

Mr. DANFORTH: I fully appreciate that. This is why I am asking this question.

Was this question considered during the deliberations which resulted in this brief?

Mr. KIRK: Are you asking if the question whether there should be import restrictions was considered?

Mr. DANFORTH: No.

Mr. KIRK: I am sorry, perhaps I am not understanding your point. The preoccupation of the meeting, of course, was very largely with the question of western grains, because to a major degree this is the area of surplus supply.

Mr. DANFORTH: Were there representatives there who could adequately speak to the question of surplus grains here in Ontario?

One part of your brief that causes me some concern is that in which you speak of an agency set up for the administration of freight assistance, storage assistance and import licensing. Was due consideration given during the deliberations to our own eastern problem, or were the deliberations concerned with feed grain surpluses in the west?

Mr. KIRK: I think all I can say in answer to that question is this. In addition to what I have already said, the Ontario farm organization representatives were present at our meeting, and they included representatives of the grain producing interests, particularly wheat.

Mr. DANFORTH: The soft wheat men were represented, were they?

Mr. KIRK: Yes, quite definitely.

Mr. DANFORTH: Did they raise any objection to this particular aspect of freight?

Mr. KIRK: No.

Mr. DOUCETT: May I ask a supplementary question, Mr. Chairman?

Does this recommendation of the federation of agriculture imply an extension of the feed grain assistance policy to grain producers in the province of Ontario?

Mr. KIRK: The feed freight assistance as applied to Ontario grains was not specifically dealt with in this resolution.

My organization's policy position on that arises out of the previous policy—a policy on which we have been quite clear—that there should be a program of feed freight assistance for Ontario feed corn and wheat moving to Quebec and the maritime provinces. That has been our policy.

Mr. DANFORTH: Mr. Chairman, may I continue? I have one further question.

We in the east are not as familiar with the activities of the agency in the west as are the committee members from the west. Mr. Kirk, on hearing this brief one question immediately comes to my mind. It is this. It is stated that the intent behind the establishment of an eastern agency, with powers to buy and sell and store, is not that it should have exclusive power. It is stated that it is not the intent.

If this agency is established, in effect we will have dealings between two government agencies—an agency in the west designed to control and sell, and a proposed government agency in the east designed to buy and sell. In what position will the Ontario farmer find himself? Is this direct government competition against the private sellers in Ontario?

Mr. KIRK: I must explain the nature of my position as a representative of the federation. It is not a matter of embarrassment, I may say; it is a matter of explanation.

The statement I have given you contains some interpretation that is not fully contained in the resolution. The statement is based upon the discussion