

Royal Commission on Price Spreads

excessive, in relation to the services rendered; to make such recommendations as they deem appropriate if any such price spreads are found to be excessive, and to examine the adequacy of price information currently available.

I think I should also refer to the other members of the commission whose names I have placed before the house and give something of their background and present occupations. Mr. Romeo Martin of Montreal is a graduate of the Oka Institute and is secretary general of the co-operative federation of Quebec; Mr. Howard MacKichan, general manager of the united maritimes fishermen's co-operative; Mr. Bernard Couvrette, of Montreal, who has his own wholesale grocery firm and is a past president of the Canadian Wholesale Grocers' Association; Mr. Cleve Kidd, Toronto, president of the Ontario federation of labour and formerly general economic adviser of the united steel workers.

I mention the personnel, sir, to indicate the high standard of those who have undertaken, at personal sacrifice, to discharge the important responsibilities which will fall on them.

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Laurier): I gather that the order in council to which the Prime Minister has referred is a short one. Would he give consideration to publishing it in *Hansard*?

Mr. Diefenbaker: If that is agreeable to the house, certainly. It is not a long order in council.

Mr. Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the house that permission be given for this order in council to be printed in *Hansard*?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

[For text of order in council, see appendix, page 2171.]

Mr. H. R. Argue (Assiniboia): According to the Prime Minister's statement this commission has been set up to inquire into the difference between the price levels paid to agricultural producers and those charged to consumers. Does the Prime Minister not believe it would have been more in keeping with this feature to have arranged for some representation for organized agriculture? My question is, is there a representative on this commission representing the main farm organizations of this country?

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, Dr. Drummond is the head of the department of agricultural economics. Another member of the commission is the secretary general of the co-operative federation of Quebec. I am sure my hon. friend will regard both these

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

men as properly representing agriculture on that commission. Certainly it is impossible to cover every facet.

I must say, in this regard, we have one representative of business, two professors connected with agricultural economics, two who have been concerned with agricultural co-operatives, one representative of labour and one of consumers' organizations. I think it is very comprehensive. I might add, though this is not applicable to the question asked by my hon. friend, there is also the general manager of the maritime fisheries co-operative, who is also a member of the fisheries council of Canada.

I feel sure that each one of these gentlemen will properly represent the views of all. Certainly consideration was given to covering every interest, but that is impossible. I am sure no one will say this commission is one that will not fairly deal with this serious problem.

Mr. Argue: Can the Prime Minister say whether or not the farmers' unions and wheat pools were asked to submit the name of a person who might be suitable as a member of this commission?

Mr. Diefenbaker: My information is that it was not.

THE SENATE

REFERENCE TO ADDRESS OF SPEAKER AT QUEBEC MEETING

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Paul Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the Prime Minister. Is the Mark Drouin to whom he entrusted the reading of his message at the convention of the young Conservatives in Quebec city on Saturday last, as reported in the press, the same person the Prime Minister recommended to His Excellency the Governor General to be Speaker of the other house? Does the Prime Minister think this action is tantamount to restoring parliament to its former greatness?

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I think parliament is being restored since the change of government. I see nothing in what my hon. friend has referred to that in any way detracts from the course that is leading to the achievement once more of parliamentary supremacy.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): I should like to ask a supplementary question addressed to the right hon. gentleman who, by virtue of his office, is the leader of parliament. Does he