

Questions

3. Are they now in service with the Royal Canadian Air Force?
4. If not, for what reason?
5. What future use is intended for these aircraft?

Mr. Campney:

1. Yes, two Comet 1A jet liners.
2. \$1,544,000 each, excluding operating and engine spares.
3. No.
4. The R.C.A.F. removed its two Comets from service following the action of the British Overseas Airway Corporation in grounding its Comet fleet pending a full investigation into accidents.
5. The modification and return to service of the two Comet jet liners is now under consideration. If returned to service, the Comets will again be used, as simulated high-speed jet bombers, to give practice to the continental air defence system.

FIR LOGS, EXPORTS AND IMPORTS

Mr. Argue:

1. What was the quantity and value of fir logs exported to the United States in (a) 1953; (b) 1954?
2. What was the quantity and value of fir plywood imported from the United States in (a) 1953; (b) 1954?

Mr. Dickey:

1. (a) 7,383 M ft. \$498,815; (b) 4,251 M ft. \$330,687.
2. (a) and (b) The information is not available, as imports of fir plywood are not recorded separately in trade statistics.

The value of all plywood imported from the United States was as follows:—(quantity figures not available)

Calendar year 1953—\$575,817.

Calendar year 1954—\$178,485.

NATIONAL FILM BOARD

Mr. Fraser (Peterborough):

1. What are the names of the firms paid to act as distributors for the national film board during 1954, and the amount each firm paid to the national board for this concession?
2. What was the total cost of producing these films during 1954?

Mr. Pickersgill:

1. It cannot properly be said that firms are paid to act as distributors for the national film board, or that they pay the national film board for this concession. In accordance with the general practice of the motion picture industry, contracts for distribution with different firms are drawn up indicating the films which are being covered, the territory in which they may be distributed, the length of time for which the distribution rights obtain, and the financial terms of the arrangement.

[Mr. Dinsdale.]

These terms follow a general pattern but vary somewhat according to the nature of the films involved, the territory in which the distribution rights obtain, and other local considerations. A common form of contract provides that preliminary costs including cost of prints, which remain the property of the national film board, are first deducted from the distributor's gross receipts, and the balance of the receipts is then divided in some such ratio as follows: 70 per cent to N.F.B., 30 per cent to distributor; 65 per cent to N.F.B., 35 per cent to distributor; 60 per cent to N.F.B., 40 per cent to distributor; and in some instances, 50 per cent to N.F.B. and 50 per cent to distributor.

Another form of contract provides that the distributor pays the board a stipulated percentage of the gross receipts, costs of prints to be paid by the board out of its share.

Still another form of contract provides that the cost of prints be deducted from the gross receipts of the distributor but that the balance be not divided between the distributor and the board; in lieu of such a division, the distributor pays the board a stipulated sum or makes, in other words, a flat payment.

A list of the names of these distributors for 1954 was tabled in the house on May 2, 1955, in answer to a question from the hon. member for Peterborough.

It would be an embarrassment to the board to reveal the amounts earned by each of these firms under contract during 1954. In a competitive situation, such a disclosure would not be in accord with business practice in general, or with the motion picture business practice in particular.

The gross sum paid to the board by its distributors in 1954 was \$150,246.12. No figure is available for the gross amount earned by the distributors, but if the average ratio were 60 per cent to N.F.B. and 40 per cent to distributors, the sum would be \$100,164.

2. Films distributed during 1954 under these contracts were produced at any time between 1945 and 1954. Films produced in 1954 account for only a small part of the gross revenue indicated in the answer to question 1, and many of such films may well be in distribution under contract for periods up to nine or ten years. Furthermore, many films produced in 1954, particularly in the last quarter of the year, have not yet been placed in distribution. Also, it is not possible to know yet which of all the films produced in 1954 will ultimately be given theatrical distribution. The board therefore cannot yet give figures for the cost of producing films in 1954 destined for commercial distribution.