

Q. I think you should do that because there has been a great deal of criticism of the individual in charge of your local organization, the War Assets Office in Vancouver. Now, suppose a person wanted to buy a projector, to whom would he apply? Let us suppose no municipality, provincial or federal government wanted to exercise its priority, would the projectors be advertised; and, if a person has made application and his name is on the list, would the fact that his name was on the list entitle him to prior consideration, even in the event of the article being advertised? This is important, because there are other articles concerned as well as projectors; I think we should have a definite answer to that question. It would be helpful.—A. Our general policy calls for the advertising of this stuff for sale, but I doubt whether the War Assets Corporation would be justified in spending money on a lot of advertising for one or two projectors.

The MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. MARQUIS: After materials have been declared surplus and so registered with the corporation is it the policy of War Assets to keep it at the local office or to arrange for distribution all over Canada?

The WITNESS: Might I repeat, if the entire supply of surplus falls into what we call the national significance sphere, then it will be redistributed by War Assets Corporation and would not all be sold, shall we say in British Columbia.

Mr. REID: There you have it, that national significance sphere. I should like to know what that means. National significance.

The WITNESS: That, Mr. Chairman, gives us quite a bit of difficulty and we are fighting our way through that as fast as possible. For instance, the national significance figure for shirts might be quite a bit different from the national significance figure for planes or projectors; and it varies with each particular item. Under the present arrangement a national significance figure has to be set for every type of merchandise we sell. That is the philosophy we are trying to follow.

Mr. MARQUIS: That would depend on the quantity you have to sell throughout the country.

The WITNESS: That is right.

Mr. GOLDING: In regard to this idea of advertising these commodities, you have told us that you have to take account of this national significance sphere and that it has to be made available in different parts of the country; what method would you take in advertising such a commodity? First, let me ask you this; how much would you receive for these projectors—approximately?—A. I could not tell you that. My only general answer to that is that we would receive the going market price.

Q. But approximately what would it be? What I am getting at is what system you would follow. Would you advertise it clear across the country; and if you did that, how much would it cost you to advertise an article of that kind?—A. In a case of a small item like one or two projectors I venture to say that we would not advertise.

The MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

The WITNESS: The cost of the advertising would not be warranted.

Mr. GOLDING: That is the thought I had in mind. We want to be fair to everybody. If you were to advertise them at all you would have to advertise them in such a way that everybody all over the country would know what you had for sale, and anything you might receive by way of return from such advertising would be more than offset by its cost.

The WITNESS: And aside from that, I think the number of replies we would have to make in replies to requests, if we were to send out a list, would cost us more to prepare than what we would get from the projectors, excluding all the advertising and everything.