

Mr. ROXBURGH: Mr. Nichols, I have just one or two brief questions.

I notice in your opening paragraph you state:

As appointed representatives of the Ontario seed corn growers and the Ontario federation of agriculture to represent the commercial corn growers—

And so on.

In what capacity are you giving this information to the effect that you are against, we will say, or not in favour of an eastern grain board to help things along? Who are you speaking for when you make that statement? You are representing here the Ontario Seed Corn Growers Association and you are also representing the Ontario Federation of Agriculture to represent the commercial corn growers. Now, the federation of agriculture is behind this; they have given certain sanctions and have expressed certain thoughts. But, for whom are you speaking when you give that information?

Mr. NICHOLS: In regard to that, Mr. Roxburgh, this came about first, we might say, when we were very active in the freight rate program and so on, and we were appointed by the Ontario federation. I was a member of that federation and Mr. MacKenzie also was helping in that respect. And, we have been following through on the corn industry as a whole.

Although I do not like to bring in personalities, I mentioned that I am in favour of free enterprise. I believe we would have had a commercial corn growers' plan in Ontario if it had not been due to the very energetic activities of some non-sellers of corn. And, when I say that may I say that one large corn producer who does not sell a kernel of corn was one of the greatest opponents of that. It sort of makes me hot under the collar when people for entirely selfish purposes go to no end to protect their own interests.

A man who was the chairman of the milk producers board in our county a number of years ago and who no longer has a farm has been very active in this connection, and yet he had to buy corn and other products, although he had all the protection available for the milk industry. I have no objection to protection but I do not think it is right for a man who has an umbrella of protection over his head in respect of the milk industry to go out and work to upset any other group who are asking for similar considerations. It looks to me like he is in deep quicksand. While we are in this position of speaking for the commercial corn growers, there was no corn growers marketing plan or group; it lost out by a small margin. So, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, which is interested in agriculture as a whole, asked us to do this. Also, when we went to the Hon. Bill Stewart, the minister of agriculture and discussed the tariffs he personally endorsed it and spoke to the ministers down here. The Ontario executive of the O.F.A. and their committee unanimously endorsed that. They represented all phases of agriculture, the poultry producers, beef producers and all other segments of agriculture. They felt that we were familiar with the corn industry and that is why we were appointed by them to represent this group as well as the seed corn growers marketing board, and we have a mandate from our own growers.

Mr. ROXBURGH: Sure, I know you are speaking for the commercial corn growers.

Mr. NICHOLS: Yes, I would say we are.

Mr. ROXBURGH: And, that you represent the Ontario Federation of Agriculture in that respect. I understand exactly what you are talking about. I do understand what you are up against, and do not think that I do not. But, as you know, we have had some contradictory statements and I just wanted to clarify this matter.