

in which they are interested and which they require. These people are interested in setting up new, small businesses, and with them it is not so much a question of price as it is a question of getting possession of the machines.—For instance, sheet metal cutting machines, lathes, and finer equipment of that type. They happen to know that this machinery and equipment is being held in store at Amherst. What is the policy of the department with respect to making these special machines accessible to new industries so that they can get going and get going quickly? This equipment is as it were, held in bond, apparently it is being held intact, pending the disposal of the whole list.—A. In reply to that question, I have not got the facts with me this morning; but again, that question I think is best answered by saying that that is one of the administrative problems.

Mr. BLACK: I can hardly hear you.

The WITNESS: That is one of the administrative problems we are now faced with. Speaking from memory, our machine tool sales have gone up within the last six months from roughly \$300,000 a month to \$1,000,000 a month; and will increase at the rate we are able to create administrative machinery beyond \$1,000,000 a month and still handle the job efficiently and make sure the prices we sell these tools at is relatively sound, and see that the correct people get them to use them—that is one of our problems. What happened at the end of V-J day? Up to that time we had a flow of X machines coming in per week or per month. On V-J day it was not a flow of machines of X per month, it was a solid big gob of machines which descended on us. I cannot possibly have the administrative machinery to catalogue all these machines; as to what they are, where they are—we have to sell them openly. It may take me 12 months to get all these machines sold properly. It may take me two years.

Mr. BENEDICKSON: Just on this question of volume—

The CHAIRMAN: Would you mind? I would like to give Mr. Black an opportunity to carry through his question on that particular point.

Mr. BLACK: In my opinion this should be a comparatively simple matter. These people are starting small industries and they want special machines held by the Crown as stores. The Crown is not using them. Up to the present I have not been able to get any advice as to whether they are going to be made available to the people who are trying to get them. I refer to special machines which they require for their industry, and they are held in stores. What they want to know is whether they will be given preference, and if it is possible for them to buy these machines to carry on business. It is not so much a question of price as it is a question of getting the machines which they require.

Mr. DEROCHE: I think I know the particular case to which you refer. That particular case has been receiving careful attention, and I believe at the moment it has been pretty well cleared and that most of the machines that are required have been sold. But these are being cleared as fast as possible. The problem in that situation is, as Mr. Berry says, with the administrative machinery, and finding out what tools are there and getting them available. This sale is not quite as simple as it seems to a person, where the machine is on one side of a street and the buyer on the other. On the face of it, it seems very simple, but perhaps some explanation would be helpful. Somebody has to make a list so we may know what is there, and we have many cases of this kind spread all across the country. When a particular case arises, such as the one about which you are speaking, an effort is made to speed the system up and find the answer in a particular case. I believe in your particular case the answer has been found.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, it is 1 o'clock; I do not know whether you wish to carry on any longer?