

THE SENATE

STANDING COMMITTEE ON CANADIAN TRADE RELATIONS

EVIDENCE

OTTAWA, Friday, July 3, 1959

The Standing Committee on Canadian Trade Relations met this day at 10.30 a.m. to consider the International Wheat Agreement, 1959.

Senator GRAY TURGEON (*Chairman*): I wish to express appreciation of your kindness in choosing me to act as Chairman of today's meeting of this Senate Committee on Canadian Trade Relations. I also wish to give you a message from the Chairman, Senator Neil McLean. He asked me to tell the Committee that he regretted it would be impossible for him to preside over today's meeting. His absence is caused by a serious illness in his family and he was forced to leave for home yesterday afternoon.

Senator MACDONALD: Mr. Chairman, I move that authority be granted to print 800 copies in English and 200 copies in French of our proceedings on the International Wheat Agreement, 1959.

Senator Ross Macdonald noticed that the reporters were not present and he moved that they be called to take down the evidence. Senator Aseltine seconded this motion. Senator Haig, objected. The Acting Chairman, Senator Turgeon, state that in his opinion it would be proper to have the reporters present. Senator Macdonald remarked that the report of the full discussion of this Committee would give an opportunity, to Senators who were not members of the Committee, to learn the whole story surrounding the International Wheat Agreement. Senator Macdonald's motion carried.

Senator HAIG: I want my objection to this motion recorded.

Senator HIGGINS: I join Senator Haig in his objection.

Motion agreed to.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Honourable senators, we have with us this morning Dr. Claude Hudson, Chief of Grain Division, Department of Trade and Commerce, and Mr. A. R. A. Gherson, Member of the Grain Division of the Department of Trade and Commerce. I will ask Dr. Hudson to make a statement to us now.

Senator ASELTINE: Mr. Chairman, I think we should follow the usual practice. We should have the representatives from the department give us a general outline of the treaty.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Yes. They are familiar with the treaty and if they would give us an outline of it we could have a question and answer period afterwards.

Dr. Claude Hudson, Chief of Grain Division, Department of Trade and Commerce: Mr. Chairman and honourable senators, I will very briefly review some of the principal points in the new agreement and then refer to the old agreement and the reasons why some of these changes were considered desirable. The objectives of the new agreement remain virtually the same