

*Supply—Citizenship and Immigration*

\$360,000. I know the minister made some remarks about this matter some time ago, I believe at the end of last March. He said that these paintings were purchased for the purpose of illustrating certain periods of certain European schools of art. That may be all very well and good. But, as I pointed out, these pictures were painted by relatively obscure artists. There were five of them, and they cost a total of \$360,000. That works out to about \$72,000 apiece.

In this regard I refer to a news item in the *Toronto Globe and Mail* of Wednesday, May 19 last, which refers to the Toronto art gallery being robbed of a very famous painting. As a matter of fact, it was a world-famous painting called "Elevation of the Cross" by Peter Paul Rubens, who was certainly not an obscure artist. This painting was one of the more famous paintings in the world and it was valued at \$30,000. I do not understand how these paintings by relatively obscure artists would be valued at \$72,000 apiece. It is something that does not seem reasonable to me. Possibly the minister, when making his remarks, would care to give us a little bit of further information in this regard. I should be interested to know how these paintings were purchased. Was it by a private deal? Was it by public auction? Who did the purchasing and were any commissions paid? I think these matters are of considerable interest.

The last item I should like to mention or to which I should like to make a brief reference is the national film board. I think the work of this board has been very good in the past. Some of the movies, particularly the one "Stratford Adventure", as I believe it was called, is a particularly fine movie and I imagine that not only will it be a fine movie from a cultural point of view but probably it will be a money-maker, as I understand it is likely to be.

I should like to mention a play that has been written by Judge Eric Cross in our county and called "The Patriots".

He was formerly minister of municipal affairs for the province of Ontario, attorney general and also minister of education. He has had wide cultural experience and has done quite a bit of work in this field. This play, "The Patriots", is about Canada in the period from 1837 to 1848. It deals with the rebellion in Upper and Lower Canada. Robert Baldwin is the central figure and hero of the play. It deals with such famous people as Bishop Strachan, Samuel Lount, William Lyon Mackenzie, Louis Lafontaine and others. I have seen the play and have had some experience in one way and another

in the theatre. I have seen many plays on Broadway not as good as this one written by Judge Eric Cross.

It has already been presented by Queen's University. It is being presented by the London Little Theatre next year, which is the largest little theatre in Canada. It was presented for five days this year by the Woodstock Little Theatre to capacity houses, and I understand that the province of Ontario is considering this play as possible reading for the Ontario schools.

It has been suggested that the play might very well be made into a movie by the national film board. I know there are many technical difficulties but I think the matter should be considered. It is a fine play from a theatrical and historical point of view. I know that Judge Cross spent many months in very careful research. Here we have a fine play, historically accurate, which would be of great educational benefit to the children in our schools. They could see our history in action, and I would strongly urge the minister to refer this matter to the national film board for consideration.

**Mr. Knight:** Mr. Chairman, among this storm of criticism I should like to inject a pleasanter note, if my hon. friends to my right will forgive me.

**Mr. Fulton:** You will spoil the whole atmosphere.

**Mr. Knight:** I do not think anyone can accuse me particularly of not performing my function of being a critic of the government at times and, indeed, of most of its work. However, I do want to say something which is a rather personal matter because it applies to the minister himself. I am not going to echo the words which would be spoken by the hon. member for Fort William if he were here because he would utter a sort of blanket benediction upon the cabinet minister as such. But I do want to pay him a tribute as a minister and as a man and to thank him personally for the courtesy, care and consideration which he has displayed with respect to any matter having to do with the admission of immigrants or other matters which I have had occasion to take up with him since he took over this portfolio. I do that without reservation but I do reserve of course my right to criticize when I feel it is justified. When I indicated to my hon. friend here that I was going to interject these remarks into this debate he said that probably the minister would consider that I had been softened up so far as criticism was concerned by the kindly acts. However, that was just in the spirit of fun. I simply want to reiterate what I had intended to say and what I did say when I rose from my seat.