

EVIDENCE

THURSDAY, November 14, 1963.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, we have a quorum. With us this morning we have Mr. J. M. Bentley who is a member of the dairy farmers organization and also president of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture. With Mr. Bentley is Mr. Lorne Hurd, assistant executive secretary of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture.

I believe that yesterday or the day before all of us received a brief from the Canadian Federation of Agriculture. Is it the wish of the committee that Mr. Bentley read the brief, or I wonder if everyone has had an opportunity to read it.

Mr. BALDWIN: I would move that we take it as read and ask Mr. Bentley to comment on what he thinks are the highlights of it.

The CHAIRMAN: Is there any other discussion? Is this the feeling of the committee? Agreed.

Would you like to do that, Mr. Bentley; instead of reading the brief you might just summarize it.

(The brief of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture follows):

SUBMISSION BY THE CANADIAN FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS ON DRUGS AND CHEMICAL CONTAMINATION OF FOOD

1. The Canadian Federation of Agriculture appreciates the opportunity which it has been afforded to appear before and to participate in the hearings of this Special Committee of the House of Commons. Your consideration of the potential dangers of contaminating food supplies through the use of chemicals to control weeds, insects and pests, is timely, and can be of real value and service to the Canadian people, including farm people who we are here to represent.

2. As a major user of chemicals for pest control purposes, the farmer has a critical stake in the issues that are before you. This stake can be expressed in terms of the farmer in his occupational role, and as a citizen of the country.

As a farmer he has two principal concerns:

He has an interest in the economic implication of the use of agricultural chemicals in his business.

He has an interest in the protection of his own health and that of his family on the farm where agricultural chemicals are used.

3. As a citizen the farmer's concerns are three in number.

He has an interest in protecting the health of the food-consuming public. It is necessary that government research, licensing, regulatory and control procedures involving agricultural chemicals be adequate to protect the nation's food supply from contamination.