

EVIDENCE

THURSDAY, June 23, 1960.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, may we call the meeting to order, please. At our meeting yesterday Mr. McGee wanted further information concerning trees and shrubbery in Ottawa. I believe we have obtained an answer in the interval, have we not, Mr. Henderson?

Mr. A. M. HENDERSON (*Auditor General of Canada*): That is correct, Mr. Chairman; and Mr. A. B. Stokes, the audit supervisor in charge of the National Capital Commission audit is here with some information that I would like to ask him to give.

Mr. A. B. STOKES (*Audit Supervisor of Crown Corporations, Auditor General office*): In answer to the question asked by Mr. McGee in regard to guarantees obtained by the National Capital Commission from landscape contractors, in particular, Davey Tree Experts of Canada, Ltd., for trees planted on Sussex Drive, I have made inquiries and wish to inform the committee that contracts for trees are only given after tenders have been obtained.

The successful bidder guarantees, under contract, that the trees will come into leaf satisfactorily to the commission, or will be replaced. The commission withholds 15 per cent of the contract price until such time as this requirement has been satisfied. We have been informed that there were 15 trees on Sussex drive which were planted in 1956 and developed maple wilt in the third year and had been replaced. But since these came into leaf in the first two years following their planting, replacement was no longer the responsibility of the contractor, hence, replacement was at the commissioner's expense. The replacement work was done partly by Acme-tree specialists and partly by Cedarvale tree experts at an average cost of \$142 per tree.

Mr. CHOWN: They cannot be expected to give an unlimited guarantee, a guarantee in perpetuity which would seem to be what was hinted at by Mr. McGee. That is not feasible.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, I have several letters which I suggest could be filed as an appendix to today's proceedings, because we are about to consider the item in respect of the Crown Assets Disposal Corporation, rather than the matters referred to in these documents. There is a telegram from the president and general manager of Koehring Waterous Limited, Brantford; a letter from Mr. Hugh Crombie, vice-president of Dominion Engineering Works Limited; a letter from George E. Bernard, Canadian association of equipment distributors, referring to the testimony he gave; and a letter from Mr. J. S. Thorp, executive vice-president of Blackwood Hodge Quebec Limited, referring to the testimony and is in amplification and clarification of the testimony given by some of the witnesses who appeared earlier before this committee when we were examining the Crown Assets Disposal Corporation.

Is it agreed that these be attached as an appendix? (*See Appendix "A-9"*)

Agreed.