The Committee for an Independent Canada held its annual convention in Vancouver on August 1-3. A forum on film policy in Canada was held, and panel members included CFDC lawyer Joseph Beaubien, CCFM director Sandra Gathercole, Famous Players’ publicity man James Cameron, and Vancouver critic Les Wedman...

The Ontario Arts Council announced grants in July for film groups. The Canadian Film Institute received $3000, the Canadian Film Awards $7500, the Bowmanville Photography Gallery $8925, and the Toronto Filmmakers’ Co-op $15,000. Canada Council Senior Arts Grants have been awarded to filmmakers Tadeusz Jawskis, Paul Legault, Richard Leiterman, and Josef Skvorecky. The CBC spent $17.5 million in the private sector in 1974, so they say. $9.75 million went for rights to broadcast, and the rest for production and co-production services.

Temple University School of Communications and Theatre held its first annual graduate seminar in film in Montreal during July. Participants observed current activity in Canadian film, and met directors, politicians, as well as took tours...

Screenings: White Line Fever, a story about Billy Jack on a truck, produced as part of a Columbia Pictures deal by Montreal’s John Kemeny, opened in Toronto and other cities on August 1st, and is doing smasheroo biz everywhere (see this issue, pp. 41-43.). The CBC showed the NFB’s Whiteoaks of Jalna on July 16. Film about pictographic script inventor Charles Bliss was made as a co-production with Australia; directors were Bruce Moir and Bob Kingsbury... Several Canadian features are being shown on CBC Sunday nights in August, including The Hart Part Begins, The Heatwave Lasted Four Days, and Mon Oncle Antoine... and even Le temps d’une chasse...

The latter has been dubbed, but Stratford had to cancel Gina and Les Vaughtours from its Film Festival because no subtitled or dubbed print exists. Bar Salon, shown at Filmmexpo, had been subtitled by the Film Festivals Bureau for screening at New York’s Museum of Modern Art...

Kamouraska opened in a small house on the east side of New York this summer. Reviews were not kind and it closed quietly. The picture, a Canada-France co-production, has never played in France... On another New York front, a ten minute film about Ontario played in Times Square on the Bulova sign. Space was donated by Canadian-born head of Bulova. Pic featured Cabinet minister Claude Bennett, Premier William Davis, and Guy Lombardo (!). Duddy Kravitz, un-satisfactory overall in the U.S., will be re-released in the fall with a new ad campaign. Boom business in Toronto was pointed to as real potential. Goal is ten million dollar gross!...

Whiteoaks of Jalna has now sold to seven countries, the latest being Poland and Spain. The Ontario Film Institute is eager for an offer from Famous Players whereby the Government would buy the Yonge theatre, site of a large ground floor house which would be used for concerts, the large upper house, closed since the earlier thirties and called the Winter Garden, would be slated for the OFT’s use.

The Word: ACTRA published a handbook on print sources, festivals, reactions; news and articles are being solicited...

Robert Fothergill, whose articles are often found within these covers, has written a book with Eleanor Dudor to be published in September. It’s called Redeeming Features: Themes and Images in English Canadian Films.

Publisher is Peter Martin Associates, who also plans a revised version of Eleanor Beattie’s Handbook of Canadian Film for December unveiling. The Canadian Filmakers’ Distribution Centre has found a leader. New director is Tess Taconis...Meanwhile, joining former CFMDC head Frederik Manter at the Canadian Film Institute is Harris Kirshenbaum. He’ll be Director of Promotion...

Alfred Pariser has been named general manager of ICL Industries, Harold Greenberg’s main arm, from which all his little film fingers protrude. Al Johnson is officially in his seat as CBC President... And Jack McAndrew, formerly of the Charlottetown Festival, has been named CBC head of TV Variety...

OECA appointments include Leopold F. Lacroix as Associate General...