

*Supply—National Film Board*

as would be furnished by the Minister of Public Works, but when is it anticipated that the new headquarters will be occupied and what changes, if any, have been found to be necessary as construction progresses?

**Mr. Pickersgill:** I am informed that one unit of the building will probably be ready some time in October or early November. I believe this is the unit in which the technical laboratory will be located and it is hoped to move some of the staff just as soon as the building can be occupied. It is felt that some more space will be available for occupancy in January and that the main occupancy will not be until April of next year.

**Mr. Fulton:** Apparently the cost of the actual operation of the film board this year is to be dollar for dollar what it was last year, and I do not think that should be allowed to pass without comment. Apparently the minister has been able to avoid an increase. Would he care to comment on that? Has he not been faced with any increase in costs, or has it been necessary to curtail the activities in order to keep expenditures in line?

**Mr. Pickersgill:** It would depend upon the interpretation which one places on the word "curtail". The population of this country is growing and in one way and another I have tried to advertise the desirability of its further growth. With an increase in population to provide the same services per capita you obviously must have some expansion in the government services every year. It was felt that perhaps we could cut corners here and make economies there, and I must say that some of those economies were found to be a little painful by the people in charge of the national film board. But they are making an honest and courageous effort to do everything they can, without impairing the real service, to keep costs down to the figures of last year.

**Mr. Fulton:** I think they are to be commended for doing so.

**Mr. Casleden:** Is the new building being air conditioned?

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Mr. Chairman, I really think I must insist on my point of order.

**Mr. Casleden:** I merely asked a question.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** I do not know; I have never inquired.

**Mr. Winters:** In some parts the temperature and humidity will be carefully controlled.

**Mr. Casleden:** The minister said he was rather doubtful as to the advantages of air conditioning and I just wanted to let him

[Mr. Fulton.]

know that as the result of the weather of the last few weeks we are very much in favour of it. Is the 1954-55 annual report ready for distribution?

**Mr. Pickersgill:** It is not available yet. I think that would be moving even faster than the minister is accustomed to move.

**Mr. Castleden:** Then I shall have to use the report for the year ended March 31, 1954, although it is now July, 1955. I would say that generally we commend the national film board for the work they have done. This work being largely educational, we feel it is a matter of government concern. The Minister of Citizenship and Immigration will appreciate the value of having the Canadian people educated, and visual education is one field the value of which cannot be overestimated in providing information to Canadians, particularly adult Canadians. I think the minister is to be commended upon this report which shows that the distribution for the previous year included some 195 showings with some 13 million people in attendance. The showings abroad must have been of value in advertising Canada and I doubt very much if this would have been done under a private enterprise system.

I have had some contact with film councils and film groups in my own and other provinces and I can only offer commendation for the co-operation we have received from the department. There has been complete co-operation with the provincial department of education, certainly in Saskatchewan. The work of this branch is to be highly commended. There are those who are somewhat opposed to the government carrying on this type of work but it might be noted that the film board has made use of private film companies for the production of some 20 films which were completed the previous year by such firms. Could we have the names of those firms, with the information being brought up to the end of the year 1954-55?

**Mr. Pickersgill:** In connection with complete films, there were Graphic Associates Limited, Lew Parry, Peterson Productions; and for partial production and processing, Associated Screen News, Cinema Pictures Limited, Communications of Canada Limited, Crawley Films, Graphic Associates Limited, Peterson Productions, Rapid Grip and Batten, Shelly Films Limited, Wild Life Productions. Those are Canadian companies. Then there was some partial processing done in the United States but I do not imagine the hon. member would want that.

**Mr. Castleden:** I wanted the number of completed films which had been made by private firms during the past year.