

Sir HENRY THORNTON: Yes, certainly it was.

Hon. Mr. EULER: And not by the government?

Sir HENRY THORNTON: No, the government didn't make any recommendation as to what we should do. They simply cancelled the previous order in council and left the thing in the air to revise.

Hon. Mr. EULER: And they accepted your recommendation which was to build the hotel as it is now?

Mr. HANSON: At a capital cost in this case of six million dollars more than the arrangement that could have been made?

Hon. Mr. EULER: What arrangement?

Mr. HANSON: Sir Henry said just now that if he had to do it over again they would not do anything of the sort.

The CHAIRMAN: I think we have spent enough time on the hotels. I am under the impression that the management will not build any more hotels to-morrow.

Mr. HANSON: There are a whole lot of things they will not do.

Mr. GRAY: I think that applies to members of the committee.

Sir HENRY THORNTON: What Mr. Hanson says is quite true. Two or three years ago we exercised such judgment and intelligence as we had in the light of the times, and as I said a moment ago there are lots of things which we did and lots of things which the people of this country did—

The CHAIRMAN: Lots of us.

Sir HENRY THORNTON: —that we would not have done had we known what is happening to-day. I cannot speak more clearly than that.

Hon. Mr. EULER: You acted on your best judgment at that time?

Sir HENRY THORNTON: Certainly.

Mr. McGIBBON: The test of that was the contractual agreement with the city of Vancouver. There was one settlement made for three hundred and fifty thousand dollars—

The CHAIRMAN: Three and a half million.

Mr. McGIBBON: Three and a half million dollars. That was satisfactory to the city of Vancouver. It was satisfactory to the directors, and it was satisfactory to the government. That was set aside, and the result of that setting aside is about six million or more added to the settlement. Is not that correct?

Hon. Mr. EULER: And a better hotel.

Sir HENRY THORNTON: You will forgive me if I prefer to keep out of anything that looks political?

Mr. GRAY: Certainly.

The CHAIRMAN: I think enough time has been spent on the Vancouver Hotel.

Mr. GRAY: It is done anyway. If you want to blame the late government, blame them.

Mr. MACMILLAN: Are you progressively working on the hotel in Vancouver?

Sir HENRY THORNTON: Yes.

Mr. MACMILLAN: It is not going to be shut down?

Sir HENRY THORNTON: No, it has not been shut down.