

seizures are concerned; then the General Executive Assistant, the head Law Clerk and the Chief of the Customs and Excise Preventive Service, outside of course, and the Collectors outside.

Q. Perhaps the Committee do not understand exactly what you mean. Did you tell us that the Chief of the Customs and Excise Preventive Service is head of an outside organization; isn't his office located in Ottawa, in the Building?—

A. Yes.

Q. Is he not directly under your control?—A. Yes.

Q. And through you, under the control of the Minister?—A. Yes.

Q. Is it not his duty to report to you, and through you to the Minister, all seizures which come to his attention?—A. Yes.

Q. Can you tell us, of course very briefly, because Mr. Wilson I understand is here, in what way or in what manner the different Customs seizures are brought to his attention?—A. When an officer on his staff makes a seizure, he makes a report of the seizure on what is known as Form K-9. That is known as the seizure report, giving the particulars of the seizure or the circumstances in connection therewith; he sends it to Mr. Wilson, and Mr. Wilson transmits it to the Department with a covering letter usually, and it goes to the Seizures Branch. The head law clerk then prepares the notice of seizure to the party, which has to go out immediately. That is signed by Mr. Blair, the General Executive Assistant. All the correspondence in connection with the seizure is then dealt with by the Head Law Clerk, and Mr. Blair until such time as the seizure is ready to be reported on for decision. Mr. Blair then prepares the report to the Deputy Minister, on the evidence submitted; he submits it to me, and I sign it if I am satisfied it is right; if not I make whatever changes I think are necessary; I send my report in to the Minister, and the Minister either signs it or changes it, as he sees fit; he has the final decision.

Q. The first knowledge the Department at Ottawa has of the seizure is by the report received from the seizing officer to Mr. Wilson?—A. Insofar as the Preventive Service is concerned, yes, but not Port seizures; they come through the Collectors, by the same procedure.

Q. When they come to the office in the Parliament Building, do they come to Mr. Wilson or to some other officer?—A. They come to me in my official capacity, marked for the Seizure Branch, and are dealt with in the same way.

Q. So that seizures made directly by the Port officers are not reported to Mr. Wilson at all?—A. No.

Q. Does he at any stage have anything to do with these seizures?—A. Nothing.

Q. Has Mr. Wilson anything to do with a seizure after it has been reported by him with his covering letter to the Seizures Branch, and if so, what has he to do with it?—A. Just in what connection?

Q. Well, after a seizure reaches Mr. Wilson, and Mr. Wilson hands that seizure or sends that seizure with a covering letter to the Seizures Branch—I think that is what you said he did?—A. Yes.

Q. Does he have anything further to do with the seizure; in other words, has he any further decision to make, has he anything further to do with it?—A. No, not until the seizure is decided, unless he discovers some new evidence.

Q. If he discovers new evidence, or if any communications are sent to him in connection with it, they are passed on to whom the seizure branch?—A. Yes sir.

Q. That is, up to the moment of decision?—A. Yes sir.

Q. When the matter has been decided, when the decision has been prepared by the general executive assistant, approved of by the deputy minister, then it goes into the ministers office for approval?—A. Yes.