

The CHAIRMAN: Perhaps the statement read by Mr. Stokes with reference to the answer on trees might also appear as an appendix to yesterday's minutes of proceedings and evidence. (See Appendix "B-8" to Proceedings No. 13)

Agreed.

The CHAIRMAN: Now we have the Crown Assets Disposal Corporation. Mr. Richard is with us today. I understand you have some information, Mr. Richard, which you would like to bring to the attention of the committee.

Mr. LOUIS RICHARD (*President and General Manager, Crown Assets Disposal Corporation*): I have distributed to the members of the committee the details.

The CHAIRMAN: Would it be agreeable if Mr. Richard reads his statement now?

Agreed.

Mr. LOUIS RICHARD (*President and General Manager, Crown Assets Disposal Corporation*): I would like to make this statement.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to refer to some remarks made at the last sitting that sales of surpluses, Canadian or American, are restricted or made to a closed group of purchasers.

The reference was made in connection with sales of Newfoundland American surpluses and I must say that advertisements covering these sales appeared in newspapers of St. John's, Newfoundland, of Halifax and Saint John, New Brunswick, Quebec City, Montreal and Toronto informing anyone interested of the fact that these goods were for sale and inviting all and sundry to purchase and that each and every item sold was awarded to the party having submitted the highest written offer.

Crown Assets Disposal Corporation has consistently adhered for many years to the policy of selling to the public on the basis of written offers and to the highest bidder and I am referring to Canadian as well as American sales. If some firms are more frequent purchasers than others, as is bound to be the case, it is for no other reason than that they are consistently high bidders and therefore win out more frequently because of their bidding habits.

In our Montreal branch alone there are over 2,900 names on 46 lists for different types of materials and invitations for offers are mailed out in large numbers. The list for scrap includes no less than 113 names, that for machine tools 182 names, heavy machinery and contractors equipment 173 names, and so on. The average response on all lists is that 20 per cent offer us bids.

Other branches have equally heavy lists and I submit that these sales are far from restricted.

Aircraft and aircraft material sales conducted from our head office have even heavier lists. That for airplanes, airframes, engines, propellers and related support equipment has no less than 371 names.

We have made a search of our accounts and find that no single firm has bought as much as 6 per cent of the aggregate total of \$6,001,238 of commodities sold in 1958-1959 and there are only six customers who have been awarded \$100,000 in goods. On the other hand, an examination of ledgers accounts shows we had approximately 2,000 separate accounts in that year.

A list of the 54 most active purchasers of commodities in 1958-1959 is tabled for the information of the committee.