

GENSORS STAND PAT ON 'RAMPARTS' FILM

Fear of Its 'Terrifying Effect on the Masses' Caused Cut in Movie in Pennsylvania

COURT FIGHT IS NEXT STEP

Producer Asserts Board Does Not Know Americans as He, an Ex-Navy Man, Does

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 19—"Fear of the terrifying effect upon the masses" led the Pennsylvania Board of Censors today to refuse to lift its ban on sixteen minutes of film near the end of the movie, "The Ramparts We Watch."

The decision was made after a closed two-hour session at which the film was reviewed again in the presence of Louis de Rochemont, producer of the March of Time. He repeated his assertion that only the Pennsylvania censors and the Nazis seemed to want to prevent the picture from being exhibited.

Counsel for the March of Time, which made the film, the RKO distributors and theatres in Harrisburg and Reading, which showed the movie at yesterday's matinees, announced they would appeal tomorrow from the board's decision, either in the Common Pleas Court of Philadelphia or Dauphin County.

Hope for Showing in Court

"Thousands of dollars are involved, theatre bookings are seriously dislocated in first-run houses, and we hope to get an immediate decision by showing the picture to a judge, either Friday afternoon or Saturday evening," said Sidney F. Krauss, spokesman for a group of attorneys engaged by the complainants.

The part of the picture declared objectionable by the censors is taken bodily from "Baptism of Fire," the Nazi propaganda film made under fire in Poland and used to "soften up" Norway and the Low Countries before invasion, and Rumania before partition.

These reels, advertised by the producers as being the first authentic demonstration of German Blitzkrieg methods, were turned over to Mr. de Rochemont, who invented the technique of the March of Time films, by British authorities after the film was seized from a trans-Atlantic clipper at Bermuda.

Mr. De Rochemont told the censors at today's hearing that Gestapo agents, whom he identified by name and rank in this country from information, which, he said, was given to him by British military intelligence officers, had threatened:

"We will do something to stop you from using those scenes."

Mrs. Carroll Defends Course

Mrs. Edna R. Carroll, chairman of the board of censors, declared that Mr. De Rochemont was "highly emotional."

"His statements were so foolish I didn't even answer them—I don't even know if there is a Gestapo in this country," she said.

With respect to the board's statement that the picture would "terrify" Americans, Mr. De Rochemont said he told Mrs. Carroll that he had served seven years in the Navy, and that he was "afraid you don't know Americans the way I do."

"We are not afraid," he asserted. "The thing you are doing is promoting appeasement—surrendering to fear—the most dangerous thing facing America today."

After the meeting, at which Mrs. Lucy Love of Johnstown and John C. Fisher of Sharon, fellow-members of the board, were reported in complete agreement with Mrs. Carroll on banning the film, she denied that any one had told her to put a ban on it. She said she had demanded that the "baptism of fire" sequences be shown to her after reading in trade magazine advertisements that they were German-made.

"The Ramparts We Watch" received the board's approval before interpolation of new scenes obtained from the British, and this insertion after approval, Mrs. Carroll contended, set "a bad precedent" and was a violation of State laws.

Reading Theatre Is Closed

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

READING, Pa., Sept. 19—Closing its doors this afternoon because the Pennsylvania Board of Motion Picture censors had banned parts of the film "The Ramparts We Watch," the Park Theatre tonight remained dark. It will reopen tomorrow with another picture.

A private showing tonight at which two National Guard companies, awaiting transfer to camp, were to have been guests, was canceled.