

*By Mr. Reid:*

Q. Major Montgomery.—A. Could I point out to the member Major Montgomery is purely concerned with sales, and our man having knowledge of the facts out there is the regional supply manager and not the branch sales manager who very likely will know nothing about these operations until this surplus reaches him.

Mr. McILRAITH: What is the date of Mr. Reid's enquiry? He said a week before he left to come to Ottawa, but he did not tell us when he left to come to Ottawa.

Mr. REID: I can give you the exact date because I think the matter is worth looking into further. As a member of the committee and as a member of parliament I am not taking the statement given me now without further investigation of it because I paid personal visits to this place on two occasions. If Major Montgomery is not in charge I will accept Mr. Berry's statement that that is wrong, that the head of the War Assets Corporation for British Columbia is not the official I should have seen. It is rather confusing. I go to the head of the War Assets Corporation in Vancouver and ask him about it and now I am told he was not the proper official, that it is some other official.

The WITNESS: Major Montgomery is the branch manager in Vancouver. He is not the head man for War Assets Corporation in British Columbia.

Mr. REID: Then I will make this statement, that on the two days I visited Boundary Bay there was no War Assets official taking check. I will make that definite statement, and that contradicts the statement you have put in the record now.

Mr. McILRAITH: It does not necessarily contradict it at all. The member has refused to give the dates he is talking about. The statement is quite clear.

Mr. REID: If you think—

Mr. McILRAITH: If he wants to examine further that is probably what we should do, but he should surely give us the dates he is talking about.

Mr. REID: If you think the dates are important and if there is any quibbling on dates I will give you the dates.

Mr. McILRAITH: I think you should do that.

Mr. REID: I will give the dates in a moment. We will put them down on the record, and I will stand by the statement I have made. It is on the record.

Mr. McILRAITH: Let us have the dates.

Mr. REID: You will realize that I know a little more about it than you do.

Mr. McILRAITH: I do not know that my knowledge is in question at the moment. In view of this statement about Boundary Bay I have asked my friend if I may get the dates. I think that is a proper request.

Mr. REID: On March 7—that is one of the dates.

Mr. MARQUIS: Which year?

Mr. REID: Oh, "what year," he says! In the year of our Lord, 1946, and put after that "present year", too, so that we will get the whole thing straight. Let us make no mistake about it. In the year of our Lord, 1946, the month of March, the 4th, and in the year of our Lord, 1946, in the month of March, the 8th, I visited Major Montgomery. I hope that satisfies the minister's assistant.

Mr. McILRAITH: That is the point. Thank you very much.

Mr. REID: I will stand by my statement that on those days I was down there and there was no official of the War Assets there.

The WITNESS: Could I point out I have already mentioned in my evidence that the letter of instruction left our office under date of March 15th to Mr. Burke, regional supply manager, Vancouver, instructing them to go ahead with that establishment.