

could from this source ascertain what rejected films had thus come available for hiring. It is, however, to be remembered that rejection rights are normally exercised because a film has little or no box-office value, so that it would be only in exceptional cases that by this process suitable film not otherwise available would be open to offer from another exhibitor.

98. Finally in this connection the Committee feels that section 9 should make perfectly clear that which the distributors in evidence stated that they acknowledged—namely, the right of an exhibitor to exercise his 25-per-cent. rejection right when he has been required to book a block of films (thirteen was stated to be the practice in some cases) without having had the full range of the distributor's releases to choose from. It would seem that there requires to be added to section 9 (3) some phrase such as “provided, however, that no exhibitor shall be deemed to have had or to have exercised a right to reject such unselected film or films unless in fact he has been given the full right of selection from the total number of films released in that film-renting season by the renter under that film-renting contract.”

ORDER OF REFERENCE No. 9

Whether the existing prices of admission to picture-theatre are reasonable.

99. The Committee is firmly of opinion that existing prices of admission are reasonable. Only one witness put forward a considered case for an increase in prices, which is a matter in any event for the Price Tribunal if a particular exhibitor reckons he has good grounds for claiming higher admission charges. In the view of the Committee, increases in price of admission would at once tend to increase the charges of film hire and the spiral of successive increases passed on to the public would be the normal consequences. The Committee has therefore no recommendation to make under this head.

ORDER OF REFERENCE No. 10

Whether any amendments are desirable in regard to the amount or form of taxation to which the industry is at present subject.

100. Except for a passing reference to the amusement-tax (which is levied only on prices of admission above 1s. 6d.), no representations were made before the Committee on this matter, and the Committee has no recommendations to make.

ORDER OF REFERENCE No. 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.

101. A considerable portion of the Committee's time was taken up in hearing evidence and submissions on the topics included in this part of the order of reference and a wide divergence of informed opinion was disclosed. The matters raised fell broadly under three heads, which should be considered separately, namely:

- (a) Type of films generally.
- (b) Censorship.
- (c) Children's films, children's clubs, &c.