

Gouzenko film should cut budget: Blenkarn

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The National Film Board (NFB) workers who produced a film broadcast Jan. 30 concerning longtime Mississauga resident Igor Gouzenko "ought to find other employment," says Don Blenkarn.

Gouzenko, who died in June of 1982 at his Mississauga home, caused a sensation in 1945 when he defected from his job as a clerk at the Soviet embassy in Ottawa. He later provided evidence of a Soviet spy ring in North America when he testified, wearing a bag over his head to hide his identity.

After the NFB film *Grierson and Gouzenko* aired, Blenkarn received a complaint from Gouzenko's wife, who still lives in Mississauga. She felt the film reflected poorly on her husband.

Mrs. Gouzenko, who does not use her real name, felt the film implied that her husband was in part responsible for the difficulties John Grierson, founder of the NFB, had in establishing a film production company in the United States.

Grierson's name was mentioned in the decoded papers Gouzenko took with him from the Soviet embassy.

In a letter to CBC president Pierre Juneau, Blenkarn, the Tory MP for Mississauga South, said the corporation's budget should be cut if it can't produce worthwhile films.

Blenkarn, a longtime CBC critic, wrote, "The presentation of this 'docudrama' only fortifies my belief that it is high time that there be a significant reduction in the budget requirements of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation."

The MP said the film "can only be described as an effort to justify Soviet espionage, anti-Canadian activities and the use of the film industry for propaganda purposes to promote a socialist international."

In reply, CBC president Pierre Juneau said "There is no suggestion in the film that Mr. Gouzenko was responsible for the damage to Grierson's reputation."

Blenkarn has asked that the federal government's communications and culture committee investigate the film. He says he doesn't believe his request is a "censorship issue at all."