

Supply—National Film Board

of its own to produce films for its own television. I am wondering if there is not a duplication there, or where the line of demarcation comes between the responsibilities of the national film board for films to be televised and the responsibility of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation for the same service for the same use.

Perhaps the minister can enlighten us on that. In so doing would he mind telling us whether any of the films for television purposes are on the commercial market for independent television stations throughout Canada? In other words, would the national film board produce films to be televised by independent television stations?

While I am on my feet, I should like to ask another question of a different nature, and then I shall not have to get up twice. The minister has given us some figures respecting some revenues which have accrued to the national film board by way of rentals and probably sales of films. I should like to know in a little more detail the relationship which exists between regular theatres throughout Canada and the national film board. The national film board productions are used by the local theatres throughout Canada. Are they sold outright to the theatres or are they rented to them? What system is used? Would the minister say, if it is possible to give the figures, what commercial revenues accrue to the national film board for production of films that are used throughout Canada in local theatres?

Mr. Pickersgill: If I might answer the last question of the hon. member for Macleod first, I did just give that figure. I admit that I gave the figures in a fashion that was not easy to follow, but I think they will be quite clear on *Hansard*. Coming to this rather more difficult question of the distinction between the film activities of the C.B.C. for television and those of the national film board, the C.B.C. does have a news film service. It also has certain productions shown by the C.B.C., which are put on film because it is easier to televise them that way. I really should not go into this part of it because I do not know much about the C.B.C. I do not happen to own a television set, so I am not really a good critic. What the film board does is to provide the films that are requested by the C.B.C. In other words, we are simply a supplier just as someone else might be. This is arranged by discussion between them. Documentary films or films of that sort, for which parliament has entrusted the responsibility to the film board, are used by the C.B.C., but of course the C.B.C. can reject anything it wants to. Nothing is imposed.

[Mr. Hansell.]

As to the extent of the use of these films by independent stations, I do not think the question has arisen. As the hon. gentleman knows, under the present policy there is no duplication of stations and the C.B.C. network programs are shown by most of the independent stations. I do not think any independent station has approached us. I am told I am not up to date on that, that some of the local stations throughout the country are booking with our local distribution offices in addition to what is provided by the C.B.C. network, and I presume they pay for them. I hope they do.

Mr. Hansell: To amplify the question respecting commercial revenues from local theatres a little, what I had in mind was whether those revenues are sufficient to give a profit to the national film board, or can we say that in a roundabout way we are in reality subsidizing the production of these films for use in local theatres throughout Canada? If we are, it would occur to me we are subsidizing to some extent the motion picture industry.

Mr. Pickersgill: I think the hon. member has put a proposition which is a logical fallacy. We certainly are not making a profit out of the films that are shown in these theatres. We have made arrangements with the exhibitors to get as much as we can manage to get them to pay, and they presumably will not pay more than they think the films are worth as an attraction. To be quite blunt about it, I have some doubt whether they are a great box office attraction. The reason we are anxious to have them shown, and perhaps the prime reason why the film board exists, is that we feel that there ought to be some Canadian element in these cinemas and that, even if we do not make a profit out of it, because of the effect of the constant viewing of these things on the mind and personality of Canadians it is desirable that a small fraction at any rate of what Canadians see in the cinemas should be Canadian.

Mr. Hansell: I agree with that.

Mr. Nicholson: The minister did not answer the question of the hon. member for Yorkton regarding the amount paid Crawley Films for their productions. Has the minister the information available as to the amount paid Crawley Films over a number of years?

Mr. Pickersgill: I wonder whether the hon. gentleman would mind if I took note of the question and answered it later. It is sometimes rather difficult to do this arithmetic without delaying matters. I will undertake to do it.