

Let me interject there to say that they realized nearly the amount of the valuation placed on the machinery and tools at the time of seizure. The report continues:

Later, representations were made to the custodian, as a result of which the Honourable Paul Martin, in January, 1946, directed Mr. K. W. Wright to make an investigation, resulting in an additional compensation of \$20,000 being allowed.

You have the original valuation of \$9,811; you have the sale at \$9,693, and then, later on, as the result of an investigation, another \$20,000 being handed out by way of additional compensation. If that is a typical case I wonder if the public accounts committee should not go into these cases very carefully. Does not a report of that kind disturb the confidence of the house in the claim made that adequate and proper valuations were made of the property, both at the time of seizure and at the time of sale?

I think we should have had long ago some report concerning the amounts realized and the amounts turned over within the office of the custodian on the administration account itself. The minister told the house, when the resolution was before us, that a flat commission of two per cent was charged on all amounts realized. Does the house realize what that amounts to in terms of dollars and cents where a billion dollars—

Mr. GIBSON (Hamilton West): I did not say that it was charged; I said that it was limited to two per cent, but that rate, of course, was not always charged.

Mr. FLEMING: I do not think I was the only one who got the impression that the two per cent was a flat charge, but I am glad to have the explanation of the Secretary of State on that point. However that does not reflect on the fact that the amounts passing into the hands of the custodian by way of his rake-off on the realizations amounted to millions of dollars. In turn, the custodian was expending amounts totalling millions of dollars without those accounts ever coming before parliament to be reviewed, without any report in relation thereto being laid on the table of this house and without their being reviewed by the auditor general so that he might make his usual salutary comments on the administration.

In conclusion, I wish to submit to the house that this bill is not in proper form. It is all very well to have substantive provisions with a schedule attached thereto where the schedule is a complete document in itself and not of a legislative nature but I submit that this bill has simply two or three substantive sections followed by some twenty pages of straight

legislative provisions. That is not in the form in which legislation should be submitted to the house.

We had an example of this in the bill introduced last year by the Minister of Labour (Mr. Mitchell), having to do with the reinstatement of veterans in civil employment. A number of orders in council were simply tagged on to the short provisions of that bill which purported to give statutory effect to the orders in council. The house took the course of referring the bill, even before second reading, to a committee of the house in order that the bill might be properly framed without having a lot of orders in council tagged on to it.

We are going to need legislation with reference to the administration of alien enemy property for some considerable time, and I submit that the house ought not now to be legislating, simply by way of giving effect to whatever is needed out of the existing regulations respecting trading with the enemy. This legislation should be in the form of a bill and not simply tagged on as a schedule to the bill.

I have referred to the fact that the bill has no provision with reference to the extent of its life. There is no provision requiring that new regulations passed under the powers in the bill, or any reports shall be tabled in the house. I submit that the bill is sorely lacking in these respects. Surely, after seven and a half years of this kind of administration, the time has come when the house must insist that complete annual reports should be submitted to it.

This is no time for maintaining the secrecy mentality which dominated this government in time of war. I entirely approve the proposal which the Secretary of State has made that the bill be referred to the public accounts committee, and I hope that committee will see to it, not only that the legislation itself is adequately reviewed, but that the reports, including the auditors' reports and all information to date on the administration by the custodian of enemy alien property, are carefully reviewed.

Mr. ANGUS MacINNIS (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, since this bill is to be referred to a committee, it is not my intention to take up the time of the house with any extended remarks. I must say, however, that I do not believe that the public accounts committee is the proper body to which to refer a bill of this kind. If I have heard the statements of the member for Eglinton aright there have been no accounts submitted in connection with this matter. What is ordinarily referred to the public accounts com-