

*From the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture:*  
Mr. H. Fuller, Member.

*From the Consumers' Association of Canada:*  
Mrs. W. A. Brechin, Past President;  
Mr. M. J. O'Grady, President.

*From the Canadian Poultry and Egg Council:*  
Mr. P. R. Wiens, Vice-President;  
Mr. M. Rubenstein, Director.

*From the National Anti-Poverty Organization:*  
Ms. Marjorie Hartling, Executive Director.

*From the University of British Columbia:*  
Mr. J. D. Forbes, Associate Professor, Faculty of  
Commerce.

The following organizations submitted briefs to the  
Committee:

Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario

The Committee to Reform Egg Marketing in Ontario

Egg Producers' Association of Quebec

Mr. William T. Burrows, Poultryman.

Your Committee is grateful to Mr. Frank Swedlove from the Library of Parliament Research Branch and to all others who assisted the Committee in the preparation of this Report.

The Committee wishes to express special thanks to the interpreters and translators, particularly for the translation of the voluminous amount of documents submitted to the Committee.

#### INTRODUCTION

1. It is significant to point out that of all the witnesses that appeared before the Committee, not one proposed the actual winding up of CEMA, or the National PLAN, but rather expressed concern, or submitted recommendations, designed to make CEMA and the PLAN work more effectively.

2. The Committee believes that its recommendations will have an impact beyond egg marketing in Canada, as many principles outlined in this Report may have application to other commodity Agencies set up under the National Farm Products Marketing Agencies Act.

3. The Committee through this Report recognizes the special status of marketing agencies and boards in Canada and urges upon them and the authority to whom they report the need to implement their underlying programs in such a way as to assure the primary producer a fair return, and at the same time assure the consumer adequate supply at reasonable prices.

4. The Special Committee on Egg Marketing supports an orderly national egg marketing concept in Canada.

#### *Background Respecting "Ministerial Responsibility"*

The Committee fully recognizes the principle of ministerial responsibility which is fundamental to the British Parliamentary system and therefore effectively directs all of its observations and recommendations to the Minister of Agriculture for his consideration, even though they have direct bearing on the operations of the National Farm Products Marketing Council, CEMA, provincial boards, Provincial Governments and other departments of the Government of Canada.

The terms of reference of our Special Committee are quite specific, requiring of us to enquire into and to make recommendations upon the operations of the Canadian Egg Marketing Agency and the performance of the several authorities having responsibility with respect to those operations. The Committee therefore views these terms of reference as being specific in nature, requiring observations and recommendations in respect to these specific bodies.

The Committee further recognizes that the Minister of Agriculture does not have any direct control over the operation of the Canadian Egg Marketing Agency. The Agency has the obligation imposed upon it by Parliament to report directly through the Farm Products Marketing Council. The Farm Products Marketing Council in turn has a responsibility and obligation to report to Parliament through the Minister of Agriculture. The Farm Products Marketing Council Act passed by Parliament does not envisage that the Minister of Agriculture directly would have responsibility for the day to day operations of the Farm Products Marketing Council. These responsibilities rest primarily on the shoulders of the management of the Farm Products Marketing Council itself.

The whole question of "Ministerial Responsibility" would also apply to Provincial Ministers of Agriculture in an even more direct way because of the relationship between the provincial commodity boards and their respective provincial Ministers.

In respect to the egg marketing PLAN itself, it is important to bear in mind that this PLAN is a federal-provincial agreement, of which the Federal Minister of Agriculture and the individual Provincial Ministers of Agriculture are signatories to the PLAN, along with provincial commodities boards and the Farm Products Marketing Council itself. This means the Federal Minister of Agriculture does not have the unilateral power to adjust the PLAN itself to accommodate and correct any of its deficiencies.

The Committee notes that under the Farm Products Marketing Agencies Act, Section 7E, the National Farm Products Marketing Council has the power to approve and set aside any orders and regulations of CEMA.

The Minister of Agriculture, through the Governor-in-Council, Section 18(2C) also has the power to amend the terms of a marketing PLAN that an agency is empowered to implement or withdraw any of the powers set out in Section 23 that were vested in the Agency.