Other Proposed Changes in P.F.A.A.

(a) Automatic Operation

As was pointed out in the Saskatchewan Submission
of last January, there are a number of other aspects of
the present Prairie Farm Assistance Act which, in our opin-
ion, operate to reduce its value as a farm security measure.
For instance, we submit that the discretionary power given
to the Governor-in-Council to bring the Act into effect in
any year should be removed and the Act be automatically
operative in the same way as the Unemployment Insurance Act.

(b) Required Minimum Number of Townships

The P.F.A.A. requirement that a minimum number of
townships in each province must suffer a crop failure
(5 bushels per acre or less) before the highest rate of
benefit is paid in the province causes considerable hard-
ship and inequity and has no parallel in the Unemployment
Insurance Act. Under the latter, benefits are paid on the
basis of individual need and are not withheld as in the
case of P.F.A.A. until the problem reaches a certain
magnitude. The view that the federal government should
not be expected to assume full responsibility for a crop
failure unless it is sufficiently widespread to affect 171
townships in Saskatchewan is no longer acceptable now that
the federal government has offered to assume full respons-
ibility for guaranteeing a job or an income in lieu of a
job to all employables. In equity, the Dominion should
also stand prepared to guarantee a minimum income to all
self-employed persons who suffer loss of earnings through
causes beyond their control. Any other course means dis-
crimination in favour of the industrial provinces.

We submit, therefore, that equal treatment for the
self-employed implies abandonment of any required minimum
number of townships and combining the crop failure and emer-
gency year provisions of the Act into one scheme under which
farmers would receive adequate aid on a scale varying with
their yield.