

DIRECTORS GUILD OF CANADA

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With the refunding of the CFDC in April we should see an end to the local hiatus in feature film production. A number of projects are reported ready to go and pre-production on several of these should swing into high-gear following the next CFDC Board meeting in March. Information on projects being given the green light should be available within the next few weeks. The CFDC is known to be looking for deals with television sales, and projects that can be released to U.S. TV are particularly attractive since they would enable the Corporation to obtain an earlier return on its investment. To date \$750,000 is back out of 7 million and they're now looking for money up front.

Bellevue Pathe's president, Harold Greenberg, has also announced a multi-million dollar fund for production of private feature films in Canada, and a number of projects are already under consideration. This added source of funding should enable a number of low budget projects to get off the ground without scrounging south of the border for the balance of production financing.

Lester Persky and his partner in Cinemex of Canada, Lewis Allen, have three projects on tap that could get off the ground this year. "La Guerre. Yes Sir!" by Roch Carriere will likely head the list with production starting in late Spring. Al Waxman is hoping to produce "John and the Missus" — a screenplay by Gordon Pinsent who wrote and starred in Canart Film's "Rowdyman" in Newfoundland last summer. Al is also holding an option on a period piece "Them Damn Canadians Hanged Louis Riel" based on James McNamee's novel. John Bassett reportedly has several projects ready to go and production news should be forthcoming in the very near future. Negotiations are underway on numerous projects and we are hopeful that a number will come to fruition this year. Several American productions are being touted for Canada based production and definite word should be available within the next month.

The shape of things to come may be reflected in a deal concluded recently between Twentieth Century Fox and Palomar Pictures International for worldwide release of 7 feature properties, including the completed "The Darwin Adventure", "The Heartbreak Kid" rolling this month in L.A. with Elaine May directing, and "Sleuth" scheduled for production this

Spring in England. With a number of majors now setting an average of a dozen features a year, plans are afoot to fill out the release schedules by acquisitions.

JALNA production wraps in Toronto this week with an additional 13 episodes slated for a tentative May/June start. CBC recently sold 26 episodes with an option for an additional 26 to Thames Television in the U.K. The CBC reported in December that the Corporation was considering getting involved in the film feature business with products being sold to theatres and foreign networks after telecast in Canada. If the idea comes to fruition it will not be before 1973. The deciding factor — export sales — and it was felt sales would depend on the Jalna success.

A National Film Policy for Canada is currently being worked out in Ottawa and the Directors Guild is pressing for a voice in the formation of this Policy which vitally affects our industry. A Position Paper covering all purported aspects of the Policy is being prepared in Working Committees for presentation to the Secretary of State's Office. The Guild is also involved in discussions with the Immigration Department in an attempt to establish regulations on a basis reciprocal with other Countries. The imposition of restrictive policies has never been the Guild's aim; however, other Nationals can move very freely into Canada and we would like a reciprocal privilege.

To minimize the fragmentation in our industry and come together on common issues and difficulties, the Guild is developing Working Committees with other industry associations in an attempt to take the fullest advantage of the shift in National attitudes and the tide running now in our favour. We invite your participation.

Quadrant Films have been successful in setting a feature in Toronto. Entitled "Introducing Suzy", the film stars Mickey Rooney. Producer will be Harold Greenberg, cinematography by Harry Makin, CSC. A Canadian is directing, his name is as yet unreleased. Shooting starts in April, 1972.

*Evelyn McCartney,
Executive Secretary,
Directors Guild of Canada.*

ROWDYMAN on location in Newfoundland. PETER LUXFORD, first Assistant Cameraman; PETER CARTER, Director, and GARY FLANAGAN, First A.D.

