

# CENSORSHIP

## AND WHAT IT MEANS

### TWO TELLING ARGUMENTS

Against H. R. Bill No. 355.

MRS. McKELVIE, WIFE OF THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NEBRASKA, IS AS WELL VERSED IN MOTION PICTURES AND THEIR PRODUCTION AS ANYONE IN THIS STATE—IN FACT IS RECOGNIZED AS AN AUTHORITY ON THEM BY THE MOTION PICTURE MAGAZINES OF THE COUNTRY AND BY THE PRODUCERS OF FILMS. SHE KNOWS PERSONALLY MOST OF THE BIG STARS OF THE CINEMA WORLD. HER OPINION OF THE PROPOSED BILL AS QUOTED IN AN INTERVIEW IN THE BEE, FEB. 19TH, IS DECIDEDLY ADVERSE.

"Censorship, the present question which practically every woman of the Omaha clubs speaks to me of is very interesting, although I meet with much disapproval about my views," she continued.

**Against Movie Censorship.**

"I do not approve of this bill before the legislature for state censorship. Motion pictures are not a child's art—they are the art of grown people and should not be put on the basis of a child's pastime.

"Everything has to go through its cheap stage, but why should pictures, more than the legitimate stage, be dictated to in this manner.

"State censorship is not going to remove the evil—that is not

striking at the heart of the matter. As long as there is state censorship these pictures will be produced, for if they are not acceptable to Ohio, Nebraska or Pennsylvania they can be used in other states with the added publicity of censorship. Federal censorship, at the studios themselves, is the only way to strike at the heart of the matter. In this way money for production will be spared and waste eliminated.

**Public Opinion Big Issue.**

"There is one other way, and that is the real way—public opinion. The producers are asking their writers for 'clean pictures' and it is public opinion, for the motion picture as well as the legitimate stage, that should govern the scenes."

**The American Film Industry states that it will not attempt to market its product where such a bill is in force. The wire is self-explanatory.**

POSTAL TELEGRAPH — COMMERCIAL CABLES

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F. R. NEW YORK FEB 20  
H. M. THOMAS  
STANDARD ADJUSTMENT CO  
OMAHA NEBR

PRODUCING AND DISTRIBUTING MEMBERS OF NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY, IF CENSORSHIP BILL PASSES IN NEBR CANNOT AND WILL NOT SHIP MOTION PICTURES INTO STATE.

I FEEL IT MY DUTY TO ADVISE YOU NOW AS THEY WILL NOT ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR DAMAGE RESULTING FROM CLOSING PICTURE THEATRES.

GABRIEL L. HESS  
CHAIRMAN CENSORSHIP COMMITTEE.

NEBRASKA is on the verge of being saddled with a state-wide censorship law that is crude to the point of being a travesty on the intelligence and sense of justice of the people of this great commonwealth.

Without even a show of investigation of a problem that unquestionably is one of tremendous importance, both as to property values involved and also to the welfare of the public, a bill has been drafted, and there are indications that it will become a law within a short time.

With no known qualifications and no special training for the position, the political appointees who become the censorship board of this state will be the czars of what you are to see for your education and for your amusements.

The proposed bill covers none of the weaknesses of censorships of the past.

It takes no cognizance of the fact that every film is rigidly censored before ever reaching Nebraska.

It is so unintelligent and iniquitous that the film industry will never accept it, but will marshal every force to prevent its execution, or will refuse to enter where it is in operation.

The passage of this law may mean no motion pictures in this state.

Producing and distributing heads of the motion picture industry state that they cannot and will not attempt to market their films in Nebraska under the workings of this proposed law.

Do you want the motion picture to die in this state? Do you wish to see it attempt a life under straggling conditions.

It is your duty to protect your own interests in this matter.

**CLIP THIS COUPON and SEND IT TODAY**

THE PROTECTION OF YOUR OWN INTERESTS.

To Your Senator

I am opposed to the proposed Censorship Bill on Motion Picture Films. I look to the Representatives from this district to protect my interests.

Signed.....

Address.....

Clip this Coupon send it today to Lincoln.



To Your Representative

I am opposed to the proposed Censorship Bill on Motion Picture Films. I look to the Representatives from this district to protect my interests.

Signed.....

Address.....

