

It may not be desirable to give a one hundred per cent check to them, but they could, perhaps, cut it down to just a test check.

Mr. CHOWN: Have you gone along with No. 21?

Mr. RICHARD: No, we still want to do it.

Mr. CHOWN: You reject that recommendation?

Mr. RICHARD: No. 22 is subject to trials. No. 23, that is doubtful.

Mr. HALES: In connection with the land and buildings division, I notice they did not make any recommendations. As I understand it, if one department of government wants to get another piece of government property, it has to go through your department?

Mr. RICHARD: Yes.

Mr. HALES: To me that seems like an awful roundabout way of transferring property that belongs to the crown. Could we have some explanation on that? I think the Auditor General would be interested in this too.

Mr. RICHARD: Well it is a very simple way. We simply allocate it from one department to the other by a mere record on a sales order. The alternative would be to have it done by order in council, and that would be a much more elaborate procedure. Besides, treasury board has laid down that land may not be transferred from one department to another without reference to Crown Assets, and they have to obtain treasury board's permission in addition to that, if the item is of a value of \$15,000 or more.

Mr. HALES: How long has this system been in effect?

Mr. RICHARD: The treasury board reference has been in effect, I would say, some 3, 4 or 5 years, and the allocation of property from one government department to another dates back to 1944, again on the ruling of treasury board.

Mr. HALES: I have a case in my own area, where the Public Works Department wants a piece of land from the Department of National Defence, just across the street. National Defence are quite in accord to turn that over to Public Works, but this rigmarole they have to go through, through Crown Assets, seems to be holding it up; and I do not know why it is holding it up.

Mr. RICHARD: There would be no delay in Crown Assets. It is a very simple procedure.

Mr. SMITH (*Simcoe North*): When property is declared surplus—that is this property I am speaking of, land and/or buildings—and transferred to you for sale by one department, do you circularize the other departments of the government who might have some need or use for that land or those buildings? Is there any program whereby they are notified?

Mr. RICHARD: Not as a rule, but we have on file requests from a number of departments as to certain types of property, and these we screen with them. We know just about what they do need, and if anything like that turns—

Mr. SMITH (*Simcoe North*): You do not, as a matter of regular procedure, notify the property to be sold in each of the other departments of government?

Mr. RICHARD: No.

Mr. SMITH (*Simcoe North*): You do not do that?

Mr. RICHARD: No.

The CHAIRMAN: Nothing is paid for this transfer, is it?

Mr. RICHARD: I beg your pardon, Mr. Chairman?

The CHAIRMAN: Do you want to make a statement, Mr. Richard, about notice?

Mr. RICHARD: Mr. O'Donoghue tells me we advise the Department of Public Works of any property offered for sale.