

I don't recall exactly, but I think one of the criticisms that you made I recall I had a private contractor down very shortly after that. When, as a consultant to me, to consider our equipment needs. And when he arrived on the scene, he was shocked to find that most of the equipment we had was equipment that his firm had junked in Eniwetok because it was completely worn out.

We had, subsequently, a year or so later, acquired this as equipment to do the job in Samoa. It was absolutely ridiculous. And here again we did not have the expertise to really consider this acquisition, and we were very foolish.

EQUIPMENT SPECIALISTS PROVED PROFITABLE

I do want to say that after we got operating and got some equipment specialists on our staff, we were able to obtain some very good surplus equipment. We obtained it from all over the Pacific. And it served us well. And I think the net effect was good.

On the other hand, even with the best of selectivity by experts, we got a lot of lemons. This is what you get in a used equipment business. It is like buying a used car. Some are good bargains, and some are not. I think we have to use great care in managing this program. But even with the best of care, I suspect you are going to continue to hear some you have any difficulty in getting what you asked for.

Mr. LEE. No, sir, we were very successful in doing this. The disposal agencies and the Government agencies that had excess were very good in releasing it to us. We had very little difficulty.

FOREIGN SHIPMENT OF ESSENTIAL SURPLUS STIRS DISSATISFACTION IN STATES

Senator GRUENING. The reason I asked is because the subcommittee feels that a substantial part of the surplus that is now going abroad should go to wherever is practical, to the people who are paying for it; namely, the American people in the States and elsewhere. And I am glad to hear that in Samoa, which is, of course, under the American