

officer give consideration to making the provision of such matinees a condition of the licence of appropriate cinemas. In this connection the Committee welcomed the evidence that increasing numbers of children's films were being made by the Rank Organization, and feel that every possible encouragement should be given to the production and exhibition of films which children will not only enjoy, but which will also develop their critical appreciation of the art of the cinema.

ORDER OF REFERENCE No. 12

Whether it is desirable in the national interest to foster the production of films in New Zealand, and, if so, by what means.

112. The evidence discloses no hindrances upon the production of entertainment film in New Zealand beyond the necessity of providing considerable capital for what must be a speculative return: obviously production could only be economical if the resultant film proved competitive in quality (both technical and artistic) with imported film, but there is nothing to prevent any one from making the venture. There is, however, no case made out for the expenditure of public money on such a project.

113. The evidence showed that the National Film Unit, which produces topical and documentary rather than entertainment film, was fulfilling a useful function and (subject to the expense involved) could well be still further developed.

ORDER OF REFERENCE No. 13

Whether there are any other matters affecting the motion-picture industry which should be reported upon.

114. Amongst a number of sundry matters brought to the attention of the Committee, only two warrant special mention:—

(a) *Front-of-house Employees*.—On behalf of this union of workers, Mr. Fleming made representations concerning wages and conditions of employment. The Committee feels that this is a matter wholly within the province of the Arbitration Court and one upon which, therefore, it should make no recommendations.

(b) *Confectionery, &c., Stalls*.—Evidence was given on behalf of the Small Shop Keepers' Association regarding the tendency of the Kerridge-Odeon chain to displace the privately-conducted confectionery-stalls in favour of a subsidiary of Kerridge-Odeon known as "Nibble-nooks," and complaints of harsh treatment were made. The Committee understands that in at least one instance this very matter was before the Courts at the time the Committee considered the evidence, so that it would be improper to comment on a matter that is *sub judice*. It is proper, however, to say that the Kerridge-Odeon chain contends that its purpose is to provide the public with improved amenities; Amalgamated Theatres, while agreeing that it may well be the case that the company could give better service than is provided by the stall-holders, has not embarked on any similar scheme, largely because of the tenancies it has created. The whole topic may well be one which must be considered in relation to the wider question of monopoly already covered by this report.

THANKS

115. The Committee wishes to record its appreciation of the Chairmanship of Mr. R. M. Macfarlane, whose ability and helpfulness was of great assistance.

It also appreciates the manner in which trade interests and others concerned have co-operated in presenting evidence and making information available.