

CANADA

House of Commons Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT

Monday, April 12, 1943

The house met at three o'clock.

"DESERT VICTORY"

SCREENING OF FILM OF EIGHTH ARMY
OPERATIONS IN NORTH AFRICA

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I should like to invite Your Honour and all hon. members of the House of Commons to a special screening of the film entitled "Desert Victory", at 10.30 o'clock on Wednesday morning. The screening will take place at the Capitol theatre, the management of the theatre having very kindly made it available for that purpose.

As hon. members are aware, the film "Desert Victory" relates to the advance of the eighth army to Tripoli. It was made under actual battle conditions by camera men of the army and air forces. Some weeks ago I received from Mr. Churchill a message in which he said that he had just seen this vivid film, and would like me to see it, and that he was sending me a personal copy by air. Through some delay in transmission the copy did not arrive until last week. I have seen it and have been very deeply impressed by it. I feel that it would be a matter of unusual interest to hon. members to see this very remarkable motion picture before they leave for their homes at the Easter recess. I am sure that the experience of seeing it will be an incentive to any who have that opportunity to do all in their power to help in the organization of the fourth victory loan campaign, which will begin a fortnight hence.

I might add that an invitation is also being extended to hon. members of the senate and to the members of the press gallery of this House of Commons.

QUESTIONS

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

WARTIME DEPRECIATIONS BOARD

Mr. CASTLEDEN:

1. What persons are or have been the members of the wartime depreciations board?

2. Have any of these persons retained any financial, directional, or business connections with any private company, partnership or corporation while they held positions on this board?

3. What positions did they hold prior to becoming members of this board?

4. What are the rates of pay and other arrangements regarding allowances and expenses while serving on this board?

5. Is there any report of the depreciations allowed by this board published by the department?

Mr. GIBSON:

1. (1) The Hon. Mr. Justice Charles Patrick McTague, (chairman); (2) Francis H. Black, C.A.; (3) Robert F. Burns, C.A.

2. (1) The Hon. Mr. Justice C. P. McTague and Mr. Robert F. Burns, C.A., have retained no financial, directional or business connections with any private company, partnership or corporation while they hold positions on this board. (2) Francis H. Black, C.A., has retained no financial or directional interest with any private company or corporation but remains a partner in the accounting firm of Black, Hanson & Co.

3. The Hon. Mr. Justice C. P. McTague was and still is a member of the Court of Appeal for Ontario. (2) Francis H. Black, C.A., was and still is a member of the firm Black, Hanson & Co., chartered accountants, Port Arthur, Ontario. (3) Robert F. Burns, C.A., was an employee of the income tax division.

4. (1) The Hon. Mr. Justice C. P. McTague: Order in council P.C. 60/5095, dated the 15th June, 1942: "Expenses incurred while away from his home in Toronto, such expenses to include travelling, hotel, meals and incidental expenses." (2) Francis H. Black, C.A.: Order in council P.C. 1/4958, dated the 20th September, 1940: "Fifty dollars (\$50) for each day he is in attendance as a member of the said board, in addition to expenses incurred for mileage, transportation, taxicabs, telephone and telegraph, for each day he is absent from Port Arthur, Ontario, in the exercise of his duties as a member of the said board." (3) Robert F. Burns, C.A.: Nothing except the usual civil service travelling expenses.

5. In the aggregate, yes; as to individual taxpayers, no.