

in any way interfere with the price that the western farmer gets. We just want a little efficiency and a little help.

We in the east, our organization, are very happy that the three prairie provinces have the finest marketing system on the North American continent. I refer, of course, to the Canadian wheat board. And I think this year has proved more than previous years that this statement is correct. They are doing a tremendous job. They are charged by the government of Canada to do the best they can to sell the product of the prairies in the form of grain to the world at the best price to the western farmer, and we have no complaint on that.

We do, however, want something to work for us in the east, and a comparable type of service that can be rendered by a central independent agency—not an arm of government, or not a part of a department. We believe that they can do that very effectively. We do not think, or we do not recommend, that it is necessary that such a body or agency be in the marketing, the buying and selling. I want to make that very clear from the beginning.

This is not my own opinion alone. It is not the opinion of any one man. It is the opinion of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture and the eastern agricultural feed committee of which I am a member. By the way, there are nine members, and we have met 11 times since September, 1962.

There are three from Ontario, three from Quebec, and three from the maritimes. We work on these plans, we discuss matters with the ministers and others, and we pass along our recommendations to the Canadian federation, while they in turn have supported our representations. The brief that was made to the Hon. Harry Hays and his associates on May 8 by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture embodies practically the same recommendations that you have heard since then. I think I have said almost everything as fast as I could, having in mind the time factor.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Dr. Walsh. I know the members will want to ask you some questions. I have on my list Mr. Pigeon and Mr. Danforth.

Mr. PIGEON: My first words are to congratulate Dr. Walsh for his statement. Now, may I ask you, sir, in view of the emergency situation we have in British Columbia and in the eastern provinces, if you recommend that government take steps next session to create this body?

Mr. WALSH: Mr. Chairman, and Mr. Pigeon, that is exactly what we hope will happen. We would like to see this in full operation by the beginning of this crop season, which would be the 1st of August. And if that is to be done, it will have to be set up a little earlier.

Mr. PIGEON: What do you recommend in view, of your experience, to stabilize the price of feed grain, so as not to have any speculation?

Mr. WALSH: There has been a great change in the system of freight assistance since its inception. It was started in October, 1941, and at that time the principle of the policy—which I think is still held—was that it deliver feed to all parts of eastern Canada and British Columbia at equal transportation costs to the feeder. Is that clear. I would like to do this because it has a bearing on your question. At that time, it was 50 cents per ton to the man in St. Hyacinthe, to the man in Guelph, and to the man in Truro, Nova Scotia. Subsequently there was a change in the freight rates. Many of them were absorbed by the Department of Agriculture or the government. Gradually they went up, but in doing so we did not go up uniformly. We in the maritimes have our mill feed screenings which up to now have come forward almost solely by rail. They are bagged, as you know. We pay \$6.20 freight, so we do not get it as a gift.

With the seaway there have been some changes, and as far as possible they are being utilized. But there are some embodiments—am I getting too