

EVIDENCE

May 8, 1952.

11:00 a.m.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, we have a quorum; we will carry on. Mr. Mansur, you have a statement to give to the committee in regard to nails?

Mr. D. B. Mansur, President of Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, called:

The CHAIRMAN: Have you that statement ready now?

The WITNESS: Yes sir. It reads as follows:

"Emergency Nail Supply

In 1947, an arrangement was made with the Steel Controller of the Department of Munitions and Supply whereby extra production of nails arranged by the Steel Controller would be distributed by the Corporation to builders building homes for veterans either under the veterans' rental housing plan or privately.

The Director of the Veterans' Land Act transferred to the Corporation surplus nail stocks held by the V.L.A. after the completion of their construction program.

From time to time nails were purchased from the producers to maintain the stocks in the Corporation warehouses. These were located in Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg, Saskatoon, Calgary and Edmonton. From these stocks nails were sold to builders building homes for veterans. Distribution from the emergency nail supply in British Columbia was handled by an official of the Department of Munitions and Supply.

In 1948, the agreement with the Steel Controller was continued and broadened to permit the Corporation to supply nails to any builder of small houses, whether for veterans or non-veterans, provided that builder was unable to secure nails from his regular supplier.

In December, 1948, an arrangement was reached between the Steel Controller and the Canadian nail producers that the Corporation would discontinue handling the emergency nail supply except for requirements of builders building under contract with the Corporation or under integrated agreements. The Wholesale Hardware Association undertook to maintain emergency stocks at:

Western Area—J. H. Ashdown Hardware, Winnipeg; Walter Woods, Winnipeg and Edmonton; Marshall Wells, Winnipeg, Saskatoon and Calgary.

Ontario Area—Wood Alexander & James, Hamilton; Hobbs Hardware, London; Aikenhead Ltd., Toronto.

Quebec Area—Caverhill, Learmont, Ltd., Montreal; Lewis Bros., Montreal; J. S. Mitchell, Ltd., Sherbrooke.

From these stocks the Association undertook to supply nails to any house builder unable to obtain his requirements from regular channels. After April, 1949, the Corporation carried nails only for builders building under contract with the Corporation. Our stock of nails in excess of our requirements was not sold by the Corporation as surplus material but was returned to the