

Mr. WALSH: I think, sir, as you know, the composition of that committee to which you have referred represents people who are antifreight assistance for the east. Perhaps they will change if you put them on a committee, but I do not want to work with them. Does that answer your question? Is that an answer to it?

Mr. VINCENT: This is an answer.

You said a few minutes ago that you are not buying these 300,000 tons of grain directly from the wheat board.

Mr. WALSH: I said there are 300,000 tons handled in the maritimes and Newfoundland.

Mr. VINCENT: Of western grain?

Mr. WALSH: Western grain. I said 40 per cent was handled by the organization I represent; 30 per cent was handled by a national—I hope it is Canadian—firm; and the other 30 per cent was handled by four or five other firms. That is the 300,000 tons.

Mr. VINCENT: But the 40 per cent you are buying, you are not buying directly from the wheat board?

Mr. WALSH: We buy it through our agent.

Mr. VINCENT: A broker?

Mr. WALSH: A broker.

Mr. VINCENT: And the broker is buying from an agent of the wheat board?

Mr. WALSH: We buy it from one of those top four. You do not want to know the name, do you? I do not want to give them any free publicity.

Mr. VINCENT: Would it be possible for you to tell me what percentage of this 40 per cent your cooperative is buying, let us say, between September and November of each year.

Mr. WALSH: I am sorry, I cannot give it to you, you see, because I do not know. There is one little thing I think which may be of help to you and to me. We keep talking about grain all the time, and that is right in some circumstances, but we in the east use other feeds, mill feeds and screenings; so it is a different source from the source from which you buy, you understand.

Last year 29.4 per cent of Ontario's feed requirements was mills and screenings; Quebec, 32.8; New Brunswick, 25; Nova Scotia, 35.8; Prince Edward Island, 44.5; and Newfoundland, 40.9. It has a bearing, you see; you buy differently on that product.

Mr. VINCENT: If you were buying the biggest part of your feed grains from western Canada in these months, September to November, would it be possible if the government was paying the storage instead to you to store it in your own place, would it be possible to buy this grain during these months and store it in your own storage facilities close to the market.

Mr. WALSH: You would have to consider a number of factors before you could answer that question. That is one thing we want the agency to study. Is it better to have a large elevator and the associated mills around it? A modern feed mill costs \$500,000; it is not peanuts in our country. You have to have the mill to transfer it into feeds. Then would it be cheaper to have that at a central place using water transportation, or would it be better to put these little mills at some other place near the areas where it is going to be used? This is your question?

Mr. VINCENT: Yes.

Mr. WALSH: You have to consider the cost of transportation, the mileage involved, the volume of business in the area and the costs in the area, and so on. That is the only answer I can give you. I could not answer that. It is the agency's job to answer that.