

Supply—National Film Board

given information only regarding the amount which parliament is asked to provide. We have to go beyond the estimates to get the information.

Now, looking at the financial picture generally, one observes that the film board report of March 31, 1954, shows an excess of income over expenditures and the transferred balance was \$149,343. I think we might make a preliminary reference to the C.B.C., and transfer to this organization all the criticisms which have been made of the C.B.C. practice of showing a surplus which is very largely based on funds voted by parliament. I would make my case on that basis, because it is a parallel situation.

The film board essentially shows an excess of income over expenditures; but it can arrive at that only because of the very healthy vote of \$3 million made to them by parliament.

There are two or three other questions, of which the most interesting I believe is this: Would the minister tell us about the censorship of national film board films by the censorship bureau of the province of Quebec? I am asking the question now so that, if the minister wishes, he can obtain information during the lunch hour. The question is as to how much censorship is done. Perhaps he might tell us first of all whether any is done, and if so, what the film board pays for the service.

Mr. Pickersgill: I think I can answer that question summarily because I happen to know quite a bit about it. The government of Quebec did not in fact censor film board films until quite recently. They advised us that they felt that film board films ought to be subject to the same censorship as other films. Actually there were one or two other provinces, notably Alberta, where our films were subject to censorship. In most provinces it is assumed—at least I take it that it is assumed, realizing of course that I should not speak for provincial governments—that films made by the film board do not need to be censored.

I exchanged correspondence with the premier of Quebec, as a result of which we reached a *modus operandi* saving our constitutional position on both sides. We said that as a matter of practice we would submit to the censorship, and the premier agreed that we would have one print of each film censored. If we would undertake to have one print censored we could exhibit as many as we liked. We pay the cost of having one done. So, from the standpoint of the treasury it was a very satisfactory arrangement. It also meant that from their standpoint they were not going to have their office cluttered up with a very considerable number of prints

of films exhibited in that province. I think we pay \$2.50 for every ten-minute reel, and others correspondingly.

Mr. Hamilton (Noire Dame de Grace): I should like to have confirmation of one statement the minister has made. According to the minister the payment made by the federal government to the province in connection with censorship is in respect of one print only.

Mr. Pickersgill: That is right.

Mr. Hamilton (Noire Dame de Grace): Presumably, therefore, irrespective of how many other prints go into the province, no payment in respect of censorship is made.

Mr. Pickersgill: That is right.

Mr. Hamilton (Noire Dame de Grace): And the minister confirms that?

Mr. Pickersgill: Yes.

Mr. Hamilton (Noire Dame de Grace): Could the minister give some information on a somewhat technical problem connected with their building in Montreal, but which affects directly the film board. Has he had any assurance recently that extraneous noises, particularly from the airport next door, will not prove a source of inconvenience in making films in the new location; or has there been done any investigatory work which indicates that there may yet be a problem?

Mr. Pickersgill: I visited the building when the snow was on the ground—and at this time I admit that does not sound very recent. At that time, however, I had the good fortune to be there in the company of the architect. I shall not attempt to reproduce what he said, but he did explain to me the precautions being taken to make sure that extraneous noises were excluded. I had heard these stories about the proximity of Dorval, but he said it would not matter where the building was. You could have it in Ungava, if it were feasible to build it there.

Mr. Hamilton (Noire Dame de Grace): Even Twillingsgate?

Mr. Pickersgill: The hon. member must take a lesson in pronunciation. There is no "s" in "Twillingsgate".

I am told that any noise would interfere with really satisfactory work of this kind. However, I was assured they were convinced that what they were doing was satisfactory. And of course they are following patterns established elsewhere, and what they are doing is not unique. It was expected that it would be quite satisfactory.