

Mr. BRADETTE: I hope that Mr. Stewart will check me up as he is a chartered accountant, but surely there must have been a following-up process from that original check-off at the time of delivery in those warehouses. There should have been liaison there some place.

Mr. REID: There should have been. That was my contention. Now Mr. Berry tells us that within perhaps three or four days there is that kind of thing taking place and if so I am very pleased because there should have been from the start.

Mr. JACKMAN: May I ask if these assets were declared surplus before that or stored by the R.C.A.F. in the hangars?

*By Mr. Golding:*

Q. When did they come into the possession of War Assets Corporation?—

A. That is a little difficult to answer right now. I would have to check with both the air force and with my own people.

Mr. JACKMAN: I should like to understand exactly what the underlying facts are. I would ask Mr. Reid if he knows whether the chairs, beds, and things which were being stored in the R.C.A.F. hangar had already been declared surplus assets.

Mr. REID: To my knowledge they had not been declared surplus.

Mr. JACKMAN: I do not understand why War Assets Corporation comes into it until they are declared surplus although I can see it would be a good thing to have liaison, but you just cannot have liaison everywhere.

Mr. REID: If you will read the minutes of our last meeting you will find I made this suggestion when making my statement, that if no check-off takes place by War Assets then when it is turned over to War Assets as Mr. Berry has pointed out to me, and I think I am correct when I state it, they could not accept the papers handed over by the R.C.A.F. to them. They themselves would have to make a check. For instance, suppose it said there were 50 typewriters, for the sake of argument. Suppose the tally sheet showed there were 50 typewriters; War Assets would have to go and count them because there might be only 48.

Mr. JACKMAN: How does War Assets know that any of this material will be declared surplus?

Mr. REID: How do they know?

Mr. JACKMAN: We cannot expect War Assets Corporation to know. I am not trying to find fault. I am trying to find what the facts are behind it. War Assets Corporation cannot be expected to know the inventory of every article every time it is moved by one of the service departments. It may or may not be declared surplus at a subsequent time, you see.

Mr. REID: That may be so, but my suggestion to this committee last time—

Mr. JACKMAN: I am just asking for the facts. What is the story? Every time a service department moves something War Assets cannot be expected to make a check.

The CHAIRMAN: You might remember we have a reporter here who is endeavouring to take accurate notes. We do not want a report of a lot of private conversation being carried on between two members.

Mr. JACKMAN: This is not a private conversation. I am asking for elucidation as to what the facts are, what the system is. Every time that one of the service departments moves some of their articles about during 1946 or 1947 is it reasonable to expect that a representative of War Assets is going to be there to inventory the material? I thought that Mr. Reid might throw some clarification on that in respect of the particular instance at Boundary Bay.