

Mr. Atkinson: I could best describe it by saying that farmers do not take a direct membership in the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, but in other organizations who first of all federate into federated bodies at the provincial level. Then the provincial super-body federates with the Canadian Federation of Agriculture. It is a much different process than that in which we are involved.

Senator Grosart: Would your members be members of the local and, only by virtue of their membership in the local, members of the union?

Mr. Golden: By virtue of the fact that they are members in the national they are members of the local. The local is the administrative organization at the community level through which farmers discuss mutual problems.

Senator Grosart: Where do they pay their fees?

Mr. Golden: To the national.

Senator Grosart: They send their money to Winnipeg?

Mr. Golden: That is correct.

Mr. Atkinson: The national pays back to the district a percentage of the national fee. Districts then make a determination—the district is made up of locals—they determine as to what amount is paid back to the local.

Senator Grosart: What is your anticipated annual revenue?

Mr. Atkinson: We have projected for the first year's operation a minimum budget of \$750,000, with a maximum of about \$1,200,000.

Senator Grosart: What would the membership fee be?

Mr. Atkinson: \$25.

Senator Grosart: How many members do you anticipate in your first year?

Mr. Atkinson: I would suppose about 30,000. That is a minimum.

Senator Grosart: What percentage of the active farmers of Canada are in it?

Mr. Atkinson: This again becomes a question of definition, because the definition of "farmer" in Canada also includes people who live in the country and have a bit of a hobby

in market farm produce, and there are some rural residents who have off-farm jobs.

Senator Hollett: Do you not think the definition should be in the bill?

The Law Clerk: No, senator. It is provided in the bill that the union may make regulations concerning qualifications of eligibility for membership or elected office. So they will make the provisions.

Senator Hollett: That is all right—as long as it has been mentioned.

Senator Grosart: That in itself is a very dangerous thing. Senator Hollett's point is a good one. This means that you can decide who is eligible—and that you yourself could be eligible for membership—which is not a good thing in an organization calling itself a national farmers union. It would be valuable to have a provision—and I recommend this to you for your by-laws—to indicate some free access of eligibility to your organization. It would be good public relations, if I might say so.

Mr. Golden: I may say that any definition in the bill would restrict it, because at the point it is at now, anyone, even those persons mentioned who have merely a garden in the back of the house, are technically eligible for membership of this organization. I would not think it is in Mr. Atkinson's objective to rule out such dues-paying members, any more than is absolutely necessary. There is an economic force at work there and it is a matter of organization. I do not know what kind of definition the farmers would put in. I am afraid of the income tax definition, it might be too restrictive.

Senator Grosart: It is a problem in any organization set up as a union to define the eligibility of persons, because there have been cases where this has shut out people, not only from membership in it but from jobs.

Mr. Golden: I may say this as an aside on this topic. We hit a problem because of my rather egotistical assumption that my French was good enough to do a translation of "National Farmers Union". I did that myself and came up with the word "fermière" instead of "cultivateur". And the word "fermière" implies a less established sort of farmer, more than the tenant farmer kind of indication. And we from the history of Canada think of "cultivateur", which indicates a farmer of some more means, with more established assets. That may be a definition by accident.