

The federation has now concluded, however, that there is sufficient possibility that intervention by the agency in the feed grains market may be desirable.

The reason why we have concluded it may be desirable, is that these powers of the board may be required to ensure price stability, elimination of speculative or excessive margins between what the grain is sold for by the wheat board and the price paid by the farmer using the grain, and adequacy of supplies.

It should be noted that there is no change in our firm recognition that there should be no interference with the responsibility in the wheat board to market grain in an orderly manner in the interests of the producers of that grain.

The exact nature of our recommendation is this: the agency should have the power to enter the market, and to buy, sell and place grain in storage. It is not intended in this policy that the agency should have this power exclusively, or that it should be able to assume exclusive powers. It is not intended that the agency should necessarily even exercise these powers. This would depend upon the apparent need.

One other point. It will be noted that on the question of import permits the resolution from our annual meeting reads—it is one of the agency powers:

To advise the government on feed grains import permit policy so that import licensing shall be under continuous review as a matter of national policy, and to ensure that the response to any need that might arise for issuance of permits be rapid and opportune.

Our policy previously read: "To advise the government on feed grains import permit policy". There is no real change in policy here, but it was desired to make clearer our recognition that import permits are a matter of national policy in which both the producer and the farmer-consumer of these grains have a legitimate interest. It is also clearly our policy that the administration of these permits remain in the hands of the wheat board. This is the best course, since in a world of state trading and export subsidization of grains there is a real need for the retention of this import permit authority, and the wheat board best understands this business.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Kirk.

I wonder if you would care to read the resolution which was passed in Regina.

Mr. KIRK: I would be delighted to do so if that is your wish.

This resolution, Mr. Chairman, is in a form in which we always find resolutions of agricultural organizations; I am referring, of course, to the "whereas" clauses.

*Resolution passed by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture
Annual Meeting in Regina, January 1965*

WHEREAS eastern and B.C. agriculture are centered on poultry and live-stock production, and in the future this production must develop further to meet growing provincial markets and to ensure satisfactory revenues to agricultural operators; and

WHEREAS animal feedstuffs represent the most important expenses of operation on farms in this country; and

WHEREAS the East and B.C. cannot be self sufficient in the production of feed grains, and provide a very important domestic market for the west; and

WHEREAS the price of feed grains has been known to fluctuate in a pronounced manner in the past; and

WHEREAS this problem has been the subject of numerous briefs and submissions on the part of Eastern and B.C. farmers, and has been the occasion of many debates in the House of Commons; and