

EVIDENCE

APRIL 17, 1956.
11.00 a.m.

The CHAIRMAN: We now have a quorum, so we will come to order.

Before we go on, may I ask the different parties to try to submit names for the agenda committee. I only have the names for the Social Credit members.

So far, we have had one meeting to organize, and it was agreed at that meeting that we should notify the interested parties in the reference before us. At the moment our only reference is to amend the Farm Improvement Loans Act, Bill 208. I accordingly notified the Co-operative Union of Canada, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, the Credit Union National Association, and the Interprovincial Farm Union Council. So far, we have heard from the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, which we are to hear this morning in the person of Dr. Hope, and the Co-operative Union of Canada will be heard and the date had been set tentatively for Thursday, but they have expressed the wish—and that is putting it mildly—of having the privilege of being heard next week rather than this week in view of the fact that they are presently in conference during most of the week. I have not heard from the Credit Union National Association, and apparently the Interprovincial Farm Union Council do not intend to appear now at this stage.

So, this morning we are privileged to have Dr. Hope of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture who will make the presentation on behalf of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture on this bill.

If there are any questions, now would be the time to raise the questions before we go on with the presentation.

Mr. QUELCH: Mr. Chairman, I think it is very unfortunate that we are having to meet at this time in view of the fact that the Farm Loan Bill is before the Banking and Commerce Committee. These two provisions are very closely related to one another.

The CHAIRMAN: I appreciate that, and I did not previously call the committee together until now in order to enable the Banking and Commerce Committee to get through with its bill. I was given to understand that all the presentations to the committee have been completed now and that the committee is considering the bill.

Mr. QUELCH: So some of us who have listened to the presentations have to come here instead of being able to discuss the bill.

The CHAIRMAN: How long will they be on the bill?

Mr. QUELCH: I do not know.

The CHAIRMAN: My information is that they are likely to be on the bill some time yet. Our reference on the Farm Improvement Loans Act was referred to us well before Easter and naturally the government is anxious to get this legislation in operation. I know that the situation is unfortunate, but I doubt if we can get around it to an absolute degree.

Mr. NICHOLSON: Mr. Chairman, I think originally it was proposed that this legislation be referred to the Banking and Commerce Committee, and in that case it would have stayed over until they had finished the present legislation before them. In view of the fact that some of the members are on both