2. Other governments will have like problems.

Canada will be particularly concerned with respect to

United States' disposal operations. Charles H. Lipsett,

Publisher of the Daily Metal Reporter, New York, in a

pamphlet dated September 28, 1943, estimates probable

United States' war-end inventories at 75 billions. He

calculates the amount this way:

The cost of the first World War was about twenty-two billion dollars and the surplus war materials resulting therefrom was valued at approximately seven billion dollars. For the current war, Congress has already appropriated or authorized 344 billion dollars, or nearly fifteen times as much as the cost of the first World War.

3. No statute regulates disposals of property such as is under review. Whether, from the constitutional viewpoint, the executive government has power to sell or donate is open to doubt. We observe that in 1922 the British Public Accounts Committee reviewed donations of surplus war materials. In the report is to be found:

On inquiry we find that the greatest constitutional authorities have laid it down that gifts of national property cannot be made without the approval of Parliament. We are therefore doubtful whether, even in suggesting a limit of £10,000 last year, we did not go further than the constitution allows.

4. Assets in the form of leases will be terminated.

In many cases it is a lease condition that the property be restored to its original state. This will

Minutes and Documents of the Cabinet War Committee, Volume XIV, September - December 1943, (R.G. 2, 7c, Volume 14)

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