

## MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

HOUSE OF COMMONS,

April 2, 1946.

The Special Committee on War Expenditures and Economies met this day at 11.00 o'clock a.m. The Chairman, Mr. Gordon B. Isnor, presided.

The CHAIRMAN: As the first order of business I am going to ask the clerk to read the report from the steering committee. Immediately following our regular main meeting last week I called a meeting of the steering committee, and they are presenting a report which I propose to place before you.

*The Clerk:*

Your steering committee begs leave to present its first report.

It is recommended:

1. That the main committee hold three sittings a week, when possible, on such days as the chairman may decide, depending on the availability of witnesses to be heard.

2. That Mr. J. H. Berry, President of War Assets Corporation, be the first witness to appear at the committee's sitting of this date, April 2nd.

3. That the chairman be authorized to contact the ministers of National Defence with a view to securing the attendance of the proper officers to give evidence on military equipment not declared surplus to military requirements.

4. That arrangements be made for members of the main committee to visit the head office of War Assets Corporation in Montreal, and that the House be requested to grant the committee leave to adjourn from place to place.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

GORDON B. ISNOR,

*Chairman.*

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you have heard the reading of this report. What is your pleasure?

Mr. REID: I could not attend the steering committee meeting. May I ask the reasons for suggesting that the committee visit the head office? What is to be seen particularly at the head office?

The CHAIRMAN: It was suggested that the members would have a better idea as to the working arrangements and the machinery as carried on by War Assets Corporation. That is not, of course, absolutely necessary, but if the main committee deems it wise to make such a visit then we will have the authority. That is the purpose of the recommendation to the House.

Mr. JACKMAN: I do not know whether it is your intention to include it or omit it but we did discuss at the end of the steering committee meeting that the first subject we would take up would be the disposal of the Park Steamships and any warships which were considered surplus to our navy. As I recall, we felt it would be well to go into one of the smaller subjects like that in order to feel our way about and to make sure that the mistakes we made or the time we would waste would be on a small subject and we would learn our lesson