

Existence areas of southern Alberta are irrigated and many farmers grow wheat on both irrigated and non-irrigated portions of their farms. In accordance with the Act, the irrigated areas are excluded for purposes of determination of average yields if the yield of the irrigated portions exceeds 12 bushels per acre. In reviewing the Cultivated Acreage Reports, it was observed that often little or no yield was reported on large acreages of non-irrigated land so that the relative township or townships became eligible for awards. It is not possible to verify information supplied by farmers with respect to the yield of wheat on the non-irrigated portion of those farms where crops from both irrigated and non-irrigated areas are stored in the same bins. A similar situation prevails where farmers operate farms situated in two or more townships.

Section 7 of the Act requires every award under the Act to be paid in the month of December. In northern areas of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta and the Peace River District of British Columbia, harvesting is seldom completed before mid-October and sometimes November. As a consequence, it is difficult for inspectors to complete Cultivated Acreage Reports within the time available. Since the information compiled from these reports must be examined by the Board of Review before eligibility is determined and cheques processed, only a portion of the awards can be paid during December. It was observed that most of the awards are usually paid during the month of January and February and the balance in the following three months. It being impossible to comply with this section of the Act, consideration should be given to its repeal.

Paragraph 46 can be marked forward to 1965 because it appears in that report, but just before you leave it may I say to you that this paragraph involves a number of points which require remedial action and particularly when you consider it in 1965, you might feel that you would wish to have a witness present, possibly somebody from Regina, which is the headquarters of the operations of P.F.A.A., because I believe he could make a useful explanation on what action you can expect from the points that are made. In 1965 we bring most of these points forward again, and others also. I do not know whether that would commend itself but I just mention it in passing in case you wanted to arrange it. I think someone from Regina would probably have to be summoned in this case rather than the Deputy Minister of Agriculture.

The CHAIRMAN: I would ask the western members of our committee to pay particular attention to this paragraph, study it and be prepared to ask questions when it comes up under the 1965 report. Now maybe Mr. Bigg should—

Mr. BIGG: Mr. Chairman, I would like to make that a motion to cover what Mr. Henderson has said, if that is necessary, because I think that is a very important paragraph.

The CHAIRMAN: Your steering committee will study that. Thank you Mr. Bigg.

Mr. WINCH: To add to that perhaps Mr. Henderson might be a bit more specific. I was very much concerned in going over the 1964 report—

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Winch, this is going to be brought up in the 1965 report so if you do not—

Mr. HENDERSON: This is in the 1965 category, so if you just want to mark it off—