

Mrs. STRUM: I want to add my voice to those of the hon. members who have spoken for the last time on this important matter. We have heard from all sides of the house about the importance of establishing markets for Canadian goods in other parts of the world. I submit that here is a market which we do not have to seek. A few million dollars paid out in the form of old age pensions would immediately create that much demand for Canadian goods. It would be good economics as well as humanitarian. I think this government owes it to the old people of Canada to see that at the beginning of next session this matter is dealt with realistically.

I hope to heaven we shall not have to wait until we sign up every province individually in a separate agreement before anything is done about this group which is now living below subsistence levels. I wish all the ministers would take \$25 and try to live on it for one month. They would find out how often they would eat. I suggest that until they have done that, they cannot begin to understand what it is like to be old, most likely sick and with the weather of the next few months, cold, because these people will not have sufficient to obtain heated quarters. Many of them will be hungry because their money will not spread over the thirty days. We have raised our own salaries, we shall be comfortable, but I hope our consciences will not be dead, even though we have failed to deal with this matter at this session.

Item agreed to.

General—National film board, including the motion picture bureau—
246. Production and distribution of films and other visual materials, \$860,000.

Mr. KNIGHT: I should like the minister to explain this decrease of \$39,500 and state if it is not due to a cut in trade union and industrial showings and in the production of films.

Mr. McCANN: The answer is that the films formerly produced under this vote were designed to supplement departmental films intended to stimulate industrial production and contribute to the maintenance of morale in war industry. It is expected that films to be produced under other votes and for other government departments will provide for the necessary programmes during the fiscal year 1946-47. There was an increased expenditure to meet the needs of war industry and now that the war is over the needs in peace-time industry can be met by a lesser expenditure.

Mr. KNIGHT: The Saskatchewan allotment is cut by twenty per cent. Last year I understand that the national film board had twelve men in the field in Saskatchewan and this year

[Mr. Blackmore.]

I understand there will only be three. Perhaps the minister would say whether my information is correct. While there is a distinct economy in reducing the number of field men from twelve to three, I think the expenditure for the province is still needed for the production of films, and I should like to see the appropriation for Saskatchewan as great as last year's. That is not merely based on wishing. The appropriation was formerly \$75,000 and it is now \$55,000. I would base my request for a grant equal to last year's upon the coverage given in Saskatchewan. I think the money saved by reducing the field men from twelve to three, if that is to be done, should be spent in the province, which I understand is providing out of its own funds this year for a large scheme of audio-visual education through the showing of films. Let the money saved on the salaries be spent on the production of more films to help out that programme. It would mean that more people would see more Canadian films; it would be the means of getting more information to the people of Saskatchewan. I understand that Saskatchewan is giving greater coverage than any other province. They will need part of the appropriation for school films. The national film board releases will receive greater coverage in Saskatchewan. My information is that in Saskatchewan they exceed the combined showings in all the other provinces. If that is true, they will need a good deal of money for the production of films to carry out that ambitious and, I think, worth-while programme.

Mr. McCANN: I am advised that the number of men in Saskatchewan will be substantially the same as last year. Although the amount here is somewhat less than the corresponding item last year, it will be increased by an item in the supplementaries with which we shall be dealing shortly.

Mr. KNIGHT: I am given to understand that, while there will be more men in the field this year in Saskatchewan, they will be provided by the Saskatchewan government through its department of adult education and audio-visual education, but I understand that the field men of the national film board in Saskatchewan will be reduced from twelve to three. If that is true, my point is that the salaries which would have been paid if the number of field men had remained the same be spent in the production of films to enable the province to carry out its programme.

Mr. McCANN: I am informed that my hon. friend's information is not correct and that the number of men in the field will be