

ing officers, while they were still in uniform. He told me he was detailed to deliberately smash thirty-four flashlight bulbs; I believe that was the number, and his partner had the same number to destroy. Further than that, I am informed that at another station good mechanical tools such as Stilson wrenches which are valuable and very hard to get, were cut in two with a blow-torch.

This is the point I wish to bring to the attention of the minister. He may say that these are rumours, but these boys have personally told me these things. At the same time they have said, "We will not make these complaints because if we do we will get into an awful lot of trouble and things will be piled upon our shoulders by the commanding officers." On one occasion, however, a man told me, "I have actual photographs of some of this destruction, and as soon as I get out of this uniform I will give them to you." But as long as these boys are in uniform and subject to military discipline, you are not going to get that information. I am quite positive, and some other hon. members have indicated to-night that they are positive, that this destruction is going on. It will be rather difficult, I am afraid, for the minister to get any hon. member to come out and name a man in uniform who has given him such information, but I am as sure as I can be that this is being done. Not so long ago the hon. member for Red Deer brought up the question of the destruction of radar equipment at the Penhold airport near Calgary, and I understand that matter has been referred to the war expenditures committee where it will be thoroughly investigated. Instead of such statements as have been made to-night being idly made, these matters should be referred to the war expenditures committee, where men can be called to give evidence under oath. In that way I think we would get a little more satisfaction, and certainly these cases would be more thoroughly gone into.

Mr. QUELCH: I would suggest to the minister that his department must accept a certain amount of responsibility for any rumours that may be going around. He will recall that last year Mr. Strang of the air force issued a press statement in which he said that very soon it would be necessary to destroy in enormous quantities goods belonging to the air force, mentioning socks as an example. He said that if all the socks in the possession of the air force were turned loose they would flood the market, and that therefore they should be sent back to the knitting mills to be unraveled and then

reknitted. So that I think his department should take some responsibility for these rumours.

Mr. SHAW: Early in September and again early in October or November, I should say, the minister referred to certain airborne radio equipment, parts of which were removed and the remainder scrapped. I assume there is still a good deal of this type of equipment, namely, airborne radio equipment, to be disposed of, and because of that fact I think I should bring to the attention of the minister certain statements made by the Calgary branch of the institute of radio engineers with respect to this type of airborne equipment which is being destroyed. When the minister was speaking in the house he stated that this equipment consisted of 12 and 24-volt airborne radio equipment, which did not include the standard broadcast band, and the use of which depended upon power supplied from the aircraft for which it was designed. I do not know for certain from where the minister got his information, but I am of the opinion that his information was not correct. In that I am borne out by the opinion of the institute of radio engineers. Let me indicate to the minister what they say:

Anyone familiar with the problem of power supply for rural radios, especially transmitters, knows that any set operating from car batteries or lighting plant batteries, that is in the 6 to 32 volt range, is ideally designed. Moreover for mobile service, for example from cars, the light battery-operated airborne equipment is perfectly suited. Again when due to snowstorms, winds, fire or other case power lines fail the 12 and 24-volt battery-operated emergency sets are often the only means of communication. Think what a marvellous network of reliable communication posts could have been formed at no cost to the government with the hundreds of sets admittedly already destroyed.

With respect to this standard broadcast band, may I point out to the minister that the transmitters do not cover the broadcast band. We know that. But this is no objection at all, because no transmitters other than broadcasting stations are allowed to use the standard broadcast band. Therefore that argument was not a good one.

Then the institute of radio engineers states:

Schools and amateurs do not require that parts be extracted. In fact they prefer to obtain the whole receiver, transmitter or radar indicator before it is dismantled. In other words this equipment could have been disposed of "as is" for prices better than the scrap metal will bring, and the air force would have been saved the trouble and expense (and heartbreak to those who know) of destruction.

Let me say at this point I am completely satisfied that prices received for much of this scrap were ridiculously low. I have figures and, incidentally, photographs, which would