

becomes important. I would like to prevent that sort of thing happening, the second-hand dealer coming in and picking up the whole lot.

The WITNESS: That would be taken care of under the priorities question.

The CHAIRMAN: I will now call on the Hon. Mr. Howe.

Hon. Mr. HOWE: Gentlemen, I just dropped in here to make sure that you were getting all the information you required. I can assure you that I did not come in here with any intention of dictating whom you should hear or what you should hear. I want to make it possible for this committee to get every bit of information they need, but I hope they will be able to get it in detail rather than en bloc. My difficulty in answering certain questions in the House is that they require a sort of bulk answer which makes it rather difficult to meet all the points of interest. For instance, we can discuss why we sold one particular building at half its cost price, but it is difficult to say why we sold fifty buildings at a price which returned only one-half of their cost. A building, you know, is usually functional in character. For instance, take the case of the Naugatuk Chemical Plant at Elmira: they were making a product in that building which is no longer required, wholly a war product, and the sale price of that building had to be sufficiently low to permit the company to make an adaptation so that the building could be used for the manufacture of a peace-time product. I think if you will keep that thought in mind when you are discussing the disposal of properties the results of your deliberations will be much more satisfactory. I make that observation by way of information; I am not trying in any way to dictate to your committee; I am merely pointing out some of the difficulties we had in answering all the questions.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Howe.

Hon. Mr. HOWE: I will be glad to come here any time I can be of any assistance.

Mr. PROBE: Before we lose Mr. Berry—

Mr. GOLDING: You are not going to lose him for some time.

Mr. PROBE: —I would like to refer back to the question of educational institutions and I would like to ask the committee to consider this resolution. I think it is eminently fair, and possibly Mr. Berry might give us his reaction to it. I am speaking particularly of visually educational equipment, such as motion picture projectors; of which he says up to now he has not had a very large supply. I would like to make this motion, Mr. Stewart seconds it: This committee recommends that all material suitable for education, namely for example motion picture projectors and other optical equipment, be withheld by War Assets Corporation from the commercial market until having been offered for sale to provincial boards of education at 10 per cent of their value—I am not sold on that 10 per cent, but I am suggesting it. They sell buildings at 8 per cent.

Mr. McILRAITH: Is that the end?

Mr. PROBE: And, further, that all such material so made available at this special price be made available proportionate to the approximate population of the provinces concerned so that there may be an equitable countrywide distribution.

Mr. McILRAITH: Before that motion is put, Mr. Chairman, I have an observation I would like to make. First of all I would like to ask if the motion was discussed by the steering committee before it was brought before this general committee in accordance with our practice here; and my second point is, what reference has this to economies in war expenditures? As I understand the change made in our terms of reference, they were broadened to include the disposal of surplus crown assets, and as well matters which will effect economies.