

goes into the coffers of the national film board and back into the consolidated revenue fund, or does it go out of the government's hands altogether?

Mr. CLAXTON: A large part of the expenditure on films is made to the national film board for production of films. Part of it is for the purchase of prints and films produced in other countries.

Mr. MERRITT: The other question I have is: in view of the large film programme, would the minister say what sort of general supervisory control there is over this kind of expenditure to make sure that the money is being expended to attain certain definite ends? For instance, are these twelve strip films part of a plan to get over some particular points with regard to public health, or are they of general interest? What is the general policy of the minister with regard to that kind of thing?

Mr. CLAXTON: Each film is designed to do a specific job, and it is worked out only after the most careful consultation with authorities working in a special field, and also, if it is a film designed for educational purposes, with educational authorities. The amount of work which goes into one of these films, in the preparation of the text and in the screening and cutting, is great, and it takes a considerable time to produce it. Almost all the items I mentioned under this head are to meet needs which have been expressed by the provinces and by public health authorities, and a great part of the distribution and exhibition would be done through provincial agencies and in cooperation with them.

Mr. FLEMING: I notice that the minister said that certain of these films were being produced at the request of provincial authorities, sometimes for use in the schools, sometimes apparently for use in other places. Is it the policy of the department to make films on request of provincial authorities? Are these needs pointed out by the provinces in relation to a national health problem which he refers to in these various films? I take it that there is nothing local in the appeal of the films and the task they are intended to perform.

Mr. CLAXTON: That is right. I have never heard of a single film or advertisement or publication which was designed to meet a local need. Usually the health officers of the provinces or municipalities express a necessity, inquiring whether we have a film on such and such a topic. If the request indicates a fairly widespread desire and seems to cover something that falls within the scope

of the department's activities, the matter is likely raised at the next meeting of the dominion council of health, which consists of the deputy ministers of the dominion and the nine provinces and four lay members. The subject is discussed there. If it is felt that it is something that is desirable and suitable for projection in that way we next discuss it in the department, and if it falls into the general pattern of our activities for the year we proceed with it.

Mr. FLEMING: As regards the circulation of films once produced, is that left to the national film board, or is it administered entirely by the department itself.

Mr. CLAXTON: It is done by both means and also through film societies, provincial, educational and other authorities, and through national and provincial medical associations. Whatever means of distribution is appropriate for the pamphlet or film is used to meet the needs of the case.

Mr. COLDWELL: Are we discussing the national film board? If so, some of us would like to say a word on that subject.

Mr. CLAXTON: No.

Mr. FLEMING: Comparing these estimates with those for the preceding year, turning to page 159 I see that there is no provision this year for a director of health services, a special assistant to the deputy minister, a publicity assistant and a senior messenger. These items are all blank this year. The total proposed appropriation for salaries is \$18,000 odd as compared with \$36,000 last year, but the figure for temporary assistance is to be increased from \$25,000 odd to \$52,000 odd. What is the situation now in the department which explains this change?

Mr. KNOWLES: Is there any curtailment of service in the department owing to the blanks to which the hon. member has referred?

Mr. CLAXTON: There is an acting director and a publicity assistant. Was that the second item to which the hon. gentleman referred?

Mr. FLEMING: The second was special assistant to the deputy minister of health; the third was publicity assistant, and the fourth, senior messenger.

Mr. CLAXTON: It depends on the development of the work of the department. Either these positions are not needed, or they fall more properly under specific divisions of the department.

Mr. HAZEN: Did the minister refer to the acting director of health services?

Mr. CLAXTON: Yes.