

Q. I would also like to draw the attention of the Committee, and your attention too, Mr. Berry, to something that may be legitimate. But why should an ex-service man, and there are many who are anxious to buy fishing boats which are being declared surplus to government requirements, be obliged to go to the head office at Montreal where they are disposed of. It means that large companies may be able to buy the stuff in groups, having the finances at their disposal, to the detriment of the ex-service man, particularly the ex-service man who is a fisherman; that I think is one of the things that should be corrected. My other question is this; is their any cooperation at all between the various military departments and your own department in regard to war assets? What I have in mind is this, as it applies particularly to British Columbia, the air force have for months been concentrating all sorts of supplies and equipment in the hangars of the air field at Boundary Bay. I have visited there and I have seen thousands of chairs, thousands of desks, thousands of this and thousands of that. Has any check been made by your department? On making enquiries they told me that this whole airdrome is being filled up with hundreds of thousands of articles which probably would eventually be sold, they may be sold by now; would be turned over to your department. I have not made any check on that, or know how you would make a check on it? And, how long it would take your department to make such a check on the quantities of material which are being sorted there. In putting my question I am not in any way holding your organization to blame, but is your department consulted in any way by the military authorities? In my opinion you should have a man in there checking these articles off as they come in by the truck load. I do not suppose your officials would be prepared to accept a statement handed to you by each of these departments, you might be willing to. I would like a brief explanation of that, if you will?—A. I would like to say that the corporation of which I am the president has received every assistance from the other government departments and the armed services. I have no particular knowledge of the Boundary Bay operations.

Q. I know, but what I have in mind is this; I cannot see how you can make a check on all those articles, they are so numerous. I saw thousands of desks, thousands of tables, thousands of chairs, thousands and thousands of different things in the area. They have all been assembled and stored there and it is going to take months and months to check them, while people badly in need of articles of this kind are going to have to wait. They go to War Assets and they are told, these things have not been turned over to us. And they are badly needed. I was wondering how long it would take your officials to check up on all that vast quantity of materials; or, will you accept a statement, an inventory, given to you by the air force or other military authorities concerned; and if it were necessary for your organization to check up on the inventory, how long it would take you to make such a check before you would be in a position to dispose of the material?—A. I must again repeat my statement, that we are getting wonderful cooperation from the armed services; I have no particular knowledge of the arrangement at Boundary Bay.

Q. Then it is time you did.—A. I could find out about it.

Q. It is time you were looking into it because they are hauling these things there from all over the country and storing it in the airdrome buildings. People can't get hold of these articles. Instead of disposing of the materials at the local camps, at the points where they were in use, they are hauling everything in there and it is going to take a considerable time to get it inventoried because they have been bringing it in there for three months or more.

Mr. PROBE: Mr. Chairman, we could get that from the departmental officers.

Mr. MARQUIS: There is one point about which I would like to ask a question: if War Assets receive an application from an individual institution requesting some article for educational purposes, is it the policy of War Assets to declare