

that the widest possible consideration be placed on these regulations; and in the course of our conversation we asked the board if they could give us a statement of how much of this wheat we might have to take in, viewing this position very generously, and the item given us was possibly upwards of 1,000,000 bushels. That was agreed to by the government.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: When was that agreed to? I have a letter dated May 20, 1943, which states the government policy in respect to this matter; it says, the board regrets that it is unable to act on your application—

Hon. Mr. MACKINNON: It was within the last—very recently.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: I see, I brought it up in the latter part of May and the policy had not been changed then.

Hon. Mr. MACKINNON: It was agreed to just about that time; at the present time, as Mr. McIvor has said, only 485,000 bushel increase have been taken; and I think the understanding construction that has been given to this matter by the wheat board so far has not involved more than about 50,000 bushels; therefore, we will be well within the figure that was set. I cannot say what the policy will be for another year but we will certainly—I think I am safe in saying—be very sympathetic to a continuation of the plan that has been in operation.

Mr. FAIR: I move that the same policy covering the sale of wheat in excess of this quota in effect in 1942 be carried into effect in 1943-1944.

Mr. ROSS (*Souris*): I would be glad to second Mr. Fair's motion. I think that is rather important because a farmer who has been called up is in rather a dilemma in a way as to what the future may be.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: Do you mean the man who has enlisted voluntarily, or the man who has been called; it is the same is it not?

Mr. ROSS (*Souris*): No, because the farmers who have been called under the Act, as I understand it—and I have been corresponding with several in my district in respect to this matter—they are called and allowed exemption for six months at a time only—

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: You mean, postponement.

Mr. ROSS (*Souris*): Yes, I should have said postponement rather than exemption. Their postponements are for six months at a time. That puts the farmer in a very peculiar situation; and I think that as Mr. Fair has pointed out he is a chap who should have some ease of mind on this question. That is why I feel that this exception should be extended for their benefit to this crop year as well. I think that is the very least this committee could do for these chaps who find themselves in that unfortunate position.

The CHAIRMAN: Are you ready for the question?

Mr. EVANS: About all that a committee such as this can do after hearing the evidence is to make a recommendation; is that what you had in mind when putting the motion now, Mr. Chairman?

The CHAIRMAN: Apparently Mr. Fair wants to have it dealt with now. I was just going to explain that whatever we do we cannot go beyond making a recommendation, and that would be followed by its inclusion in a report by this committee to the house. That is all we as a committee would be able to do.

Mr. DONNELLY: With regard to this motion by Mr. Fair I would just like to put myself on record that I want it understood that I am ready and willing at all times to do anything I possibly can for any man in the army, a man who is actually a soldier; but as to a man called up and given postponement, a man who isn't actually in the army, I do not think any exception should be made in his case any more than in that of anybody else.