

series of companies all over the world it is exceedingly difficult to get back to the No. 1 man or the No. 1 group controlling it. I have seen both here, in Washington and in London, records and charts showing as many as fifteen holding or parent companies of one kind or another altogether before you get back to what appears to be the ultimate source of control.

Mr. SMITH: You should read Mr. Dimm, Doctor, that illustrates it very well.

The WITNESS: I beg pardon.

Mr. SMITH: There is a book called Mr. Dimm that illustrates that point. It is the best satire in the world.

The WITNESS: If you will permit me to say so, you get a company operating here which is controlled by a company operating in a friendly or neutral country. You may say, "we think that has an enemy taint". They answer, "no, we are controlled by another company in another neutral country". It goes back and back. We have obtained some very useful information as a result of getting a peep at what appears to be the records of certain parts of Germany. There were certain other parts of Germany where no British, American, nor Canadian investigator could possibly obtain information. Unfortunately they had restrictions as to movements in all of these zones but we have had a reasonable amount of cooperation.

Mr. STEWART: Doctor Coleman, there is another point which I might ask by presenting a fictitious case. Let us assume a resident of Poland had, at the outbreak of war, been living in Canada. Poland was overrun. A new government inimicable to his interests was set up in Poland and he is not able to go back to Poland to re-establish himself, what would happen to his property in that case? Probably you can enlarge upon it for me.

The WITNESS: For many reasons I prefer that you take a hypothetical country rather than the one you have chosen. Astoria, or something of that nature. I would say the custodian has always taken provision that he is the trustee for the individual only and not for the country.

Mr. STEWART: The nation.

The WITNESS: Not the country. Now we have had certain agreements, one of which was placed on the table of parliament more than a year ago, one with France, and there are others which have been partially negotiated and not yet completed, which provide that a man living in that country has to obtain a certificate from his own authority that he is a resident, that he holds property, and that there is no gain on behalf of the enemy and that he is not charged with any collaboration.

Mr. WINKLER: Mr. Chairman, I have a question which I would like to ask. I think Doctor Coleman may not consider it as general enough and probably in that case the answer can be deferred. He might describe the bounds of the activities of the custodian. The question is this. Take the case of the sale of an X-ray machine. A great many were sold in this country, I believe, just prior to the war, and suppose I, just a week before the war began, had bought one of those machines and had made a small payment down on what I believed to be a very expensive machine. What would be the attitude of the custodian in such a case?

The WITNESS: I take it, Mr. Winkler, that you have made a down payment to a German firm operating in Canada and that you had not received the machine.

Mr. WINKLER: I was thinking of a case where I had the machine.

The WITNESS: Oh, well if you got the machine the custodian becomes entitled to the purchase price. That is one of the very instances I was pointing out, where it relates actually to the X-ray machine. A lot of these were sold