

The WITNESS: The power, Mr. Reid, is in the Act to do it; the present policies which have been established and laid down would completely prevent such a transaction. I think, in a radio address, Mr. Carswell the former President of the Corporation and the minister stated the general policies which they proposed to follow. One of such policies was that the Surplus Disposal Agency of the Crown is not the body to judge the good works of people. Accordingly, they do not give things away for any reason. If somebody thinks he should have a present, then let him come to parliament and get a grant.

*By Mr. Probe:* (of Mr. DeRoche)

Q. I would like to get clear in my mind which branch of these four corporations that we are discussing is responsible, or which takes the responsibility, for ordering the destruction of any commodities which they think have no value? Is it the War Assets Allocation Committee that orders the dumping of munitions in the sea, or the ploughing under of airplanes, and that sort of thing? Who takes the responsibility for destruction?—A. The Crown Assets Allocation Committee does not make any detailed decision as to destruction. It has a standard directive which was approved by order in council. This directive in relation to bombs, live ammunition, and other explosives provides that if the corporation should determine that it is either uneconomical or too hazardous otherwise to deal with them, they may then be dumped into the sea. But in relation to airplanes and that type of thing, the committee has done nothing whatever.

Q. I would like to know who is the responsible body to say such a thing must be destroyed or such a thing must be sold?—A. That is War Assets Corporation.

Q. It is War Assets Corporation. Then, I would like to have a statement submitted here dealing with the rumoured destruction—such rumour has some basis in fact in the mind of the public or a large section thereof—that there are valuable things such as radio sets, signal equipment, small hardware, pails, and so on destroyed. I think a statement to this special committee of the House on the extent of disposal ordered along those lines would be very valuable in clearing up what may be a misconception.

Mr. LALONDE: I would be very glad if this question were taken under consideration by the steering committee. If somebody either inside or outside of this committee has any particular complaint to make, then let such complaint be made before our general committee, in accordance with the resolution passed by our committee. Then our steering committee will screen out such charges and bring them up here for discussion. I do not think a statement should be made right now in this committee before having the matter first dealt with by our steering committee.

Mr. PROBE: Do you take exception to my question?

Mr. LALONDE: Oh, no; but I do think it is a question of procedure.

The CHAIRMAN: At our last general meeting, we decided that if any person or member of the committee had a matter which he wished to have investigated or looked into or studied, that he would place it before the general committee in the form of a motion in writing. It would then be passed on to the steering committee for their consideration.

Mr. PROBE: I shall be glad to do that because I think it might help the officials of War Assets Corporation perhaps just as much as it might harm them. If they have a policy that is sound, they should be able to dispel a lot of rumour.

*By Mr. Cleaver:* (of Mr. DeRoche)

Q. I would like to clarify that point. Did I understand the witness correctly; that where the question of public safety is concerned, dealing with live ammunition and the like, that the responsibility for disposing of it lies