

POV

The orange neon sign proclaims "The State", the marquee says "POV", and a bearded man comes out of the cinema. He strides briskly along the street and pauses to light his pipe.

Though he glances around, he feels rather than sees he's being followed by a younger male. The man goes into the parking garage, climbs up the glass-enclosed stairwell (watched by the follower) and drives his car down the ramp still, apparently, unaware of his 'tail'.

Film posters adorn the walls of the man's apartment - *Divya*, *Paris / Texas* - and there's a Hitchcock standee. The man inserts a sheet of paper into his typewriter and starts to review POV. However, interspersed with the critic's typing, is the 'reality' - an author working at his word processor on the creation of the 'fiction' story of the film unfolding before one's eyes...

A very neat exploration of filmic illusion and its approximation of reality. Concisely organized and thought out, with tension skillfully maintained in the editing, plus an ending that's suspenseful and somewhat unexpected - but it's not going to be revealed here!

POV has recently won a couple of well-deserved awards: 1988 American Film and Video Festival, Blue Ribbon (first place) Short Film Category, and 15th Athens International Film Festival, Best Narrative Film. But the film has been rejected by several Canadian festivals...

p./sc. Jess Hewitt, Glenn Warner. *d./ed.* Glenn Warner. *cam.* Chris McNamara, Glenn Warner, James Soda. *sd. & Foley* James Soda. *mus.* John May, Peter Brannen. *l.p.* Peter Halford (Critic), Mark Lefebvre (Gunman), Alistair MacLeod (Author) 12 mins. 16mm. *Availability:* POV Productions, 468 St. Clarens Ave., #206, Toronto, Ont. M6A 3W5. (416) 532-4095.

HOME TO BUXTON

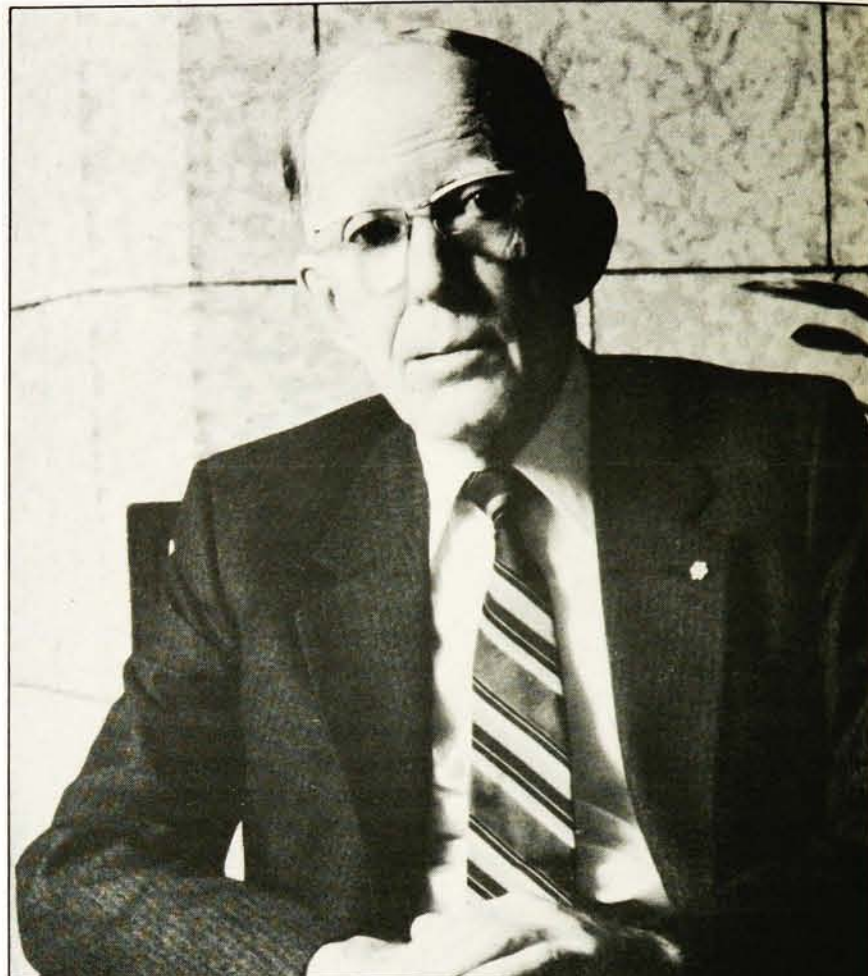
In 1849, the Rev. William King of Louisiana arrived in Buxton, Ontario, with 15 black slaves, and started a settlement there. The purpose of this community near Chatham was to buy farming land in order to help themselves, and also to sell food and wood. By 1856 it was a thriving, all-black self-supporting settlement, with its chief livelihood gained from farming.

Donald Johnston and his wife still live on the family farm and he talks about his background and history; he was one of 12 children, and has always farmed. In the 1800s some 700 young people from Buxton, Chatham, and Toronto went back to contribute to the reconstruction of the South. Now their descendants come to Buxton each Labour Day, and this film records the 62nd Labour Day Homecoming, devoted to celebrating and preserving their heritage.

There's a street parade, and dancing - a sprightly 93-year-old man takes to the floor - and lots of singing and harmonizing and hugging and kissing and, of course, eating. A woman talks of her grandfather who bought the acreage that, to this day, is used for a park; while a young farmer extols farming because, for him, it is a family affair in which his children, parents and grandparents are all involved.

A quiet, informative social document which sheds light upon an all-black community which has flourished in Ontario for well over a hundred years. Little is filmed about black participation in the life of Canada, and this record is a small, touching start in the right direction.

p./dir. Claire Prieto, Roger McTair. *cam.* John Hutton, John Walker, Steve Demme. *sd.* Peter Sawade, Doug McKenzie. Sponsored by the Jamaica-Canada Assn. 30 mins. 16mm/video. *Distributor:* McNabb & Connolly Films, 49 Danville Dr., Willowdale, Ont. M2P 1J2. (416) 226-3060.



A truly honourable Member of Parliament, Stanley Knowles

STANLEY KNOWLES:
BY WORD AND DEED

"For such a dry stick, Stanley does evoke an emotional response in people!" (Biographer Susan Mann)

For over 40 years, Stanley Knowles was an incorruptible, upright Member of Parliament, steeped in integrity and fired with concern for social reform. Even though he was a United Church minister before running as a candidate for the CCF (Cooperative Commonwealth Federation), he was not exactly your fire-and-brimstone preacher. But without Knowles' tenacity and conviction in Parliament, many bills for the betterment of society would not have passed: "He worries a problem to death - nag day after day and you get what you want!" says the film's narrator, Peter Gzowski.

Stanley Knowles lost his first by-election in 1935 when he was 27 years old. It wasn't until November 1942 that he won in Winnipeg North Centre, arriving in Ottawa in January 1943 for the 19th session of Parliament. After being reprimanded by the Speaker on a point of procedure, Knowles set out to master the complexities of parliamentary rules and became so knowledgeable that, according to journalist Charles Lynch, "He was the terror of successive Speakers."

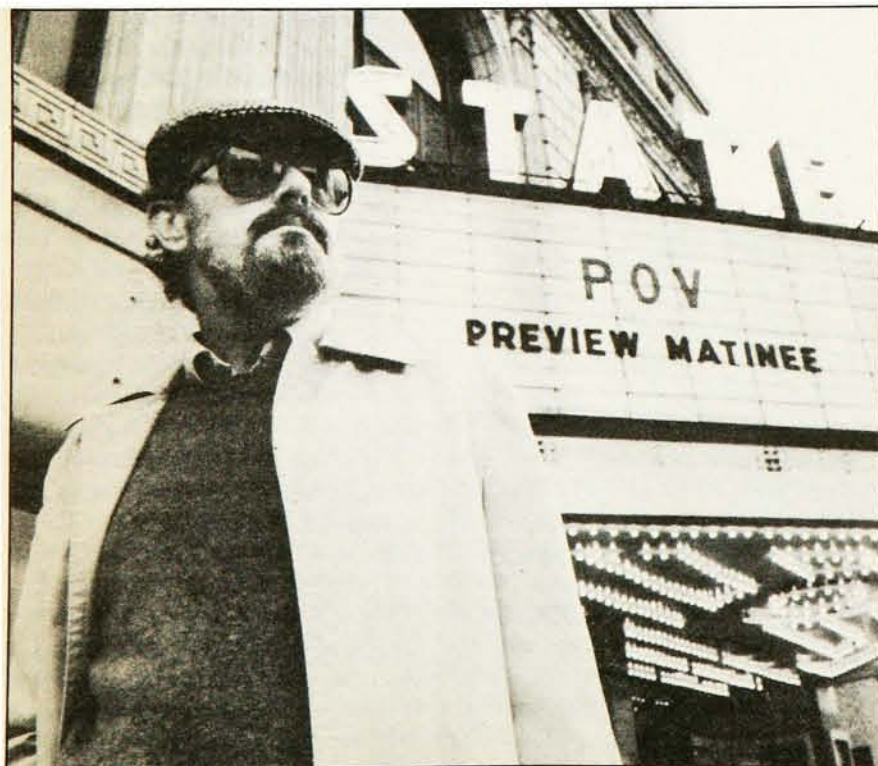
In 1958, when the CCF standing plummeted from 25 to eight seats, Stanley Knowles was not

reelected and, at 50, was looking for another job. Elected executive vice-president of the Canadian Labour Congress, he brought about the union of the labour movement and the CCF to form another party. Within three years the NDP was born. In 1962 Stanley Knowles was back in Parliament, the NDP won only 19 seats, and Diefenbaker was PM.

Knowles turned down retirement to the Senate (an institution he wanted abolished) and remained in the House of Commons until 1984, when he gave up his seat after a stroke prevented him from functioning as fully as he wished.

Aired on CBC in June to mark Stanley Knowles' 80th birthday, this unblushing tribute to a man of whom it's been said, "... he was 60 years old when he was 20 years old", is a little prosaic, but full of admiration for its subject and his life of dedication. And this is all the film deals with. While Knowles boarded with the same Ottawa family during all his parliamentary years, his wife and children were in Manitoba, and there's no hint of how this affected their lives. But to Stanley Knowles, the House of Commons was his life. This isn't a spectacular film, but it is a sincere, affectionate and, indeed, useful portrait of a man who lived in and for Parliament.

p. Cygnus/Film Arts, Toronto *d./sc.* Dan Curtis *cam.* John Griffin *narr.* Peter Gzowski. 55 mins. 16mm 3/4" 1/2". *Distribution:* National Film Board. Made with assistance from the National Film Board.



A moebius strip of a movie - POV



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