

Those members came out of the Maritime Provinces, which gave us the coverage I described earlier. We discovered from an operational point of view that it was much more advantageous to farmers to amalgamate the various provincial bodies into a national organization and take membership direct. Hence the decision.

Senator Hollett: In other words, we could look forward to a strike of all the farmers across Canada.

Mr. Atkinson: I hope not.

Senator Hollett: We had better get our own gardens ready.

Senator Argue: What is the position of the Farmers Union of Alberta?

Mr. Atkinson: That union, at a meeting in December, moved to amalgamate in Alberta as a provincial organization, in other words, moved to consolidate what they called the unified farmer organizations in Alberta.

Senator Argue: They are part of this incorporation?

Mr. Atkinson: No, they are not. However, I would want to say that we are chartering locals in Alberta just as fast as we can accommodate them. I myself attended the chartering of five locals two weeks ago, and I have about thirty more in the next four weeks.

Senator Argue: And they are affiliated to the national organization the same as other locals?

Mr. Atkinson: That is correct.

Senator Grosart: Was there any dissent at any of those meetings?

Mr. Atkinson: Not very much, I would think. As a matter of fact, I cannot recall any really strong opposition at all from any of them.

Senator Argue: Except in Alberta. It was turned down?

Mr. Atkinson: In Alberta that was the position.

Senator Grosart: Let the witness answer. Did any of these predecessor organizations actually vote against?

Mr. Atkinson: None of the ones named in the bill.

Senator Grosart: None of those described as predecessor corporations?

Mr. Atkinson: All of those, by resolution, by delegate bodies in annual convention, voted to amalgamate.

Mr. Golden: As I understood the question, it was, did any member of the predecessor provincial corporations vote against the resolution?

Senator Grosart: That is right.

Mr. Golden: I imagine there must have been some.

Mr. Atkinson: In Saskatchewan, none voted in opposition. As I recall, in British Columbia, none. Mr. Langdon may be able to refresh my memory on Ontario. Was there any opposition in Ontario?

Mr. William Langdon (Director, National Farmers Union): I do not think so. There was a discussion as to date. There was not anything that was serious.

Mr. Atkinson: You attended, did you?

Mr. Langdon: I attended at Manitoba.

Mr. Atkinson: And what was the position there?

Mr. Langdon: I do not recall the exact vote. Some delegates attended the Manitoba convention in 1968 who I felt would not approve, because of the type of questions coming forward. When the vote came, I would not want to say if any voted against or did not vote against. If there was any voting against, it was extremely few.

Senator Grosart: I realize that one of our functions here is to protect any such minority. What notice has been given of this?

Mr. Atkinson: To the members?

Senator Grosart: Yes.

Mr. Atkinson: They have all been notified, either by direct notice or written, individually, to our membership, or to the press, through our own paper, that this change is taking place. This information is flowing to them since those conventions, the beginning of 1968.

Senator Grosart: Would you say that every member of predecessor organizations have been notified in writing?