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"It goes against the spirit of the act," says Gill Blair, director of Equity Programs for the province. "It must be risk capital. Our tax credit is there to offset the risk of investment."

Blair says changes to the Act made in June, and further changes in September, will make it more attractive to film investment.

New minister of Regional Development Elwood Vietch says they are "looking at" making special exceptions for film VCCs where the seven-year term would be reduced to three and where there would be an increased tax advantage through linking the VCCs with Limited Partnership Agreements. Changes in June also allow for "windfall" profits from movies made from the fund to go back to the investor (in addition to collecting the interest from those funds) while the original investment remains locked in the VCC for further investing.

Leaky meanwhile lobbies for further changes, Morinis raises more money for his company and the Americans still search for places and products to produce and the money to do it. For most filmmakers in B.C., the VCC is a money source they can see, but still not touch.

Ian Hunter •

B.C. unions woo U.S. productions

VANCOUVER - Five of the key union locals in the B.C. production industry have banded together in the hopes of keeping the province competitive in attracting American production. IATSE 667, IATSE 891, the Directors Guild of Canada (B.C. District Council), Teamsters 155 and both the Writing and Performing Guilds of ACTRA were all represented at an inaugural meeting on July 5.

They issued a joint statement affirming that "while all recognize the need for an indigenous industry... the servicing of U.S. production will continue to remain a major component of our industry". Point 'B' restates the bare fact of favorable exchange rates, warming-up the reader for the meat of the matter: "... this favorable balance must continue".

The five union locals plan further joint meetings to develop this theme further. Their meeting took place just days after IATSE officials

in Toronto floated the idea of a fixed 80-cent dollar. The press release from the five Vancouver locals is eloquently silent on the idea. Also absent from that document was any mention of the two new labour organizations, ACFC and NABET 800.

(A Canadian Labour Congress official confirms that questions have been raised about film jurisdiction in British Columbia, a province where IATSE has enjoyed a virtual monopoly for years. He tactfully noted that both IATSE and NABET were, on the national level, members-in-good-standing of the Council and declined to discuss it further. Tom Fawkes of the B.C. Federation of Labour said he understood there was an ongoing dispute between NABET 800 and "every other union in the industry.")

The five locals have also struck a committee which will look at "providing assistance to local film and television producers in an effort to build a locally-based industry".

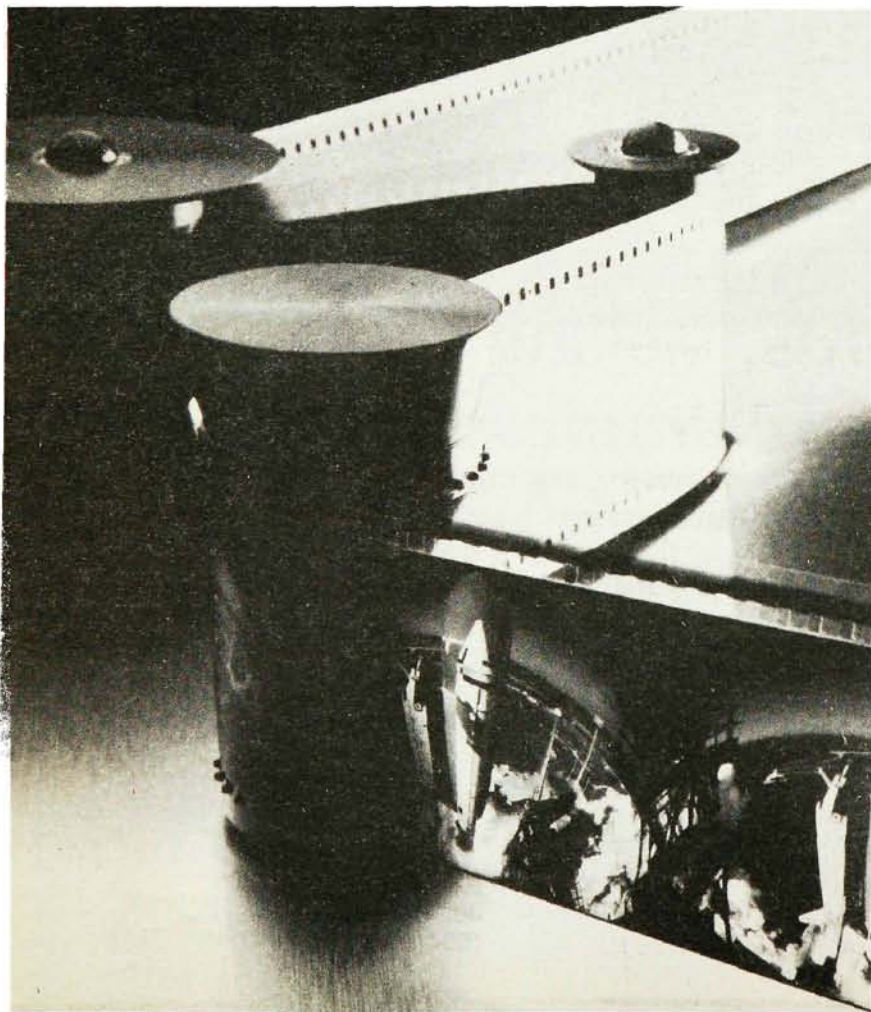
It's expected that will involve a continuation of contract flexibility on local, low-budget productions, a strategy also being pursued by ACFC and NABET 800.

On the ACFC front all is quiet, at least in the vicinity of the cameras. The Association has yet

to land a shoot, a situation that often strains relationships between officers and membership. However, the Vancouver Island branch under Charlie Ingram is ready and rarin' to go. They expect a feature film contract this summer and, in the meantime, are busy organizing 12 local video-production houses under one umbrella. The idea is to form a pool of talent and equipment which could then be sold to cover major events like the Commonwealth Games. The production houses are apparently interested and the move has allowed ACFC to sign up members with strong video credentials but little experience in film.

Educational award to Danger Bay

TORONTO - *Danger Bay*, the action/adventure television series produced by Sunrise Films Ltd., has been awarded the American National Education Association Award for Dramatic Programming for Youth, for 1988. *Danger Bay* was the only Canadian-produced program to be honoured by the association.



STAND UP AND TAKE A BOW

Congratulations to all participants in the World Film Festival — and to the organizers for a job well done. And for filmmakers with a flair for the big time, take time out to look at the IMAX theatre at Expotec, Canada's newest addition to the worldwide network of IMAX/OMNIMAX theatres and films.

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