

not the case; but he was otherwise informed and six months later when I met him he said that three of them were. He said his attention had been drawn to it, and he was put out because these modernistic dabs were hung upside down. I do not want anything like that to go abroad from Canada.

The CHAIRMAN: We would be glad to hear from Mr. Matthews at this point.

Mr. MATTHEWS: We can assure you the ideas of the department as to what are suitable are ones we think will appeal to you. As was mentioned in the under-secretary's statement, we are having an exhibition from which we hope to be able to choose a good many pictures this year. When the under-secretary wrote to the director of the gallery suggesting the type of painting he wanted, these are the words he used:

What we require are oil paintings which would not only illustrate the best work of contemporary Canadian painters, but also serve to interpret Canada for persons visiting our embassies and chanceries abroad. I have in mind Canadian landscapes and townscapes, genre paintings of all kinds, figure paintings and still lifes. As controversy would be out of place in this connection, I consider that non-representational paintings, and paintings of the nude, unless of exceptionally high quality and by internationally recognized Canadian artists, should not be accepted.

That is a description of the type of painting that we suggest.

Mr. LENNARD: That sounds fairly good.

The CHAIRMAN: I think that explanation would meet the wishes of the committee. Are there any further questions on this matter?

Mr. KUCHEREPA: It sounds good on the surface, and I agree with the general content of the statement made by Mr. Matthews. However, it might be a good idea that a subcommittee of this committee, possibly chaired by the chairman, check on the selections before final approval is given, so that there will be no question in the future that we had purchased paintings which were not agreeable to the members of the committee.

Mr. JONES: Include me out.

The CHAIRMAN: Would anyone else like to express his opinion on this?

Mr. HERRIDGE: I think, Mr. Chairman, the statement is pretty clear and definite. I think it gives effect to what Mr. Lennard was expressing, to a great extent. The only question I would like to ask is: what is the objection to nudes? Are Canadian nudes not considered proper pictures?

Mr. MATTHEWS: It might follow that some people might object, if these were hung in Canadian embassies. We prefer not to have anything that might give rise to controversy.

The CHAIRMAN: I think Dr. Kucherepa's suggestion is very good.

Mr. JONES: Perhaps, Mr. Chairman, that is an item that might be dealt with at another time. I understand we will probably have to meet again to deal with the report.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes.

Mr. JONES: And if this matter is to be proceeded with perhaps it could be dealt with at that time, as we finish our reference.

The CHAIRMAN: It is your idea that some reference could be made in the report?

Mr. JONES: I would say that we could consider whether it is necessary to include that in the report, when we meet to consider the report.

Mr. HERRIDGE: I think that is a good suggestion. A discussion could be carried on when the report is being considered in camera.