

Mr. Golden has given us all the information he can.

Mr. HELLYER: Does the Department of National Defence have duplicative machinery for planning, in case of national emergency?

Mr. GOLDEN: No sir. I do not know what plans they have for a national emergency. The Department of Defence Production is the only department which has the responsibility for doing the planning which this section is going to be doing—and it is its responsibility. We propose to carry it out. I find myself in this difficulty; I have just obtained my people. I am not sure that I even have met them all yet. The chief is just now preparing for my approval, and for the minister's approval, the methods by which he proposes to execute his responsibilities. I am in the position that I am not sufficiently familiar yet with what he has done.

Mr. HELLYER: Are your terms of reference set by cabinet directive, or how did this come into being?

Was it a directive of the emergency measures organization, from the cabinet, or how did it come to happen?

Mr. GOLDEN: There is a cabinet directive. I do not know whether or not I should answer this. Yes, this is a task which has been assigned to the Department of Defence Production, and to no other department.

The CHAIRMAN: Have you a question on another point, Mr. McIlraith?

Mr. McILRAITH: Just a point of clarification, Mr. Chairman.

In dealing with this agency, and describing it, you spoke about this planning for procurement of supplies. Now, that really is the direct responsibility of the department, as I understand it.

The CHAIRMAN: Which department?

Mr. McILRAITH: Of your department, Mr. Golden, the Department of Defence Production.

Could you make clear to me, is it envisaged that this new planning division about which we are speaking is going to reconsider the whole matter and examine whether the department itself should be replaced by some other procurement agency?

Could you clarify that point?

Mr. GOLDEN: I think what I should have made clear is that it is contemplated that a war supplies agency might have powers, duties and responsibilities, in the early period of a nuclear war, which, indeed, might be very wide—and that would include procurement of commodities—not necessarily military, but all commodities of all types. That is one of the things that the agency is expected to plan for—to indicate how it thinks this should be done. It would not do it.

Mr. McILRAITH: I recognize that point.

Mr. GOLDEN: It might indicate it should be done by the Department of Defence Production.

Mr. McILRAITH: Now, that is the responsibility of the department itself, and the purpose for which it was created. It seems to me that this new planning agency has a responsibility, although it is only a part of the department reporting to the deputy minister and the minister, to recommend a larger agency, and another agency; in other words, the replacement of the present department by another—and that seems to me to be inconsistent.

Could you reconcile that apparent inconsistency of authority?

Mr. GOLDEN: Well, sir, the functions of the Department of Defence Production are to procure defence supplies, materials and services, whereas the war supply agency, it is contemplated, would have the responsibility of procuring on a wider basis.