

War Assets that they have plenty of these instruments in first-class condition that would be available if required.

If we have plenty of this type of equipment in first-class condition it seems strange that \$16,000,000 should be asked for under this item, and I think it would be well for the minister to explain in greater detail how this \$16,000,000 is to be spent.

I should like also to pass on a suggestion to the minister that he might save himself and his department a great many headaches if in the future, when equipment is being declared surplus, a list of the items be given to the members of this house, so that they would know in advance what was being declared surplus and would then be in a position to know how much truth there was in any rumours they heard as to the disposal of such assets.

Mr. GIBSON (Hamilton West): The hon. member assumes that because we are asking for \$16,000,000 as the total cash requirements, we are spending it all this year; but as I pointed out on a previous occasion, we had a carry-over from the previous year of \$21,000,000 of outstanding commitments. Some have been cancelled and the total requirement for this year is now reduced to \$16,000,000.

Mr. ZAPLITNY: Some of this is to pay for equipment that was already ordered?

Mr. GIBSON (Hamilton West): Yes.

Mr. MacINNIS: I received a letter from the minister of education of British Columbia in regard to equipment that might be made available by War Assets for school purposes. Does the minister know if there is such surplus equipment; whether school boards have made application for it, and, if so, what disposition has been made of it?

Mr. GIBSON (Hamilton West): Yes, war assets allocation committee is looking after that equipment, and is in touch with the schools and is making it available to the schools at a very reasonable cost.

Mr. JACKMAN: Just what action was taken by the R.C.A.F. when V-J day arrived to cancel orders for equipment and supplies through Munitions and Supply? Further, just when were those cancellations made and what method is used to make sure that all equipment which is surplus to the service is so declared?

Mr. GIBSON (Hamilton West): After V-J day all contracts were reviewed and those that could be cancelled were cancelled. I go farther and say that the contracts were reviewed after V-E day. So that our commit-

ments have been very much reduced during the year, both after V-E day and after V-J day. We have a special body within the air force reviewing our supply situation and declaring surplus everything that is surplus to the prospective needs of the force.

Mr. JACKMAN: Who makes up that body and how is it constituted?

Mr. GIBSON (Hamilton West): They are officers of the air force.

Mr. BENTLEY: When the air force has decided that certain equipment is surplus and that a certain part of it can be destroyed as having no more value, is that part of the equipment which is declared as having no more value made available to the public at a small cost, or even for nothing? I have heard on several occasions the declaration made that certain equipment is of no more value, and I would remind the minister and the authorities that there are some very ingenious people in Canada. If the minister has seen some of the things that have been made out of the old Model T Ford car he will readily understand that some very useful articles can be made out of the bodies of aeroplanes. We have in our city one of these ingenious chaps, an enterprising chap who can take an old training plane and make almost everything from it from lawn seats to a variety of other things which he has on display outside his place of business just to show what can be done. Why not make this equipment available to people like that? If you are going to run over it with bull-dozers, why not let them have it even for nothing?

Mr. GIBSON (Hamilton West): As I have repeatedly said, the air force has no power over the disposal of property once it is declared surplus. It must be disposed of by War Assets.

Mr. BENTLEY: You cannot even give it away? Then I would recommend that War Assets be instructed to make it available. Somebody in the government has authority to do that.

Item agreed to.

Ammunition and bombs, \$10,487,068.

Mr. REID: Three weeks ago or more large quantities of live ammunition were found by school children at the mud flats close to one of the air stations known as Boundary Bay. The attention of the civic authorities was called to the matter when one of the school boys was injured in trying to pry a bullet loose from one of the live cartridges. The