

Mr. SILVERWOOD: Yes.

Mr. MONET: Now, Mr. Silverwood, in your brief you speak of the shortage of butter. Would you tell the members of the committee whether you have your own plant for the storage of butter or whether you have to rent accommodation?

Mr. SILVERWOOD: We store most of our butter in our own place. In the past eleven months we have stored about 12 per cent of our total butter in outside plants.

Mr. MONET: Do you store any outside butter in your own plants, or do you use the plant for your company use only?

Mr. SILVERWOOD: May I correct my last statement. For the past eleven months outside storage amounted to 10½ per cent of our total holdings.

Mr. MONET: Outside?

Mr. SILVERWOOD: Yes.

Mr. MONET: The difference would be stored in your own plants?

Mr. SILVERWOOD: The balance, 89½ per cent, is stored in our own storage.

Mr. IRVINE: Do you mean you have had more butter to store in the last ten months and that you could not accommodate your own stock?

Mr. SILVERWOOD: Not necessarily, no. We operate a public cold storage as well as using the storage for our own purposes.

Mr. MONET: Did you store any butter not belonging to your company during the months you have just referred to?

Mr. SILVERWOOD: Yes, we did but we have not included those figures in our statement. We have stored butter acting as a public cold storage for other companies.

Mr. MONET: Can you tell the members of the committee the quantity of butter you have stored for other companies?

Mr. SILVERWOOD: No, I have not got that information.

Mr. MONET: How do you account for storing butter for other companies when you do not have enough accommodation for your own butter?

Mr. SILVERWOOD: We have regular customers with whom we have been doing business for many years and the actual quantities would be very small in relation to the total capacity of our storage.

Mr. MONET: Could you give us the quantities?

Mr. SILVERWOOD: Yes, we could get that.

Mr. MONET: You could get the quantities stored for other people?

Mr. SILVERWOOD: Surely, we could get that information. Would you like us to get it?

Mr. MONET: If you would?

Mr. SILVERWOOD: We can get it.

The CHAIRMAN: Order, there is too much noise in this committee room.

Mr. MONET: What determines the quantity of butter you store?

Mr. SILVERWOOD: We determine the amount we store by way of an estimate of our sales requirements for the winter months—for the off season of the year. As I stated in the brief we manufacture quite a lot of butter but in addition we have to buy butter and do buy butter practically every month.

Mr. MONET: What proportion of your butter distribution do you manufacture and what proportion do you have to buy?

Mr. SILVERWOOD: I can give you that, I think. For the past eleven months we made 63·8 per cent of our total sales of butter and we purchased 36·2 per