

## APPENDIX II

## BRIEF

Presented by

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to the

STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND RURAL  
DEVELOPMENT

of the

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Winnipeg, Manitoba

Friday, February 10, 1967

Before outlining the Liberal Party of Manitoba's major attitudes and policies towards agriculture, we wish to heartily welcome the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development to Manitoba. It is through the free exchange of ideas between people of the west and you that policies truly meeting the needs of Western farmers and Canada as a whole, can be developed. The Liberal Party of Manitoba trusts that this visit to our province will not be the last; in fact, it earnestly hopes the Committee could make the visits an annual affair.

*Major Problems and Objectives*

The Committee has doubtless heard, from the many briefs presented to it by Western organizations, that agriculture in Western Canada is still plagued by cost-price problems. While it is true that some farmers are earning relatively good net incomes, a great many producers earn less than the minimum wage.

The Liberal Party of Manitoba believes these are the main reasons for the problem:

1. Due to higher paying jobs in industry, farm labour is not only rare, but expensive in relationship to the earning ability of many Manitoba farms.
2. Land values have gone up, making it increasingly difficult for farm units to obtain land at reasonable prices, or in relationship to its productive ability.
3. Both the labor shortage and high price of land have led to greater use of purchased inputs to replace labor and land.
4. Unfortunately, while purchased inputs have increased the volume of farm products per acre and per man, the price the farmer receives for his produce has not kept pace with the cost of purchased inputs. Both large and small farmers find themselves on the same treadmill,