

Supply—National Film Board

matter to the readers, to the libraries and to the citizens of this country. I am all in favour of the establishment of a Canadian publishing industry, if possible, but I think it should stand on its own feet. I am well aware that certain, shall we say, United States publishing companies open branch offices in Toronto. If you want to buy a book from them, or if you want to buy it from a Canadian source, you pay about 10 per cent extra for that particular privilege. In other words, many of us have discovered that by sending directly to the mother publishing firm, if I may use that expression, in the country of origin, we can get the books in here, pay the postage on them—and fortunately there is no duty now on some of these books—and discover that we are ahead.

Many of these publishing firms seem to think they are an infant industry, like some of the other industries I could talk about, and they need protection. Their protection in this case is produced by the extra price they take out of the pockets of the Canadian consumers, and when I use "consumers" I am thinking of the readers or the libraries, as the case may be. It is just a question to what extent our libraries, universities or individuals are justified in buying books from the Canadian source if the expense is greater in that direction. I know this cannot be taken as a direct question to the minister. I have not addressed it in that way. I was just bringing it to his attention because this is a matter on which I have heard a good deal of discussion among certain people whom I know.

Mr. Pickersgill: Perhaps I may just say a word in reply to the hon. gentleman. This government did take off the sales tax on books, I think it was last year. I thought that was a very wise and forward-looking move, and it was hoped—

Mr. Knight: I recommended it.

Mr. Pickersgill: So did I. It was hoped that the benefit of this reduction would be passed on to the consumers and that in turn, with a lower price for books, there might be more books bought and that publishing in Canada might become a little more profitable. But there is a sort of vicious circle in all this business, which the hon. member himself has indicated. Perhaps I should not say "vicious" circle, except in the technical sense of the term. The fact that there is perhaps not the demand for books in this country that we would like makes it more difficult.

Mr. Knight: If I might interrupt, perhaps the high price might be one of the reasons.

Mr. Pickersgill: It is one of the reasons. We thought that by reducing the tax and thereby reducing prices somewhat over 10 per cent it might help.

Mr. Fulton: Has policy yet been determined with respect to the inclusion of books in the national library to be purchased out of this book-purchasing account? What I have in mind is this. Is it the intention of the national library to contain the most complete selection possible of all books of literary, scientific or historical interest, whether or not they are available elsewhere in Canada; or is it the policy that the expenditures from this fund will be made for the acquisition of books only which are not available elsewhere in Canada?

Mr. Pickersgill: I think one could not really draw any hard and fast line. It is intended to try to make it as complete a collection as is possible of all books published in Canada, except for certain types of books that the hon. member for Saskatoon described, and certain other types of books that the hon. member for Kamloops is familiar with, most of which I believe are not published in Canada. It is intended to secure all serious books published in Canada or about Canada. We feel we ought to have all of these in the national library, if they are available, even the rare ones published many years ago, centuries ago, in fact.

Mr. Fulton: For that purpose the parliamentary library will form part of the national library.

Mr. Pickersgill: Quite.

Mr. Fulton: There will be no overlapping?

Mr. Pickersgill: There will not be overlapping in the proper sense of the term. There are obviously books which will be required for constant use in the parliamentary library which will have to be duplicated in the national library, but there will not be any duplication of books which can be easily transported between the two. Arrangements are already under consideration to provide for the greatest possible facility in transporting books between the parliamentary library and the new national library building when it is erected. That is one factor that my colleague the Minister of Public Works is taking into account in making arrangements for the new building.

Item agreed to.

NATIONAL FILM BOARD

242. Administration, production and distribution of films and other visual materials, \$3,193,730.

Mr. Fulton: Could the minister give us a progress report on the building in Montreal. I am not asking for a technical report such