

Q. I do not want it in too great detail.—A. We could give you the location of the building; the original cost of the building; the price at which the building was sold. May I suggest that it might be better if the committee would pick out the items which it would like to have discussed and I will arrange to bring over the necessary files which would give the story with respect to any particular building.

Mr. STEWART: We would like to get the cost of construction, the type of construction, the date of the sale, the proceeds of the sale—I think that would be sufficient.

Mr. JACKMAN: Why not put a minimum amount of \$10,000.

Mr. MCGREGOR: I should say that we should have them all, because there were a lot of temporary buildings put up which sold at less than \$10,000 and cost maybe \$100,000. We want them all.

The WITNESS: I am afraid it would be difficult to put them all in. It would be a rather colossal job because you would have to include every small building you had say at an airfield or anything of that kind. Would it not be possible for the committee to state a minimum?

Mr. STEWART: Give us the \$10,000 or over.

The WITNESS: The \$10,000 would bring in practically everything. I would suggest an original cost of not less than \$100,000.

Mr. STEWART: That seems rather high to me.

Mr. McILRAITH: Would not the better way to approach that be this, Mr. Stewart: take what can be obtained in the range of the larger figure, and then if you find that does not give you what you want you can reduce the limit until it brings out the information you desire.

Mr. STEWART: I am willing to accept that suggestion.

The WITNESS: All right.

*By Mr. Jackman:*

Q. Could you give us the total amount of the inventories on hand; the cost value of the commodities and their present inventory—in round figures?—A. I am afraid, Mr. Chairman, the corporation does not maintain a record of original cost. It is not possible for us to do that.

Q. What I am leading up to is this. I want to know the relation between the amount at which this surplus is being sold and its cost; the amount of the surplus on hand, and what is still to come. Can you give us any idea as to the further amount which is likely to be declared surplus? Would it be of the order of hundreds of millions or what?—A. I am afraid my records will not allow me to answer that question.

Q. Have you had any estimate or report, or do you get estimates or reports from time to time on sales, and the percentages which those sales bear to original costs?—A. We do have these reports in relation to certain specific items such as real estate and buildings, on which we are able to carry the original cost right through the record, and also on certain types of machine tools. Other than that I do not think you will find there is much including the original cost. We do not find it possible to carry that record through, in some cases it is not possible to obtain the original cost.

Q. And there is no attempt made to find out what the original cost was on any body of assets declared surplus?—A. No.

Q. It is not considered worthwhile.—A. I think it is not worthwhile, and I would say that it would not be possible in a lot of cases because so much of our stuff comes in bits and pieces rather than as entities. For instance, we could take the case of a complete aeroplane, and we know what the complete aeroplane costs; but it would mean a lot of research and investigation to find out how much a half finished connecting rod for an engine is worth.