

*By Mr. Cleaver:*

Q. I suppose, Mr. Berry, these large corporations were willing and able to loan their men during the war, but now they have the peace demand for their key men just as we have a peak demand for men for War Assets?—A. In other words, during the war period the government actually took over some of the functions of officials, and as a result of that certain men could be spared from those businesses and loaned to the government. Now, the situation is reversed.

Q. We are now in the post war period and these industries have to gather up the loose ends, get their own organizations whipped into shape, to take care of consumer demands. Are there any industries such as the automobile industry where there would be such a limited supply of their products available for sale compared with the demand where you might, say, be able to pick up the odd man from their sales department?—A. I think I can answer that one this way: the corporation is faced not only with setting up machinery and men to handle the overall administrative picture, but we are also faced with the problem of having, I do not know how many complete businesses in themselves. We have one business which sells ships. We have a business which sells automobiles. Another business sells aluminum, brass and copper. And then we have another business sitting over here that sells something totally different. And another business here which deals with real estate. And, off the record you are faced with the problem of having to have senior executives who will run any one of these different types of businesses, and any one of these, again, is a big business in itself.

*By Mr. McDonald:*

Q. From your experience, could you form any idea as to the length of time this corporation will function?—A. Any opinion on time I gave you would be absolutely and purely crystal gazing, nothing less than crystal gazing.

*By Mr. Cleaver:*

Q. But you do know that it is very temporary?—A. We accepted it as temporary, it must of necessity be temporary. Whether the corporation's useful life will be one year, two years, three years, four years, five years—I would not hazard a guess.

*By Mr. Cote:*

Q. And the better you do your work the shorter will be the life of the corporation?—A. That is it.

*By Mr. Shaw:*

Q. May I ask Mr. Berry his opinion in respect to the alleviation of difficulties concerning staff if better salaries were offered would better men be available?—A. I would not like to answer that officially, but I would give you my own opinion in the matter; I do not think we could attract people with money. The men whom we require to do this job and do it honestly and properly are not the men whom you can go out in the street and buy, not under the conditions under which we operate, no.

*By Mr. Cleaver:*

Q. I have been wondering, Mr. Berry, if you have any suggestions to make whereby your task might be lightened if some changes were made in the present controls; first, in regard to these priority controls. I have heard many complaints from firms and individuals, who are not on the priority list who say that those firms who are on the priority list are taking advantage of their priority, especially in regard to the provinces. In regard to the priorities to the