

Mr. BALDWIN: I know you cannot answer for the other provinces, but in respect of the general over-all problem of pesticides and other potentially dangerous materials, do you envisage there is any value in an undertaking of this nature on a federal basis involving producers, others in the industry, and representatives of government? Do you feel that a very useful function may be performed in this manner?

Mr. BENTLEY: This is possible. I do not know whether or not you are aware of it, but I understand that the province of Alberta receives a grant of \$7,500 towards this testing and sampling procedure. They have asked that this be continued and we, as producers, have asked that it be increased. I do not know whether or not this committee knows anything about this. I do not know whether other provinces are receiving this grant, or whether it is applicable only to Alberta. I know that at our last meeting which was held about ten days ago, we continued to ask for this annual grant of \$7,500 towards this program. It does not begin to cover the cost, but it is a federal grant which assists in this program. We would hope that the other provinces would make use of this grant. I imagine it would be available to all of the provinces.

Mr. JORGENSEN: Do you know on what authority that grant is made?

Mr. BENTLEY: I do not know. Certainly we passed a resolution that this grant be continued. Mr. Hurd suggests it is probably through the federal Department of National Health and Welfare. I know we get it, have asked that it be continued, and if possible increased.

Mr. BALDWIN: We just hope it will not be one of the joint programs which will be eliminated.

Mr. OTTO: Is all whole milk processed in one way or another before it is distributed to the public in Alberta?

Mr. BENTLEY: Well, I would say practically all the milk in the province of Alberta is. It has to be processed because practically every area of which I know, even very small ones, have a requirement now that pasteurization of milk take place. Therefore I would say that all this milk is processed.

Mr. OTTO: Do you, does your committee or your association, know of any process available by which the toxic element, if any, could be removed in the processing of the milk?

Mr. BENTLEY: I am not a technical man, but I understand there is new equipment in this particular field. I certainly would not like to give evidence in respect of this because I do not know. However, I understand there is equipment.

Mr. OTTO: Do you think that in time it will be possible, in the field of milk, to ensure the removal of all toxic elements, before sale to the public?

Mr. BENTLEY: I think possibly this may happen, but whether or not it is completely possible at the present time, I do not know; I would not think it would be possible yet.

Mr. BALDWIN: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if Mr. Bentley knows anything about an issue which developed in Alberta, and which I think was decided in the courts. I believe this was a case of misuse of pesticides in agricultural operation and an action was brought against a producer or farmer, a municipality, and the company which produced the drug in question. The reason I am asking this is that I believe it was followed up by government action which now compels a farmer, who obtains a pesticide through a municipality, to sign a declaration in respect of the use to be made of it and accept responsibility. Are you aware of this case or the consequences of it?

Mr. BENTLEY: Are you referring to the case down around Lethbridge?

Mr. BALDWIN: Yes.