

APPENDIX "FNCE-7"

Presentation By Women For the Survival of Agriculture (WSA) to the Federal Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs on March 14, 1985

Subject: Discussion Paper - Tax Issues in Agriculture Prepared by the Department of Finance in January 1985

Who we are:

We are here representing WSA, a national organization with several thousand members and groups from coast to coast. Through networking, we are also closely aligned with farm womens' organizations across the country. We have working relationships with such groups as Women for the Support of Agriculture, Concerned Farm Women, Les Femme Collaboratrice, Women of Uniform, etc.. Since our founding in 1975, we have gained recognition as a credible, knowledgeable, respected and responsible organization, dealing with the many issues that affect agriculture today.

First the Bad News

The majority of Canadians and most farmers expected that a new government would bring new attitudes towards Canadian business, including agriculture.

Exasperated with the previous governments' disastrous economic policies, we believed that the new government would bring some fresh creative and responsible thinking, so badly needed for Canada's economic future.

With the increase in rural representation in the new government, we truly believed that they would be more in tune, and recognize the importance and problems of agriculture.

With the release of the discussion paper, we were shocked into the reality that although Canadians have changed their elected representatives, we are still faced with the same bureaucratic policy advisors. In our opinion, a large part of the problems with the last government, was the result of poor advice from the policy advisors in the bureaucracy. The best example being the ill conceived McEachan budget a few years ago, prepared by some very poorly informed Department of Finance Officials.

Regardless of the political views of their government, the ideology and thinking of the bureaucracy will prevail because the time constraints of ministers, and the large volume of information submitted for their decision does not allow them enough freedom to sort the wheat from the chaff. The discussion paper seems to be so diametrically opposed to the Conservative philosophy, regarding business entrepreneurship and the agricultural industry specifically - perhaps the time has come to sort the wheat from the chaff in bureaucracy.