

that equipment, the acceptances of those bids, are they made at a central office, or do the branch offices accept the bids coming through that branch office?

Mr. RICHARD: No, they are sent to Ottawa, and accepted by head office.

Mr. MORTON: So that all bids in respect to equipment sold by Crown Assets, anywhere within the dominion, are accepted through a central office in Ottawa?

Mr. RICHARD: They are recommended by the branches and are approved in Ottawa.

Mr. SMITH (*Simcoe North*): Where are the bids opened, all in Ottawa?

Mr. RICHARD: No, in the branches.

Mr. MORTON: What check have you in your system on the bids that are made? Do you make a periodic check from your headquarters to see that the instructions are being carried out correctly, and see that the bids are properly made.

Mr. RICHARD: Yes, that is what we check up through our branches.

Mr. MORTON: Is it a matter of a spot check, or is every bid checked within a period of a year?

Mr. RICHARD: No, not every bid. All bids are forwarded to head office and are checked here.

Mr. SMITH (*Simcoe North*): Having regard to the fact the staff in Toronto is fairly limited—seven people, I think—would it not be possible to have all the bids opened in Ottawa? Would that not be a feasible thing?

Mr. RICHARD: Then they would have to be sent back to the branch for the salesmen to obtain the customer's cheque and to see whether he approves the sale or not, or recommends the sale, or not. Then it would have to come back here again. Mind you, all bids opened have the date and hour stamp, and this shows when they are opened.

Mr. MORTON: Are the bids opened by more than one person?

Mr. RICHARD: Yes, two.

Mr. MORTON: Do they make a certificate, or is there any indication of each bid?

Mr. RICHARD: The bids are listed on a sheet which is signed by the two persons opening the bids.

Mr. McGRATH: You do not have a branch in Newfoundland, do you?

Mr. RICHARD: No, sir.

Mr. McGRATH: Where is the bulk of the American surplus processed? Where is the bulk of the paper work and the actual work done in that line—in Halifax?

Mr. RICHARD: No, it is done at the Pepperell air force base, or whichever location is put at our disposal by the United States people, during the course of the sale.

Mr. McGRATH: Would this not necessitate your people having to make frequent visits or trips to Newfoundland?

Mr. RICHARD: You must remember they are seasonal sales, one in the spring and one in the fall. Our men do go to Newfoundland for a specific period.

Mr. McGRATH: How often do they usually stay? For each sale, how long do you think they usually stay?

Mr. RICHARD: I would say, two months.

Mr. McGRATH: This will be four months of the year?

Mr. RICHARD: If not five or six.