

Supply—National Library

man, but are not those decisions arrived at by negotiation? Is not the Minister of Public Works prepared to accept a recommendation from a colleague who has a very competent staff that is responsible for the operation of the national library?

Mr. Winters: Why do you not ask me?

Mr. Nicholson: I am asking the minister if there is not some consultation. The Minister of Citizenship and Immigration should indicate whether he has any say, or whether his opinion carries any weight in connection with the building of the new library.

Mr. Winters: I can answer that. The answer is yes.

Mr. Nicholson: Apparently the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration cannot answer it.

Mr. Winters: Because it is my responsibility.

Mr. Pickersgill: Frequently I have been accused of having far too much influence. This is the first time I have ever been accused of having none.

Item agreed to.

345. Payment to the national library purchase account for the purpose of acquiring books, in conformity with section 12 of the National Library Act, \$40,000.

Mr. Fulton: I should like to ask one or two questions on this book-purchasing item. In section 1 the act provides for this book-purchasing account. There was to be \$40,000 paid into the account last year, 1954-55, and a further \$40,000 paid in this year. Has the same amount been paid in every year since the passage of the act?

Mr. Pickersgill: There have been just the two. The act came into force on January 1, 1953, and there were no appropriations except for the bibliographical centre. When the estimates for 1953-54 were prepared this amount was included, if I remember correctly. I am advised that 1954-55 was the first time the item was included. This is the second. Until there is adequate housing for the books, it is not intended, of course, to expend money except when the national librarian believes it can be done advantageously to get books that might not be available later, or might be more expensive. Where the price is not going to change, I do not think there is much point in getting and storing books where they are not very useful.

Mr. Fulton: I take it this fund is being used only for the purchase of books of historical or other interesting value. It is not for the purchase of books currently published

[Mr. Nicholson.]

because I understand they are filed automatically, or placed in the library automatically.

Mr. Pickersgill: That is, those that are published in Canada.

Mr. Fulton: This would cover the purchase of books published outside Canada as well as the purchase in Canada or elsewhere of books of historic or literary or other value and interest.

Mr. Pickersgill: That is correct.

Mr. Fulton: One other question. I notice in the report for this year under the heading, "books purchased from time to time", it is pointed out that the purchases are still on a small scale; but the national librarian goes on to report that the most interesting purchases made during the past year were from newspaper files on microfilm. I have no objection to the purchase of newspaper files on microfilm or in any other form which are of historic or literary interest, but I am just wondering whether that is the proper use of the funds of the book-purchasing account, because, as I read the act, it states the purpose of the account is to acquire books for the national library.

Mr. Pickersgill: Would the hon. member look at section 2(b)?

Mr. Fulton: Has there been an amendment?

Mr. Pickersgill: No; section 2(b), the definition section.

Mr. Fulton: I see.

Mr. Pickersgill: I think that is the answer.

Mr. Fulton: The definition of the word "book" includes newspaper film. That satisfies the point. What is the amount now in the fund, or what will be the amount after this \$40,000 is authorized?

Mr. Pickersgill: I am told that when this \$40,000 is deposited it will be roughly about \$65,000. In other words, the balance at present is about \$25,000.

Mr. Fulton: The sum of \$15,000 has been expended to date?

Mr. Pickersgill: Yes.

Mr. Knight: My hon. friend brought up the matter of the purchase of books. Needless to say, these books will be purchased all over the world. I was wondering about the use of Canadian publishing houses in this regard? No doubt, some of them can be purchased from Canadian publishing houses at a greater price than they can be obtained, say, from Britain directly or from the United States. This raises another very important