

Supply—National Film Board

Again, that is not my responsibility, but rather that of the minister who is erecting the building. But of course we do want it to be satisfactory.

Mr. Hamilton (Notre Dame de Grace): Would the minister tell us whether the national film board expects its relationship with the C.B.C. to continue for at least several years into the future so far as the present volume of supply of news films and releases for use on C.B.C. television is concerned?

Mr. Pickersgill: We do not do news films at all.

Mr. Hamilton (Notre Dame de Grace): Do I understand you do not do any processing whatsoever of that type for the C.B.C.?

Mr. Pickersgill: No, except once in a while as a convenience.

Mr. Hamilton (Notre Dame de Grace): In other words, you do some. Could the minister give us some information about Canadian films shipped to the United States for processing? How much of that is being done, and why?

Mr. Pickersgill: I understand that what is done in the United States is colour processing, and it is done there only when the facilities existing in Canada are taxed to capacity.

Mr. Hamilton (Notre Dame de Grace): It is now one o'clock. Perhaps the minister would use the hour and a half to find satisfactory answers to my questions with regard to financing. He said he would look into the matter.

Mr. Pickersgill: Perhaps the hon. member misunderstood me. What I was asking for was to have the week end to consider the question. I, too, am human, and I would like to spend part of the next hour and a half eating a meal. I assure the hon. member that I will have to take a little more time to look into the public accounts, if I am to answer properly. Of course the hon. member recognizes that the question he asked relates to the public accounts for 1953-54. I have been somewhat more concerned with trying to find out what is going on now than with making comparisons between the public accounts and film board reports before I became minister. I confess frankly that I had not done it at all. However, I would like to be sure what I am saying is correct before I attempt to give an answer.

At one o'clock the committee took recess.

[Mr. Pickersgill.]

The committee resumed at 2.30 p.m.

The Deputy Chairman: National film board, item 242. Shall the item carry?

Mr. Hamilton (Notre Dame de Grace): Mr. Chairman—

Mr. Pickersgill: If the hon. gentleman has one or two other questions perhaps he could put them now and I shall try to deal with them all together.

Mr. Hamilton (Notre Dame de Grace): I think my questions at one o'clock had pretty well summed up the position on the national film board. If we could have the answers to those questions it would be helpful.

Mr. Pickersgill: The discrepancy appears to be accounted for in this way. The figures as shown by the treasury in the public accounts are upon a cash disbursement and receipt basis, while the film board accounts are on an accrual basis. Further, the public accounts figures do not include capital equipment items which are charged directly to the equipment appropriation. The national film board figures include those items. Then, I am told that the national film board expenditures in operating account were \$3,859,693, less equipment, \$113,878, leaving a balance of \$3,745,815; whereas the public accounts figures are \$3,743,242, which is something over \$2,000 difference. The difference is owing to the somewhat different method of keeping the figures, which is pretty much what the hon. gentleman himself suggested.

I admit, however, that I was somewhat disconcerted by the point raised by the hon. gentleman, and I am not sure whether it would not be wiser to try to have these accounts kept on the same basis.

Mr. Hamilton (Notre Dame de Grace): Essentially that was the point I was making, Mr. Chairman. I leave it in the hands of the minister. When consideration is being given to that I would hope that consideration would be given to a more adequate breakdown of the information being made available. I pointed out earlier this morning that the only detailed breakdown in which we can see how much is being spent for salaries and how much is being spent on various classifications has no relationship to the various departmental items under which we are asked to appropriate money here for the film board. Perhaps next year the information can be brought to us in a more easily understandable form, and in a form more in line with normal accounting practice. It would be helpful.

My last observation in connection with the national film board, Mr. Chairman, is to