

Mr. DANFORTH: Before we proceed, may I request that Dr. Walsh also in his opening remarks give us a bare outline of the Maritime Cooperative Services so that we may know beforehand exactly the scope of the group from which we are hearing the report.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, thank you, Mr. Danforth.

Dr. WALDO WALSH, (*Director, Maritime Cooperative Advisory Services*): Mr. Chairman, gentlemen, I am delighted to be here and I hope that through questioning something may come out that may be helpful to you in your deliberations.

I am an adviser to four cooperatives in the maritime area. It is a job that I took on after I retired as deputy minister of agriculture for the province of New Brunswick, a job I held for 20 years. The one company which is the largest cooperative is the Maritime Cooperative Services. It is a cooperative which was established in 1927. I was one of the organizers when I was working as a field man in Nova Scotia for the federal government, Department of Agriculture. At that time the department felt it was important to help the farmers in their marketing plans, and eventually we set up in the three provinces some 70 livestock shipping clubs; and these, in April, 1927, were brought together under an organization which is now known as the Maritime Cooperative Services.

After some years in livestock marketing that organization felt they should service their people, and it first went into feed and now it is in general lines of service to farmers, such as spray materials, fertilizers and so on. They have a volume of business amounting to something like \$20 million a year. They service possibly over half of the farmers of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, maybe 60 per cent of them, and to some extent in Prince Edward Island. Possibly that will give you sufficient background.

I should go a little further and say that the maritime provinces, including Newfoundland, bring in from western Canada annually 300,000 tons of subsidized feeds, which as you know now are grain mill feeds and screenings. Of that amount, our organization, the Maritime Cooperative Services, handle over 40 per cent in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

I should point out about myself—though perhaps it is not very interesting because you have already heard a little to this effect—that I have been associated with agriculture for 40 years. First I was with the Department of Agriculture and Livestock, New Brunswick, later in the department here, then in Nova Scotia, and then in western Canada for a short time on livestock promotion. Later I was professor of animal husbandry in an agricultural college. I then went to the Canadian National Railways, and finished as superintendent of agriculture for that company, with scope from coast to coast. I have been back in Nova Scotia for 30 years, first as director of marketing—there was no deputy minister at that time—and later as deputy minister. I retired a year ago, up to full age, too, at the time.

Mr. Dernier, who is the general manager and wrote the letter, is ill, and I was asked to fill in in his place. I am not a technical grain man or a feed man. The first thing I want to say to you is that we fully subscribe to the representations made by the Canadian federation of agriculture. The main theme of their recommendation is that an independent agency be established, one that can work with all the departments involved. As you know—it has been said to you many times, I know, because I have read all the evidence, and I am trying not to repeat—there are four agencies involved at all times.

There are four agencies involved at all times. We believe that co-ordination can bring about the effect of getting feeds to the feeders of livestock in eastern Canada with the least friction and the least costs, and that it will not