

accelerated depreciation allowances?—A. The committee did not recommend a detailed system. The report by the special committee, if you like to call it that, the committee whose report the Crown Assets Allocation Committee accepted, did suggest a schedule of depreciation which is just about what you mentioned; but the Crown Assets Allocation Committee felt that they ought not to make such detailed recommendations to the corporation, so I am afraid you will have to ask the corporation what actual depreciation they are now using.

Q. Is there not a ceiling on these cars to the individuals who buy them? How can you tell what the ceiling should be?—A. Under the ordinary ceiling arrangement, the Motor Vehicle Controller has fixed a schedule of ceilings, all of which are established according to make, age, and so on, and any sales here are subject to the same ceilings as any other sales.

Mr. HOMUTH: You do sell directly to the farmers. I can remember a sale made in Wellington county. No one was allowed to purchase any of the machines there unless he was endorsed by the local agricultural representative as a legitimate farmer.

*By Mr. Lalonde: (of Mr. DeRoche)*

Q. Is it true that the automobile manufacturers are entitled to take back, after termination of the war, a certain number of vehicles which they manufactured either for the army or for the air force and so on? Is that being done in order to avoid clogging the market?—A. I have never heard of any such arrangement, Mr. Lalonde and I am quite sure there is none.

*By Mr. Shaw: (of Mr. DeRoche)*

Q. Where a department of government makes a declaration of certain surpluses, either it does or it does not recommend a certain type of disposition. Where they do recommend, I would say that priorities should be given to certain provincial governments, and so on, which have requested certain motor vehicles. What care is exercised by the department in making known to all provincial governments the fact that certain articles are to be declared as surplus? You may have a certain article which the Department of National Defence intends to declare surplus. One provincial government may have an application in for something of that character. Another provincial government may need that article, but they were not aware it was going to be declared surplus and therefore they had no application for it in. What care is taken to publish the fact that there are surpluses, which are to be declared?—A. The Crown Assets Allocation Committee does not take any steps to publicize the matter. If any such steps are to be taken, that is a matter for the corporation. The committee, in its early meetings, discussed the whole question of what its status should be and it came to the conclusion that, if it were to step into that picture, it could not discharge its functions without requiring the setting up of a large staff which would substantially duplicate the corporation's staff. As a result, the committee decided not to tell anybody anything.

Q. Would that principle also apply to War Assets Corporation?—A. You will have to ask the corporation.

Q. That is one difficulty we come to in dealing with them separately. I shall bring that up again.

*By Mr. Reid: (of Mr. DeRoche)*

Q. Might I ask why War Assets Corporation should be handling mustard gas? Surely there is no use for that stuff?—A. As a matter of fact it is in the process of being destroyed. But the Surplus Crown Assets Act provides no other scheme for handling surplus Crown assets other than to transfer them to the corporation. The Act does provide ample power, in the section I read, to the corporation to destroy those things which it is believed ought to be destroyed.