

MORE FROM LES

by Les Wedman

VANCOUVER - "Vancouver is my home but you can't make money or movies here," says Alan Clapp, now dividing his time between here and Los Angeles.

He lives here but works in L.A. because he says "it's nice to deal with people who can take an idea and run with it."

The idea he had was for a series of training films for police; he sold it first in the U.S. It was picked up in Los Angeles and recognized for its merit by the International Association of Police Chiefs in Washington, D.C. It was after that that conservative Canada decided to give it a try. So Clapp currently is producing a series of training films for various police departments in B.C.

The idea - like all good ones - is simple. He makes 10-minute training films dealing with new or altered regulations on law enforcement, which can be shown to each incoming shift of police officers.

Clapp, who is working under contract with the Justice Institute, first produced the films as a staff producer with American

educational TV in L.A.

"It's no big deal," says the man who gave Vancouver Habitat and helped develop Granville Island - a new and lively waterfront centre for west coast living.

"I simply show police departments how to use video tape equipment they already have... the format of the films is standardized. We use a few dramatic effects to capture viewers' attention, and with flashbacks and other gimmicks we can demonstrate briefly and graphically how the new regulation or procedure is used."

Vancouver-born Clapp, who began his career as a gofer and then became news cameraman with CHAN-TV, has a long and varied career in a media business and says he is starving for ideas.

He finds the people in Los Angeles much more refreshing than B.C.'s movers and shakers who, he says, have two answers for any new idea: "No" and "Leave it with me."

The latter, Clapp declares, is generally the more devastating because it means the idea left behind is often misappropriated. The picking of brains by bureaucrats in government jobs is "driving Canadian talent out of this country."

He says, from his office on Granville Island, "a lot of my ideas have made other people rich. Now I'm working on me."

With financial support from Hollywood, he is deep into arrangements for a feature film, a travel adventure on the lighter side that he will produce in the south.

Clapp is disenchanted with film production in Canada. Too much government, says he.

"The Canadian Film Development Corporation, the National Film Board, the CBC still are trying to learn the secret that has made Australian film popular. All they have to do is watch one Down Under movie and they'll find the Aussies make more interesting films."

Clapp says the CFDC has its priorities backwards.

"When times are tough, like now, that's the time to spend money making Canadian films. Entertainment is generally a depression-proof industry. Witness Hollywood during the last real depression. People could

always find a dollar to go to the movies. They could always find money to see Ginger Rogers and Fred Astaire sipping champagne.

"Today they go see *Star Trek* or *Raiders of the Lost Ark*. They're still trying to escape reality only now it's unemploy-

ment, coupled with inflation."

Government, says Clapp, shouldn't spend money in good times, when there is plenty of private capital looking for tax write-offs. But now, when film production in Canada is suffering, "where's all the government help?"

Linnell joins CFDC in Toronto

MONTREAL - Although no official confirmation is forthcoming from the Canadian Film Development Corporation, Bob Linnell has been chosen to head up the Toronto office of the CFDC, according to staffers there.

Linnell follows Ian McDougall in the position. Linnell, longtime production manager on the West Coast, has worked on films like *Paperback Hero*, *The Third Walker*, *Slipstream*, *The Newcomers*. Most recently, he was production manager for the Nielson-Ferns/National Film Board co-production *The Wars*.

"I can only applaud... This book should be used in the fight to abolish film censorship in Canada. Indeed, it must be."
John Harkness, NOW

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