

paragraph (e) should be interpreted as conferring on the Film Board the privileged position which it has since assumed.

4. In August 1941, the National Film Board absorbed the Canadian Government Motion Picture Bureau.

5. In the original absence of any effective co-ordination of all Government information activities abroad, and because of the energetic personality of the first Film Commissioner, Mr. John Grierson, the National Film Board early assumed an independent line in the matter of film distribution abroad. There was, in fact, at this time, a very real need to state Canada's case firmly and dramatically abroad, and the production and distribution activities of the Board, though set up on an *ad hoc* basis, were undoubtedly created in response to a genuine demand.

6. One of the Board's outstanding productions was the "World in Action" series. These were, in effect, dramatic visual editorials on international affairs. They achieved a marked degree of success, but it may be stated that, in general, the Film Board hewed its own political line and consulted the Department infrequently.

7. Late in 1941, an event occurred which had a distinct bearing on the atmosphere in which relations between the Department and the Board have since been conducted. In November of that year, the Board completed a timely and prophetic film entitled "War Clouds in the Pacific". The Department was shown the completed film and expressed the view that the attitude which the film took toward the Japanese, with whom we were still at peace, was extremely strong. However, the Board decided to release the film, and within three weeks, the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor.

These events created a lasting impression among officials of the Board that their thinking on international matters was both timely and accurate, and the Department was thereafter consulted infrequently in respect of productions dealing with international affairs. The Department was in general apt to be faced with a completed film, rather than to be consulted at the script stage.

8. In April 1945, the Board produced a film entitled "Balkan Powder Keg". This completed film was shown to Mr. Pearson, in Washington. He took strong exception to certain statements contained in it, and the film was withdrawn and re-edited under the title "Spotlight on the Balkans".

9. Late in 1947, the Board produced a film entitled "The People Between". Much of the footage was shot at the headquarters of the communist leader Mao-Tse-Tung. The Department objected to certain passages in the completed film, and the Board agreed that the film would be sold commercially to a United States distributor and would not bear the imprimatur of the National Film Board.

10. At the same time, it must be generally conceded that these vivid, dramatic motion pictures did much to gain for Canada a reputation as an outspoken producer of vital documentary films commenting upon the international scene. The extent to which the Board's foreign distribution network later became so successful, was in large measure due to the impact of these films.

11. During 1942 to 1947, the National Film Board opened offices abroad in London, New York, Washington, Chicago, Mexico City, and Sydney, Australia. In