

ALLIANCE OF MOTION PICTURE & TELEVISION PRODUCERS

14144 VENTURA BOULEVARD
SHERMAN OAKS, CALIFORNIA 91423
(818) 995-3600
FAX (818) 789-7431

J NICHOLAS COUNTER III
PRESIDENT

February 24, 1993

VIA FAX

National Film Preservation Study Panel
c/o Steve Leggett
Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

FEB 24 1993

MOTION PICTURE, BROADCASTING
AND RECORDED SOUND DIVISION

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Thank you for giving the Alliance of Motion Picture & Television Producers ("the AMPTP") the opportunity to address the Study Panel established for the purpose of advising Congress of the status of film preservation efforts in the United States.

The AMPTP is a trade association representing the major studios in, among other things, matters related to the production and distribution of motion pictures. The AMPTP submits this statement on behalf of Columbia Pictures Industries, Inc., Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Inc., Paramount Pictures, TriStar Pictures, Inc., Turner Entertainment Co., Twentieth Century Fox, Universal City Studios, Inc., Walt Disney Pictures & Television and Warner Bros. ("the Companies") as a pledge of support for the development of a national film preservation plan.

As the Panel undoubtedly knows, the Companies on whose behalf this statement is submitted own and distribute a significant percentage of the films that comprise the American heritage and depict the American scene as it has changed over time. Furthermore, each of these Companies has already undertaken extensive preservation efforts with respect to its own library. Over the years, the studios have been joined in these preservation efforts by many public archives, which have not only encouraged preservation, but have also shared expertise that has resulted in successful preservation efforts. Because they have thus been in the forefront of preservation efforts, we believe that the participation of these Companies in the development of a national film preservation plan is essential.

We recognize that our endorsement of the concept of a national film preservation plan requires that we take an active part in its development. For that reason, we are prepared to make a commitment to cooperate with the Library of Congress in the formulation of a national plan.

8

One of the goals of that plan will be to ascertain those films that have been preserved and to identify those that are in need of preservation. In order to accomplish that goal,

we believe that it will be necessary to create a "glossary" of terms for uniform use among filmmakers, rightsholders, archivists, the Library of Congress and other interested persons. The Companies are prepared to offer their participation and assistance, in conjunction with the Library of Congress, in the development of that glossary. We believe that it will not only facilitate communication among interested parties and expedite the Library's ability to report to Congress on the status of film preservation, but will also enhance the ability to identify those films which are in need of preservation, clarify the focus of future preservation efforts, and enable the Library of Congress to assemble a data bank for this information.

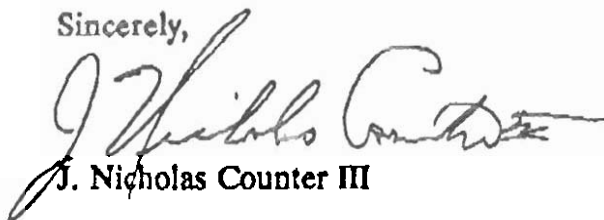
Several of the Companies learned, upon initiating their own preservation programs in years past, that it was essential to develop a comprehensive nomenclature in order to carry out an internal preservation program. Their experience in this area will, we believe, be of significant benefit to the Library and the nomenclature they developed may even serve as the model from which the uniform glossary will be created.

We would therefore propose, as a key first step in the formulation of a national preservation plan, that a committee comprised of rightsholders be utilized to develop a lexicon for universal use. This committee can also work with the Library in cataloguing those films in need of preservation. We will gladly provide the names of representatives to serve on this committee at the appropriate time.

Furthermore, because we recognize the importance of the ultimate goal of preserving films which have national historical or cultural significance, we will support the efforts of the Library of Congress to obtain prints of films chosen for inclusion in the National Film Registry. Over the past several years, the National Film Preservation Board has been charged with the responsibility of naming up to 25 films per year which are of importance from a cultural or historic perspective. Many of these films are in the libraries of the Companies on whose behalf this statement is written. The commitment to supply prints of these films to the Library of Congress will ensure that the National Film Registry becomes a repository for films to be enjoyed for generations to come, not merely a "gold seal of approval."

Our Companies are prepared to provide input to assist the Library in attaining these goals.

Sincerely,



J. Nicholas Counter III

JNC:sjk

9

S4/LEOGETT2.24

cc: Matt Gerson