

Cm. 2/4/2/5

QUESTION FOR ORAL ANSWER DUE THURSDAY 26 JUNE

17. Mr TERRIS (Western Hutt) to the Minister of Internal Affairs: Why did the Film Censor approve showing "The Life of Brian" to persons over the age of 16?

ANSWER

The Chief Film Censor makes his decisions taking into account all of the matters required of him by section 26 of the Cinematograph Films Act 1976 and there is provision under section 27 for the Chief Film Censor to consult other persons. The Chief Film Censor is, in the taking of his decision, independent of his Minister.

The Chief Film Censor has advised me that he considered the matters he is required to consider under the legislation and that, in his opinion, the film, content and style of presentation of the film "The Life of Brian" warranted classification of R16. The Chief Film Censor has told me that, by way of comparison, the film has been rated R14 in the United Kingdom, R17 in the United States and GA in Australia. While the lack of comparability in the legislation makes direct comparison a little risky, it is clear to me that the New Zealand Censor's decision closely parallels the decision in other jurisdictions.