

is a surplus of labour on the market; or, let me put it this way, if the rate of production is going to be slowed down with the result that men have to be laid off I do not think the unions will be very much in favour of it. I do agree with Mr. Berry in regard to the automobile dealers wanting to get as much of this surplus saleable material as possible in as short a time as possible in order to get it off the market. I understood him to say just a moment ago that even now the automobile dealers more or less had to be persuaded to take these trucks.

The WITNESS: I was referring to Mr. Probe's remarks relative to manufacturers rather than the dealers.

Mr. PROBE: The dealers are very anxious to get them.

Mr. STEWART: May I make an observation with regard to the figures given to us by Mr. Berry, I notice that they do not add up.

Mr. PROBE: Yes they do add up.

Mr. STEWART: You just check them over again. I think you will find I am right. I would like to know what the average vehicle cost the federal government, and also the price at which they were sold to the manufacturer.

The WITNESS: I may be able to get you an answer to that, I am not quite sure.

Mr. PROBE: I have a question of which I would like Mr. Berry to take notice; how much has been paid for freight or other carriage by the War Assets Corporation on material declared surplus and moved from province to province. —I will give you the questions—(a) on material being concentrated by War Assets; and (b) on deliveries by War Assets to the buyer or dealer.

The WITNESS: Mr. Chairman, it is going to take us days, and days, and days of work to get an answer to a question of that type. I would suggest, unless there is some real reason for the question, that you do not ask me to work up answers of that kind. It is a tremendous job. Would Mr. Probe be satisfied to get an outline of the circumstances?

Mr. BENEDICKSON: That sort of thing might be answered generally rather than in detail.

Mr. PROBE: If it is a small amount I am not interested at all; that is, if there are a few isolated cases. If, however, the cost is excessive then you must have records covering it and I feel that this committee should be entitled to have an answer because if it is being moved,—take for example to Timmins, where they are finding difficulty in getting vehicles—it may be, that vehicles are being moved, in bulk, in quantity, from here to Saskatchewan. For example, in Saskatchewan a lot of material is being sent all the way to Montreal although there is plenty of material in Saskatchewan to serve the purpose of the buyer only the buyer is not able to get the Saskatchewan material. If it is a mere incident of operation I am not interested, but if it is a bulk item you must have it in considerable detail. If it is a minor thing then of course you can answer and say that the amount involved is negligible and that would satisfy me, if the amount involved is negligible.

The WITNESS: The only point I wish to make is that our records are set up to reflect certain statistics and they are carried in that way and unless the statistics requested fall within the general direction of our accounts and records then it becomes a mammoth task to pick them out and segregate the whole thing.

Mr. JACKMAN: Perhaps we should find out exactly how the concentration of supplies is carried out then the War Assets Corporation could very well gauge what Mr. Probe has in mind. That might satisfy him. You have to get a concentration of assets before you are in a position to dispose of them for the purposes of the trade, and then in certain instances I can appreciate how it may