

PROCEEDINGS

6. At the initial meeting of the Committee on 6th April, 1948, consideration was given the principal matters which should be investigated, and it was agreed that evidence be heard to enable the Committee to form opinions in respect of the following :—

- (1) Whether the existing monopoly conditions in the exhibition of films in New Zealand are compatible with the public interest and whether any legislative or other action should be taken to overcome, limit, regulate, or supervise these monopoly conditions.
- (2) Whether it is desirable in the national interest that the effective control of New Zealand picture-theatres should be maintained in the hands of New Zealand or British nationals, and, if so, what steps should be taken to ensure this.
- (3) Whether a system of restrictive licensing of picture-theatres should be continued, and, if so, under what conditions.
- (4) Whether and to what extent the exhibition of sub-standard films should be controlled by licensing regulations.
- (5) Whether any legislation is desirable regulating the relationship of landlord and tenant either as affecting picture-theatres or generally.
- (6) Whether the existing provisions of the Cinematograph Operators Licensing Regulations 1938 and the proposed standard by-laws on the prevention of panics provide adequately for the safety of the public in picture-theatres.
- (7) Whether the continuation of an industrial committee such as the Film Industry Board is desirable, and, if so, what matters should be referred to it for determination and to what extent should its constitution and powers be authorized by legislation.
- (8) Whether the existing conditions of supply of films to independent exhibitors are reasonable, having regard to the conditions in the industry which are beyond New Zealand control, and, if not, are any legislative provisions recommended to govern this matter.
- (9) Whether the existing prices of admission to picture-theatres are reasonable.
- (10) Whether any amendments are desirable in regard to the amount or form of taxation to which the industry is at present subject.
- (11) Whether existing legislation and practice is adequate to ensure that the exhibition of the best films of all types is encouraged and that the character of films exhibited is appropriate for adult and juvenile audiences respectively, and, if not, what further provision should be made.
- (12) Whether it is desirable in the national interest to foster the production of films in New Zealand, and, if so, by what means.
- (13) Whether there are any other matters affecting the motion-picture industry which should be reported upon.

7. Because of the technical nature of the industry, and the effect upon commercial interests of any recommendations the Committee might make, it was decided that counsel be retained to assist the Committee and lead the evidence. It was agreed also that the main sections concerned be afforded the facility of being represented by counsel or advocates who should have the right to cross-examine witnesses on their evidence. The wisdom of this course was apparent at the hearing, as it resulted in many aspects