

Mr. FERGUSON: Would the minister give us the personnel of the American Ship Brokerage Corporation?

Mr. HOWE: I am sure I do not know them.

Mr. FERGUSON: Would the minister mind obtaining those names?

Mr. HOWE: I certainly would not.

Mr. FERGUSON: You will not get the names?

Mr. HOWE: No.

Mr. FERGUSON: What particular representative of that company did the minister's department deal with?

Mr. HOWE: Personally I did not deal with any member of the firm; I had no connection with it. I understand a wired offer was received by War Assets Corporation, and, the price being satisfactory, it was accepted. Payment was to be in United States funds, which was of some advantage.

Mr. FERGUSON: The minister is not answering my question. I want to know the name of the individual who dealt with the department. I did not ask whether the minister dealt with them; I asked who dealt with the department. That is the answer I want.

Mr. HOWE: I have already said that I do not know.

Mr. FERGUSON: I ask the minister to obtain the name from his department; that is the answer I want.

Mr. HOWE: If my department has the name on file I shall be glad to obtain it. It is not customary to get information of that kind; in other words, it is not customary to furnish the names of directors unless we have some way of knowing them.

Mr. FERGUSON: We have an investigation on at the present time regarding Eldorado, made necessary because we did not know to whom they sold their commodities. Later on we may want to know to whom we sold our ships, and we shall have to appoint an investigator with unlimited powers to find out where our ships have gone and who got them.

Mr. MACDONNELL (Muskoka-Ontario): I understand the minister is going to give us the total commission. We regard \$430,000 as a substantial sum of money. If that was the amount paid, or anything like it, I think we are entitled to know. While I agree that you often deal with an agent without knowing his principal, it does seem to me that the depart-

ment was not very clever in not having any suspicion as to who the purchaser was and in committing itself to pay this large amount of money for what I should think was not very great service.

Mr. HATFIELD: Is it the intention of the government to sell all these ships or to put some of them in the South American and Central American service?

Mr. HOWE: We hope to do both; we hope to sell them to operators who will operate them in the South American service.

Mr. HATFIELD: I understand the United States government have built a number of ships which they have turned over to steamship operators for special services in order that their goods may be carried to the South American and Central American markets. Is it the intention of this government to do that?

Mr. HOWE: We should be pleased to turn them over to an operator who would operate them in the South American service, but I do not know whether we are prepared to subsidize anyone to do that.

The CHAIRMAN: The committee was considering housing development when it rose last night.

Some hon. MEMBERS: No.

Mr. HOWE: I think it was agreed last night that if the answers I gave called for discussion, the discussion could be held at this time.

The CHAIRMAN: I understood the discussion had been completed.

Mr. COLDWELL: We are really not discussing any single item; we are discussing the appropriation as a whole. Hon. members have the right under this resolution to discuss anything at any time that might come under the total expenditures.

The CHAIRMAN: I would point out that it was agreed when the estimates of the Department of Munitions and Supply were first presented to the committee that there would be a general discussion. That general discussion was completed at an early hour last evening and the committee passed the following items: The last item, departmental administration; the first item, additions and extensions to plants, and the second item, cargo vessels operated by Park Steamship Company Limited. When the committee rose last night we were on housing development, but as the minister has pointed out, there was an agreement that further questions could be asked on the answers which he would give to-day.