

*National Film Act*

(b) to represent the government of Canada in its relations with persons engaged in commercial motion picture film activity in connection with motion picture films for the government or any department thereof.

Then we come to paragraph (c) which refers to research, and go on to the next paragraph as follows:

(d) to advise the governor in council in connection with film activities;

(e) to discharge such other duties relating to film activity as the governor in council may direct it to undertake.

I suggest that to engage in research in film activities is out of place as one of the main purposes for which the board is established. If some power is needed, then let it be included in the powers of the board as they are set out in section 10, rather than make it one of the main purposes, particularly when we have such an efficient national research council.

**Mr. Cote (Matapedia-Matane):** Supposing the experts of the national film board engaged in research are in some way transferred to the national research council; in such event what would be the saving of money? They would have to be paid the same salaries. If the hon. member is suggesting that there are in the national research council film experts not to be found in the national film board, then it would be different. However, if it is just a mere matter of switching accounts, then I do not see why we should spend the taxpayers' money in discussing it. Both organizations are on Sussex street; they work together.

**Mr. Green:** If the hon. member for Matapedia-Matane is correct in his submission, then he could just as well argue that each department of government should have a research branch to do its own research. Here we have an efficient research council with which the present film board apparently works well. I do not see why there is any necessity to state that one of the main purposes of the national film board shall be to do research. I am afraid that sooner or later it will lead to the development of an expensive research branch in the film board.

**Mr. Bater:** In connection with the \$32,933 set out as proceeds from sales, would the minister tell the committee if the film board sells pictures to the theatres. I am referring to the Canadian news items shown on theatre screens.

**Mr. Winters:** There are revenues derived from those films. Earlier we were speaking more particularly about the "Canada Carries On" series. Then there are other pictures

which produce revenue for the board all across Canada and in other countries.

**Mr. Brooks:** What assistance is given in the matter of forest conservation work? I know the Canadian Forestry Association has been doing good work in that connection, and that in past years they have complained that they have not had the assistance from the film board they felt they should have had. In the issue of their monthly bulletin for February of 1948 they complain bitterly about this matter, stating:

Motion pictures, as an aid to forestry education, are an important medium employed by the Canadian Forestry Association. During 1948 the Canadian Forestry Association's own motion picture and lecture tours, its film libraries and co-operative tours recorded an attendance in all Canadian provinces of 400,000 men, women and youths, French and English.

It is regrettable to report that all the major motion pictures, in the 1948 program, dealing with forest management, forest protection, soil erosion, water and wildlife were purchased by Canadian Forestry Association in the United States and adapted (and translated for Quebec) in Canada. The principal producer of forest conservation films on this continent is the United States Department of Agriculture.

It seems to me that this is a rather sad commentary on the situation in Canada, because forest conservation is one of the most important matters with which the film board could assist. In 1948 they had to get their films from the United States, and they found the same condition in 1949. I should like to know from the minister what the situation is today, whether we are supplying the Canadian Forestry Association with film, how many we have supplied and just what the situation is at the present time. Unless our film board is doing work of that kind it seems to me they are failing miserably in the work for which the board was set up, and for which it was intended.

**Mr. Winters:** When the hon. member says the board is failing miserably in the purpose for which it was set up I can say only that we have a certain appropriation and try to spend it to the best possible advantage. When I say that I must add quickly that I think there is a great field in forestry for more motion pictures. We recently released one in British Columbia which I think is very effective, and through the Department of Resources and Development we also contributed to another picture made recently by the government of Alberta showing conservation on the eastern slopes of the Rocky mountains.

I feel there is a great field there for further exploitation, if one may use that word, through the motion picture medium to get across to the Canadian people the real importance of forest conservation.

**Mr. Brooks:** It is very necessary.