

that took place at our annual meeting. I am quite confident about its accuracy. If I am wrong, then I will be corrected in the course of time, but I am quite confident that it is accurate.

It is also fair to say by way of interpretation that there is not a common universal and precise consensus and agreement on the urgency of the need, on the nature of it, and on the extent to which these powers are likely to be exercised. But there is agreement that, in the interests of the objectives as stated in the submission, the power should be there.

You are asking whether the power of the board—and remember, it is a power to buy in the market from the wheat board, not an exclusive power—is something which might be considered to jeopardize the interests of the Ontario grower of feed grains. Is that correct?

Mr. DANFORTH: That is correct.

Mr. KIRK: The answer to that can only be, I think, that the policy says that the grain shall be sold by the wheat board in the best interests of the producer of those grains. This means that the price that should be paid to the producer in an orderly marketing program will be paid to him. In other words, this is not a proposal by special arrangement between two government agencies to pay a special reduced price for grains in eastern Canada.

Furthermore, the proposal is that, the price for the grain having been established and the grain being available at these prices, let us say ex-lakehead, the minimum cost shall be added in the process of transporting the feed grains to the consumer. I am referring to costs not only in the sense of the normal cost of handling but also the cost of possible appreciation in price, for example during the closed season.

As I understood the discussion, there was no dissent to these objectives from the Ontario feed grain growers.

I do not know what more I can say on that subject.

Mr. DANFORTH: Will you agree with me, Mr. Kirk, that if such an agency were established with the powers as recommended, the grain dealers and merchants in the province of Ontario could be in a position whereby they would be buying western grains from a government agency and selling to eastern users of grain in competition with another government agency. The farmers who are served by these same merchants or grain dealers would therefore find themselves in the position of being in competition with producers in the west, whose interests are handled by a government agency, and selling to their normal market in the east whose interests are handled or should be handled by a government agency.

I do not wish to present an argument at this time, Mr. Kirk. What I am trying to do is to clarify in my own mind the position in which the Ontario people would find themselves.

Mr. KIRK: Yes. The proposed agency is a government agency.

Mr. DANFORTH: I am not suggesting that this is a matter of dispute or argument; I am just asking if this is the position.

Mr. KIRK: The way in which you have phrased your question raises another question, that of the nature of the operations of the agency and the manner in which they would handle them. That is quite clear, is it not?

Mr. DANFORTH: I agree.

Mr. KIRK: That is to say, they might handle the operation in such a way that they do not as an agency sell to the farmer. They might use the channels of the trade. I am not saying they would, but they might. They might on the other hand sell to the farmer. I do not know what they would do precisely. You know just as much now about this as I do.