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# \$227,000 CAMERA SOLD AT HALF PRICE BY GOVT

A camera which cost Government more than \$227,000 had eventually to be sold for less than half this amount.

This is one of many points commented on by the Director of Audit, Mr P. T. Warr, in his 1969-70 annual report tabled at yesterday's meeting of the Legislative Council.

The report said that in July, 1967, it was considered that, in its efforts to disseminate information as quickly and as widely as possible through cinema and television, the Information Services Department had been hampered by inadequate facilities.

Finance Committee approved funds for the provision of additional production and processing equipment for the Government Film Unit.

This included a camera of a particular model.

"Delivery of this camera was taken in August, 1968, but it proved to be of only limited use apparently due in part to its unsuitability for outside work on which more emphasis was then being placed, and in July, 1969, less than a year later, the Director of Information Services sought authority to dispose of it.

"The camera, which cost Government \$227,130.55, was subsequently sold for less than half this amount, realising only \$108,000 when sold by public tender," the report said.

It noted that the loss of parking meter revenue from the use of foreign coins and other spurious objects to

activate parking meters continued to increase.

During 1969-70 this loss was estimated at \$70,000, an increase of approximately 80 per cent over 1968-69.

Loss of revenue occasioned by the occupation of metered space without payment also continued to cause concern.

"It was noted in particular that metered spaces in specific areas were regularly used without payment, and the results of an exercise carried out by the Treasury over a loss of revenue in these areas as indicated by the review is in the order of \$325,000. Investigations into the losses are continuing and measures to combat evasion

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## Camera

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of parking fees are under review," the report stated.

It drew attention to Government quarters being unoccupied for a long time although considerable expense had been incurred.

"In paragraphs 27 to 31 of my previous report I invited attention to a number of cases in which quarters either leased or built by Government for occupation by Government officers had remained vacant for long periods, resulting not only in loss of rent but also in failure to fully utilise quarters on which considerable Government expenditure had been incurred," Mr Warr stated.

"Whilst some improvement in the position has been noted it must still be regarded as unsatisfactory, for over 100 Police departmental quarters have remained unoccupied for over four years and a further 80 have been vacant for over two years.

"Other Government quarters have remained untenanted for lesser periods, including a higher grade non-departmental quarter, the allocation of which was overlooked and which stayed empty for a year, and two Fire Services departmental leased quarters left vacant for seven months, during which time they cost Government over \$12,000 in rent."