

'No Go' as ACTRA refuses producers' offer

TORONTO — In a strong show of opposition, performers have scuttled a proposed contract between ACTRA and independent television and film producers.

Performer members of the Alliance of Canadian Cinema, Television and Radio Artists (ACTRA) turned down a proposed agreement with independent producers by more than 90 per cent in a vote announced in August. At the same time, writer members approved terms of the agreement that must be ratified by both writers and performers before coming into force.

Spokesmen for ACTRA and the producers said they want to start negotiations again as soon as possible, but questions remain about exactly why the proposal was scuttled.

"In this case there very much is a question about why there was such an overwhelming negative vote," said Garry Neil, ACTRA general secretary. Neil said ACTRA meetings indicate the dissatisfaction goes beyond monetary concerns alone. "It's really difficult to say. It was a kind of generalized concern about the terms of the agreement."

Monetary items in the proposal included a two per cent

general rate increase for the last six months of 1987 and a completely overhauled royalty, prepayment and residual payment package. An ACTRA press release states that some performers feel the monetary aspects of the proposed agreement are completely out of line "given the current economic situation of the production industry."

Sean Mulcahy, chair of ACTRA's performers' guild, said it's a clear statement by ACTRA members that their work in the production industry is "significantly undervalued."

A total of 1,847 performers and 227 writers voted on the proposed agreement with the Canadian Film and Television Association (CFTA), the Association of Canadian Film and Television Producers, and the National Film Board. The percentage of writers in favor of the proposal was not available at press time. The current contract was originally due to end December 31, 1986, but now remains in effect.

Sam Jephcott, executive director of the CFTA, said he is disappointed by performers rejection of the proposal. "We thought we were being reasonably generous in what we were giving."

Independent producers will

return to the bargaining table, but they first will have to examine the specific reasons for the rejection of the proposal, Jephcott said. He said it is also a question of what ACTRA members were asked to vote on. The proposal is roughly 80 pages long, he explained.

The next stage of talks, Jephcott added, is going to be held in a changed economic climate for producers considering developments like the white paper on tax reform, the winding up of free trade talks and the funding problems of CTV and CBC television.

Jephcott said he would like to see negotiations resume quickly, but added it depends on how soon the exact problems with the proposal are outlined by ACTRA. In any case, Jephcott said he foresees very little possibility of approval of a

new contract before 1988. A new proposal must be prepared and submitted to the various groups including ACTRA members and then ratified by all parties, he explained.

ACTRA's rejection of the proposal was led by a vocal campaign by Toronto performers.

Merger off

TORONTO — The potential merger between Canada's two English language film and television producers' associations has been called off.

Association of Canadian Film and Television Producers (ACFTP) board members decided against the proposed merger with the Canadian Film and Television Association (CFTA).

Samuel Jephcott, CFTA

executive-director, expressed surprise that the proposed deal was scuttled.

"I think it's a great shame," Jephcott added. He said he thinks that the membership of the two groups would have been best served by unification. Jephcott said that as far as he can tell the CFTA has not been given any reason for the decision.

ACFTP executive vice-president Peter Mortimer told *Cinema Canada* "There just wasn't agreement about it and it's over for now."

The ACFTP split from the more broadly based CFTA, which also represents labs, post-production companies, videotape and sound studios and other sectors of the industry, about three years ago. Recent talks between the two groups were aimed at merging the associations to create a single voice for Canadian producers.

We're not just a shot in the dark!

Cinematographers Extraordinaire

Directors of Photography
Camera Operators
Focus Pullers
Clapper Loaders
Stills Photographers



The Canadian Association of
Motion Picture and Electronic
Recording Artists, Local 81 CLC

CONTACT LYNN KELLY (416) 462-1022

Cinevillage, 65 Heward Avenue, Suite 106, Toronto, Ontario M4M 2T5

the coffee mill

"A Toronto institution"
Toronto Sun

**Hungarian &
Continental Cuisine
Affordable Prices**

110 Bloor St. W. 99 Yorkville Ave.
928-3126 920-2108

Licensed