

it not true that AID is skimming the cream of the crop of the surplus availabilities in the Department of Defense?

Mr. LEE. I would hope that we were screening the cream of the crop. If not, we are not doing a good job. As I mentioned last week, I think we have to do a still better job of screening.

I grant you this percentage figure is not an exact figure. I do want to point out that it is small in comparison to the total surplus available.

DREGS FOR LOCAL AMERICANS FROM SURPLUS AREAS

Mr. LIPPMAN. You may be acquiring the best material of the lot.

Mr. LEE. I would certainly hope so. We can be condemned very seriously if we were not.

Mr. LIPPMAN. This may be the reason why these people from Fairfax County and Prince Georges County and other areas could only find the dregs when they went out to the surplus areas.

Mr. LEE. Let me point out again: last year I understand that AID's surplus property people entered into an agreement with the president of the National Association of State Agencies. In that agreement, we agreed to consider their needs and to defer to those needs in most instances. ~~unless it is a~~ A REAL QUESTIONABLE PRODUCT

As near as I know, we have a good working relationship with the association. We want to continue it. We are perfectly willing to strengthen it and I think that it can be strengthened and we won't have this problem.

Again, I would like to point out that as I said last week, any time you deal with excess property, you are dealing with a very questionable product. When a Federal agency disposes of it overseas, frequently it simply does not warrant shipment back to the States; certainly not to Point Barrow or Bethel. This gets very difficult.

Now, I did check our people when I first started looking into excess property a week or so ago. As near as I could tell, we have acquired virtually nothing in region 10. At least, I have been unable to find any instances where we have acquired excess in Alaska. I would be a little disappointed in our people if they acquired surplus property in Alaska that some of these needy Eskimo villages could have acquired. If we have acquired any, I would like to find out about it. We want to work with these communities.

I think the agreement we entered into last year with the National Association of State Agencies is indicative of our willingness to work with them. We want to strengthen that and to continue to work with