

THE WEST COAST

BCFIA meets Provincial Government

A delegation from the British Columbia Film Industry Association met informally with Provincial Secretary Ernest Hall, Minister of Communications and Transport Robert Strachan, and representatives from other government departments on July 24. The BCFIA submitted a brief which outlined problems of the film industry and suggestions for the government. The three areas of concern were for a film liaison office, quota, and levy.

The BCFIA used a model from the Alberta government regarding tendering procedures which they would like to see duplicated in British Columbia by a film office. The tendering system would be an open and fair method of government sponsored films being made. However it seems that the B.C. government had done a study on their own film production, and did not want to go into tendering in detail. The other area for the film office is in promotion of British Columbia as a location of feature films, and to expedite production problems through red tape.

In regard to the quota the government representatives seemed unaware that they had already had discussions with the CFDC and Secretary of State. So much for communications. They did however respond favorably to quota suggestions, and since Famous Players and Odeon had more or less supported the quota idea, it seems a safe bet for anyone at this stage. Although the levy proposal for B.C. made by the BCFIA allows returns to foreign (American) investors, unlike

the levy proposal of the C.C. F.M., it was made clear that the BCFIA had no intention of promoting foreign production here to be ripped off. The levy money available to foreign producers is available only under strict conditions, the primary one being Canadian control of the production.

The government quickly summarized the brief, and with aplomb that must come from long practice, diplomatically ended the meeting. It is clear that there is a long way to go for something to be accomplished, but at least we have reached a stage where the B.C. government is responding.

Patricia Robertson

Vancouver Production News

Let Me Sing, an hour-long independent film drama geared for television, began a two-and-a-half week shooting schedule on July 20.

Working with a preliminary Canada Council grant, Vancouver producer Don Wilson (**The Life and Times of Chester-Angus Ramsgood, The House That Jack Built**) and director David Lee plan to submit a rough-cut version to the Council by September 25 for further consideration. The film should be ready for marketing by late fall.

Ron Orioux, one of the busiest filmfolk in town, is the cinematographer, assisted by Rudi Wrench. Sound recording is by Zale Dalen and Jeremy Long. Bert Bush will be editing the film, and Gail Turner is handling script and continuity.

Let Me Sing is the story of a high school teacher named John (played by



Shooting **Let Me Sing**: (l. to r.) Judy Berlin, Gail Turner, David Lee, Jeremy Long, Rudi Wrench, Ron Orioux.

Allen Gray) living a conventional middle-class life with his wife of three years (Michelle Fisk) until he begins having an affair with one of his students. Familiar fare, perhaps, except for the fact that his student/lover is also a male (played by Dan Lambert).

The film opens at the point where John is compelled to inform his unsuspecting wife of his other gay life.

Director Lee feels that the problems and conflicts of homosexuality have been dealt with in a limited and stereotyped fashion in Canadian cinema. He hopes to change this by presenting an insightful, personal drama from the point of view of a man caught between two opposing worlds, neither of which he can forsake.

The film is being shot in 16mm color, with plans for an original music score, as yet unwritten.

Gayle Scott

Ahab Died for Your Sins: Greenpeace

Photography is completed on the filming of the Greenpeace voyage to save the whales. The film crew accompanied the Greenpeace in its two month journey in the Pacific in pursuit of Russian and Japanese whaling ships. Michael Chechik, the producer and director of the Greenpeace film, journeyed to London for the International Whaling Conference, where he picked up some additional footage. The footage from the voyage includes the dramatic confrontation with the Russians, in which a harpoon was fired at the Greenpeace boats. Chechik has also obtained some early footage of whales being slaughtered by Canadian whalers in the sixties. The film, when completed, will stand out as a strong indictment against the genocide of the species. The Greenpeace Foundation has already made the whaling slaughter an international issue; the film will make the case so much stronger. More ecology oriented films are being planned to follow.

Peter Bryant