

Mr. REGNIER: It is open to all who want to take advantage of it. It might be on account of their location that they may not be able to take advantage of it. However, because of the fact that the elevator facilities are relieved by reason of some grain being sold outside the elevator and so on, there would be more room for those who do not take advantage of selling outside the quota. What they lose on the one hand they gain on the other hand.

Mr. McNAMARA: During the last five years when we had a large carry over of grain on the farms, which was just about all that time, this is the period when we were faced with congestion.

Mr. ARGUE: If there were a relaxation of board's policy, so that more grain would be sold outside the wheat board's jurisdiction, would this in any way make any easier the total marketing of grain both within and without? Would you see any increase in sales whatsoever?

Mr. McNAMARA: I would not.

Mr. ARGUE: One of the results, however, would be fewer dollars in the pockets of the grain producers.

Mr. McNAMARA: I cannot see that it would increase the overall consumption of grain within the designated area.

Mr. REGNIER: Your greater concern is to protect the farmer by selling at lower prices. Is that the main concern? Or what is the real reason?

Mr. McNAMARA: The major concern of the board is to merchandise grain which the producers deliver to us to the best possible advantage. We regard that as our number one consideration, and we should not let quotas or other things interfere with our sales at all.

Our second responsibility is the equitable administration of the quota system.

Mr. REGNIER: Have you any figures from the implement dealers or merchants?

Mr. McNAMARA: We have no figures, and there is nothing in our records to indicate it; but we do know that some of those dealers have purchased grain from producers at prices well below our initial payment prices.

Mr. REGNIER: Would not some of them pay a higher price in order to make the sale of a tractor? Would they not give the farmer a greater price than the wheat board is paying?

Mr. McNAMARA: They might, but it would be up to them. I think the information available in our office would indicate that some of the grain over the quota has been purchased at prices well below what the board is paying, but it would be possible as an advantage in selling a tractor to give the purchaser higher prices.

Mr. REGNIER: Or in connection with the payment of a debt; they might give a higher price?

Mr. McNAMARA: Yes, that would be possible.

Mr. REGNIER: You have no doubt about it?

Mr. McNAMARA: No.

Mr. GUNDLOCK: A while ago Mr. McNamara was pointing out the prices for which they sold grain to the feed mills. I think he said it was the initial payment. In other words, do you say that the feed mills bought wheat at cost?

Mr. McNAMARA: No. If I said that I was in error. The feed mills which are agents for the board, buy for our account at the initial payment price; and when they wish to take delivery of the grain to put it into their plants, they have to purchase it from the board. That is, we would sell it to them at our regular market sales price, at the price we are selling it for any other market. They pay that price.