

Supply—Citizenship and Immigration

urge, if it is possible, that their information be got out more promptly. The last report which is available to us from the film board is for 1953-54, covering operations which ended on March 31, 1954. At no place in the report is there a specific indication of the date of publication, but we do know from the back that it did not leave the queen's printer until 1955, which is nine months after the end of the period, which makes it very difficult for us to approve expenditures here extending into 1956, when the last information we have is in respect of 1953 and early 1954.

If the film board could be impressed with the necessity of supplying us with more up-to-date information in more understandable form in so far as their finances are concerned, it would be an improvement.

I thank the minister for digging out the information and bringing it back to the committee at this time.

Item agreed to.

DEPARTMENT OF CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION
Citizenship—

642. Citizenship registration branch—further amount required, \$167,435.

Mr. Fulton: Will the minister give the committee an explanation of the necessity for this further amount? In connection with what part of the branch does it arise?

Mr. Pickersgill: Well, sir, this item for the citizenship registration branch is exclusively for the new federal citizenship courts established in Toronto and Montreal. I gave an answer to the hon. member for Mount Royal (Mr. Macnaughton) which will appear in *Hansard* of today, which will indicate the really remarkable results we have achieved in two months in the court in Montreal. The only thing I can say about the court in Toronto is that it was started a month earlier. There were a considerably larger number of cases to be dealt with in Toronto, and I believe they are now on a current basis. I do not want to boast about it, but I do not think anything the federal government has done in recent weeks is more gratifying than the establishment of these two courts. One of the most gratifying features, sir, is that we are pretty sure, with the possible exception of overhead, by which I mean the rent of the buildings, they are going to pay for themselves. They may turn in a modest paper profit. But what is really important is that when a person has been here five years, and is otherwise qualified for citizenship, his case is now dealt with promptly in both Toronto and Montreal instead of having time lags of as much as two years. I do not blame the

provincial governments and I do not blame the local authorities in the courts, but the delays were inexcusable from the point of view of the public. That situation does not exist any longer.

Mr. Fulton: Mr. Chairman, I am sure the committee, and in particular the members from the two cities concerned, will share the pleasure of the minister that the result has been as he has outlined it and the arrears are caught up. Does the experience there indicate that the expenditure involved would justify the establishment of similar courts in other places in Canada? Are there any places in Canada where we have the same sort of problem?

Mr. Pickersgill: No other place has been drawn to my attention, sir. I specifically inquired about Winnipeg, Hamilton and Vancouver, which are the three places where one would be the most apt to experience a similar situation. Whether the local courts in these places are more efficient than they were in Montreal or Toronto, or what the reason is, I am told that in all these places the cases are dealt with very expeditiously and very satisfactorily indeed. The federal government does not want to go into this activity if it is not necessary, because certainly in the smaller places the \$10 fee would not begin to pay for the cost if one had to set up a whole separate apparatus. We do not want that. On the other hand, in Toronto and Montreal it is no doubt the most efficient way to deal with the situation.

Item agreed to.

Indian affairs branch—

Welfare of Indians—

643. Operation and maintenance—further amount required, \$350,000.

Mr. Castleden: Will the minister give us a breakdown of this \$350,000 extra item that he wants apparently for materials and supplies?

Mr. Pickersgill: This item, sir, is simply to pay for the additional materials and supplies to assist Indian farmers and those Indians normally employed as farm labourers on non-Indian farms who were affected by the economic situation last winter. The fact that employment was scarcer last winter bore more heavily on the Indians than on most other people because probably there are a larger number of people among the Indians who are marginally employed. When there is full employment they get some employment, but when there is less than full employment they find themselves with less to do. In many cases on the prairies they suffered as