

Supply—National Film Board

Mr. Fulton: I should like to make a suggestion in connection with what the minister just said as to the desirability of having some Canadian content in Canadian theatres. I appreciate the very excellent technique and artistic methods of some of the film board productions that I have had the opportunity of seeing. I wonder, however, whether they have exploited to the full the possibility of documentary films on Canadian voyages of exploration and discovery. There are some most dramatic and thrilling chapters of Canadian history.

Mr. Pickersgill: Starting with John Cabot.

Mr. Fulton: I can imagine the hon. gentleman is interested in that, but I think there are other more romantic and thrilling voyages of discovery that could be filmed. What progress has been made along these lines and what emphasis has that part of the program received? There are the voyages of Samuel de Champlain and the discovery he made when he went down the Mississippi river. Then there are the voyages down the Fraser and the Thompson rivers.

Mr. Pickersgill: There has been an attempt to recreate that kind of thing on film strips. I imagine it would be a pretty expensive thing to do as a real film. Historical reconstruction is always very expensive and you never can be quite sure how it will turn out. I do know of course that there have been a good many scenic films made that have indicated the routes of explorers and that sort of thing. I have no doubt some of the members of the committee have at different times seen some of these scenic films of the Arctic and that sort of thing, that are quite remarkable.

Mr. Hansell: The questions I asked and the comments I made were not put forward with any idea of being critical at all because I think the productions that are shown in the local theatres are very worthy. I also think that there has been an improvement in their technical development over the years. I think more of them should be shown. I think that the local commercial theatres are doing some service to the country not only by showing national film board productions but also showing occasionally short films in the interests of community chest campaigns and that sort of thing. I think these things are very commendable. Not long ago the Minister of National Health and Welfare was the subject of a film in which he advocated adherence to national health week. He started off by laying down the telephone and then talking to the audience. I do not think there was anybody on the telephone when he put the receiver down. It was all part of the production, but it was quite a nice little thing. I

think the Canadian people appreciate all these things. I did not rise to make harsh criticism but merely to get some information.

Mr. Fulton: If the minister could give us some antidote to Davy Crockett he would be doing a national service.

Mr. Pickersgill: As a matter of fact the minister, ably assisted by the cartoonist in the *Montreal Gazette*, did his best. If I might revert to the question of the hon. member for Mackenzie, over a period of the last eight years Crawley Films have had business totaling \$144,857, an average of approximately \$18,000 a year. That is for complete films. It may well be there have been other services they have rendered. They are a most excellent firm, even if they are engaged in private enterprise.

Mr. Barnett: I should like to say first of all that I heartily agree with the views that have been expressed that it is a very refreshing and enjoyable experience to see films in our local motion picture theatres that have a Canadian content. I have a question with respect to the working conditions of the production staff of the film board. Can the minister tell us what the policy of the film board is with respect to the application of overtime to holiday leave in the film board?

Mr. Pickersgill: Of course the film board does try to avoid overtime as much as it can because working conditions down in the old sawmill where they are trying to operate are not what we would like them to be. But there are certain sections where there has been quite a lot of overtime, and where arrangements were recently made by the treasury board to provide for the payment of overtime. These sections are the laboratories, engineering division and sound department. In other departments so far, the usual civil service practice of giving compensatory leave has been followed. We do not want the work to be delayed, and on that ground we may have to give consideration to extending overtime pay somewhat farther.

Mr. Barnett: Just to make sure I understand the minister correctly, I understand that in certain categories of work direct pay is being given for overtime work?

Mr. Pickersgill: That is correct.

Mr. Barnett: In respect to the application of holiday leave to overtime work, is the policy being followed there that which generally prevails in the other departments of government?

Mr. Pickersgill: Precisely the same.

Mr. Hamilton (Notre Dame de Grace): In the first instance, I am a little bit unhappy