

Q. You do not know what the taxes were?—A. No.

Q. Can, you tell what the amount of the municipal assessment was?—A. No.

Q. Did you inquire at all as to the amount of the assessment?—A. No.

Q. Then, when you were in Paris, did you at any time go into the question of the resale of the property?—A. No, unless you refer to my negotiations with Aronovici.

Q. No; I do not mean that?—A. Outside of that, no.

Q. That was just getting the title in from Aronovici?—A. Outside of that, no.

Q. With a view of getting the money back did you look into that phase of the question at all?—A. No.

Q. You did not?—A. No.

Q. Then, whom did you see in Paris in connection with values, or in connection with this transaction, outside of your lawyer, Mr. Archibald, and Aronovici?—A. Our contractors and architects.

Q. That is as to the question of the changes, I suppose? That is what you were seeing them about? Is that it?—A. After we brought them in, yes.

Q. Have you got the details, and after getting the title and seeing what you were going to do with the property?—A. Yes.

Q. But, apart from that, did you take it up with any real estate valuers or agents?—A. No.

Q. Then, just exactly what happened to Mr. Aronovici? Did he resign, or was his resignation asked for?—A. After Mr. Black was appointed, and before we settled matters, Aronovici wanted to know what his position would be, and I told him I refused absolutely to discuss it with him. I told him that rested with the Chairman and the Board of Directors. Later on, I suppose within a week or ten days, or perhaps the last week or ten days I was there, I intimated to him that with the reorganization there would hardly be a place for him. He said he recognized that.

Q. At that time he was getting \$15,000 a year?—A. Yes.

Q. Now, did you ever get to know what the date of that option was? You did not see it, but perhaps you learned the date?—A. I told you, Sir Henry (Drayton) that I never saw the option.

Q. Did you learn what its date was?—A. No.

Q. You do not know when Aronovici got it?—A. No.

Q. So you cannot help us at all in finding out Aronovici's real relationship with the owners? I do not know whether it is worth while taking up more time on that.—A. I cannot.

Q. Then as to the taxes: You did not ascertain the municipal valuation, but I think you did ascertain the amount of Government imposts in connection with the transfers?—A. Yes.

Q. Let us get the total charges, if we can find it, of Government taxes paid on that building.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. Is that given in the statement you gave the other day, Major?—A. Yes, it is in there.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: No, it is not all in. It is only an estimate.

The WITNESS: The first transfer registration fee was 3,360,000 francs. That represents 12 per cent of the purchase price of the property, which was \$28,000,000 francs. That is a regular Government percentage.

*By Sir Henry Drayton:*

Q. That is from the deed from the owners, whose names you cannot give me, to Aronovici?—A. Yes, that was the deed to Aronovici.