicants.

The hearings were somewhat of a rerun of the 1973 meetings when the so-called license to print money was previously up for grabs. The quality of applications at that time was so uniformly bad that the commission declined to give the license to any one of them. There were many people there who expressed the hope that M. Juneau would stick to that decision this time as well.

Each of the three private companies who competed for the VHF channel unfolded plans of how they would put the airtime to use. Ten Television promised 120 weekly hours of programming, Pacific Rim Broadcasting promised 70 weekly hours with the possible addition of 3 daily hours of educational T.V. and Western Approaches promised 104 weekly hours — this figure also to be supplemented by educational T.V. Of those hours local programming would be 24 for Ten T.V., 32 for Pacific Rim and 26 for Western.

Without entering into too much detail the salient points seem to be as follows: Ten Television is the best financed with \$10,000,000 — with the major shareholder being Dr. Charles Allard. Wendell Wilks would be the driving force behind the station. Allard and Wilks have a similar operation with CITV in Edmonton. While they expressed an awareness of the large numbers of production, performing and writing talent in this area they went on to say that most of their people would come in from Edmonton. There are some reservations about the possibility that such an operation would merely serve as an extension of the Edmonton operation to balance out production costs and this would be a singularly unnecessary addition to Vancouver.

Pacific Rim Broadcasting has 6.5 million and applicants are Graham Dawson, the Vancouver Developer, lawyer Charles Wills and Seymour Epstein — one of the principals of Global. This latter fact is interesting since Mr. Dawson had denied any connection with

Global in the weeks preceding the hearings. The group says that Manitoba Tax lawyer and former leader of that province's Liberal Party, Izzy Asper, will be added as a shareholder at a later date. One bewildering aspect of this group's plans was the proposed setting up of an independent production company which would produce, among other things, Made for T.V. Movies for which they would seek government financing. It's hard to make sense of a proposal that would hand a private group firstly the public airwaves, secondly tax payers' money to make their programmes, and thirdly the enormous revenues that would come from such programmes.

The third group is Western Approaches with the respected name of Darryl Duke as president in company with writer Norman Klenman and local radio biggie Bill Bellman. Of the three, Western has the least amount of operating capital with 4.6 million. They also plan the smallest staff of the three applicants which opens up the healthy possibility of free lance personnel being used. Many in the film community hold out hopes for Duke and his group with the thought that at the very least he will balance creative standards with commercial ones.

The CBC made application on the basis of their long standing argument that they deserve the channel for use in Victoria. The B.C. Government in their brief supported this and gave as an option that CBC be given another channel for Victoria use and that Channel 10 become a Provincial Education System.

Among the many interventions we heard from the B.C. Teachers Federation with a backing of 250,000 total number of members in organizations (i.e. unions) that supported their position and from Herschel Hardin for the Association of Public Broadcasting. The B.C. Film Industries Association President Keith Cutler read a brief prepared by Peter Bryant which asked that any station receiving the license would make it part of its mandate to use local freelance people.

At the outset Mayor Art Phillips said that a new station would be a shot in the arm for local employment. As we have seen with our two existing local stations, this is not necessarily true. There is a great reluctance to hire freelance people here that has existed for some years.

For Channel 26 UHF, license applicants were Western Approaches (who covered their bases in case they should not receive Channel 10) and Toronto's wunderkind Moses Znaimer. In a sometimes amusing presentation Znaimer, who is of course the man behind Channel 79 in Toronto, presented

himself as the little guy and decried the big bad Americanised slick guys. That, perhaps, was the slickest move of all. Though some feeling was expressed that Znaimer's presentation represented the arrogant assumption that what Vancouver needed was a Toronto type station, on the whole the attention was given to the big guys and the possibilities there. No one is making any bets as they did in 1973. Same time next year M. Juneau?

— Fiona Jackson

Vancouver Film Politics

Keith Cutler of the B.C.F.I.A. attended a conference in Ottawa regarding co-production agreements with Great Britain. Cutler's attendance was a last minute affair, based on the fact that the British representative, Michael Relp, had visited Vancouver. The C.F.D.C. had not asked the B.C.F.I.A. to attend, although various British groups have used and expressed interest in Panorama studios over the last several years.

The Pacific Film Co-operative is working primarily in the area of distribution, with two projects under way. One is to work in the interior in a five community film tour and research project, the other is to assist Enda Bratt in becoming a film agent and to work in distribution for independent film makers. The Pacific Film Co-operative is also collecting film scripts and outlines for later production proposals. Any interested writer can send material to B.J. Clayden, Co-operative Coordinator, 3241 W. 14th Street, Vancouver.

The B.C.F.I.A. has elected to join the C.C.F.M. Patricia Robertson is the West Coast representative to the C.C.F.M. and participated in the last general meeting.

On the B.C. Government front the B.C.F.I.A., the Co-operative and Director's guild, among others, are still trying to communicate with the government on various film policies. Perhaps the B.C. government will wake up when they find out the old version of the Film Brochure, with W.A.C. Bennett pictured in his glowing glory, was mailed out recently to a number of Hollywood producers by the B.C. Tourist Bureau.

The B.C.F.I.A. Features Committee, which is composed of feature film directors and potential producers, would like to see scripts, outlines, novels for feature films. The Committee will circulate the scripts to interested producers. Writers are asked to send their scripts with a letter attesting to copyright ownership, and a self addressed stamped

envelope to Peter Bryant, Feature Films Committee, B.C.F.I.A., 1634 Maple St., Vancouver. The committee will be responsible for the circulation of the scripts, and will encourage a number of producers to look at them.

The B.C.F.I.A. is also publishing a newsletter available at \$3.00 per year, up to date with all the latest gossip and rumors. Available from the B.C.F.I.A., P.O. Box 91442, West Vancouver, B.C.



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CCFM News

CCFM entered its third year with the May 4 Annual General Meeting. Approximately 200 film people turned out for a marathon 4 hour meeting that began with Peter Rowe's fabulous and funny documentary on how the American majors have done it to us all these years — **Backlot Canadiana**—and wound up with the presentation of CCFM's first annual "Awards".

The funny part first. Winners of some of the "Awards" were:

Honourable Hugh Faulkner, Secretary of State —BEST DAMN FIDDLER

Michael Spencer, Executive Director CFDC—LIES MY FATHER TOLD ME

Odeon Theatres (Canada) and Famous Players Canadian Corp. — KEEP IT IN THE FAMILY

All the Canadian filmmakers in Hollywood—GOIN' DOWN THE ROAD

The Unemployment Insurance Commission—THE ONLY THING YOU KNOW

Staff of the Secretary of State's Office—WHY ROCK THE BOAT

CFDC and the Hollywood majors—BETWEEN FRIENDS (this joint Award in honour of the voluntary quota agreement)

Council of Canadian Filmmakers—THE HARD PART BEGINS

Winners of the ZERO THE FOOL Award and the MONKEYS IN THE ATTIC Award were not made public due to Canada's libel and slander laws.

The not so funny part of the meeting was the round of reports by the Executive Committee on Government action,

and lack of it, in dealing with the film industry's ailments. In brief, those reports summarized the attitudes of the Federal Government, the CBC, the NFB, the CFDC as immobile. Jack Gray's assessment of Federal Government progress as "glacial—that is, moving with imperceptible speed" was good for some laughs, but the Executive and the members present did not view the inadequacy of Government policy with any good humour. Calls were made for increased demands and more direct action.

The situation with the Ontario Government was reported as relatively encouraging. After years of silence the Ontario Government, under the new Minister of Culture and Recreation, Robert Welch, is moving into intensive meetings with the industry on the quota and levy legislation. It was reported that the Minister had set mid-June as a target date for completion of studies. It was the feeling of the meeting that this matter should be pursued, and the decision was taken to hold another General Meeting on Sunday, June 15. The purpose of this meeting was to assess the quota and levy policy if it was prepared, and strategy for pushing harder if it wasn't. It now appears that the policy will not be finalized by June 15 but the meeting was held to give the membership progress reports on it, and the CRTC Hearings of June 10.

Other results of the Annual General Meeting:

Individual member representatives elected to the Executive Committee for the coming year:

Pen Densham
Kirwan Cox
Agi Ibranyi-Kiss
Don Shebib
Allan King
Sandra Gathercole
Phil McPhedran

Organization representatives are:

Don Wilder DGC
Rod Haikan IATSE 873
Patrick Spence-Thomas

NABET 700
Ken Post CSC
Jack Gray ACTRA
John Watson CFEG
Patricia Robertson BCFIA
Robin Spry SGCT
Bill Boyle Toronto Filmmakers' Co-op
David Kelly IATSE 644C

The Executive Committee has elected the following officers:

Sandra Gathercole Chairperson
Robin Spry Vice-Chairperson
Jack Gray Secretary-Treasurer

The British Columbia Film Industry Association was welcomed as the newest CCFM member organization.

Several resolutions were passed including:

1. a call on the CFDC, Secretary of State, CBC, and NFB for more effective leadership of the film industry
2. a condemnation of the misleading and incorrect testimony on the state of the industry given by the CFDC to the Standing Committee on Broadcasting, Films and Assistance to the Arts
3. a call on the CBC for increased purchasing of Canadian films
4. a confirmation of CCFM commitment to the development of an indigenous, as opposed to a branch plant, film industry in Canada

It was decided to immediately establish a newsletter and a series of policy seminars to overcome the lack of communication with members.

Since the Annual General Meeting, CCFM has held further meetings with the Ontario Government on quota and levy legislation, and with the Federal Government on film policy development. Through the City Working Group on Film, CCFM has met with METPAC—a group of Toronto area Cabinet Ministers and MPs which includes Donald MacDonald, Mitchell Sharp, Robert Stanbury and Keith Davey—and presented our views on the film situation and its solutions.

The Council has also lent support to the Quebec filmmakers in a hearing in Quebec City; sent a letter to all 265 MPs supporting the proposed Time/Readers Digest legislation; protested CBC National News' refusal to mention the Best Director Award of the Cannes Film Festival going to Michel Brault for **Les Ordres** (shared with Costa-Gravas). Organization members of the CCFM have been involved in negotiations on the British Co-production agreement.

The Council appeared at the June 10 Hearing of the CRTC on Pay T.V. to support its brief on public ownership as the only acceptable basis for the entry of Pay T.V. into the Canadian market. Because of the potential impact of Pay T.V. on the film industry, these hearings were very important to our future.

In the past, CCFM has been Executive oriented with too little involvement of the general membership. In our present situation it is going to be necessary, not only politically but also practically, to broaden the base of our activity and to have many more people working with the Executive. Think about your own involvement. If you support what we're doing, join CCFM and then join in on working in the continually multiplying areas of the Council's involvement.

Individual membership fees remain \$10 annually. Cheques, accompanied by your name and address and work area, may be mailed to the above address. This year, that \$10 gets you seminars and a newsletter, as well as battle reports from the front—and a chance to affect what they say.