

production is concerned, I do not know of any other work going on there with the exception of the production of some spares. I am advised that there are some sub-contracts in that plant, but not direct contracts from the department.

Mr. WEBSTER: Would that be the plant at Sorel?

Mr. GOLDEN: Yes.

Mr. WINCH: I am interested not only in the plants being adapted to produce heavy guns, but I know, for example, during the last war—it was very hush, hush at the time—that the British ordnance established at the Dominion Bridge plant in Vancouver a very well equipped plant for the production at that time of anti-aircraft guns. Do you know of any planning that has taken place in regard to that plant being used for the production of the new type of armament?

Mr. GOLDEN: I would not think so.

Mr. WINCH: I hate to see the expending of hundreds of millions and billions of dollars during an emergency in regard to these plants to carry on defence production, and then not utilizing the capital equipment that has been installed.

Mr. GOLDEN: We certainly have no shortage of defence facilities in this country at the moment, Mr. Winch.

Mr. WINCH: Of course, that is not quite my point. My point is, we do not have a shortage, and because you now have a defence production sharing arrangement, do you visualize the potential use of those plants in regard to your production sharing arrangement with the United States of America and the United Kingdom as well as other countries.

Mr. GOLDEN: Yes, sir. This is one of the main objects of this program. I doubt that it is going to be possible to achieve it in every case. There are some cases where the changing military requirements are such that it is going to be extremely difficult to change some plants. It is perfectly true to say, as you suggest, that one of our purposes is to try and diversify and keep active as many of these plants as we can.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any other further questions in regard to the minister's statement, gentlemen?

Mr. HELLYER: It is rather ironical to have all these facilities and not be using them for defence equipment production.

Mr. WINCH: There is one logical question which should be asked: whether we will get an answer is another question. It is said at page 4 thereof: "...the decline in the relative importance of traditional armaments...". Does that mean, therefore, perhaps, that we are considering nuclear armaments?

Mr. CARTER: I would like to ask one question, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, by all means, Mr. Carter.

Mr. CARTER: Is it envisaged that, should an emergency develop, this Emergency Supply Planning Branch would be absorbed by the War Supplies Agency?

Mr. GOLDEN: I really do not know, sir. It might disappear, or it might be absorbed. It would have no real function to perform, presumably. Its personnel might be absorbed. It would be too late at that time to start planning and this agency would disappear unless it had something to do elsewhere.

Mr. HELLYER: It would be too late to start doing anything. I wonder if we should have an emergency committee to coordinate all the emergency committees.