

put I am looking for information, and I may be putting questions which you are not prepared to comment upon or to give your detailed views. But, I would like you to give us your views and the views of the federation on the actual operation of the agency, to the best of your ability, because I think it would be very helpful to the members of this committee.

You say simply:

The purchase, sale and distribution of feed grains in the eastern provinces and British Columbia, at such time as is deemed necessary.

I realize my question will be broad but, if you can, would you give us some of your ideas on the actual operation of the agency in respect of the purchasing, selling, distribution and storage of feed grains?

Mr. KIRK: It would be most irresponsible of me to start guessing in respect of what my organization thinks, and I am not going to do that. I think it is a small phrase such as this that illustrates the relatively small change that this policy represents. As pointed out in this brief, we had said we wanted this change so that we could intensely study the feed grain situation and recommend what things should be done. As I pointed out in this submission, it was always therefore in the realm of possibility that with experience the agency might have concluded that marketing powers were needed; but then, you would have had to have a legislative amendment. What is being said here is that our delegation have become convinced from the evidence and experience of the eastern people that the problem does exist and, in fact, continues to exist, even with a new policy, in respect of eastern storage, eastern storage payments and so on. Even though this continues to exist they are saying: "All right, let us get some power in there so that we do not need a legislative amendment, so that when the agency starts operating just as soon as it finds out it needs to act in this area it can."

Mr. OLSON: I would not like to have the thought conveyed that this is a small change in the policy given in your statement dated October 16, 1963, wherein you said this, after outlining the powers that you envisaged in this former advisory committee: "The first thing we would emphasize in connection with this proposal is that it is not a proposal for a marketing agency; the agency itself would do no buying, selling, storage or other actual marketing functions". Now, that has completely changed.

Mr. KIRK: I concede to that and agree. All I am saying is that the extent of the agency should not be exaggerated. One of the reasons that so much emphasis was put on that point was that we wanted to be sure and not have any misunderstanding about this because there had been a good deal of misunderstanding and lack of clarity on whether or not we were recommending the inclusion of marketing powers in that legislation. We were not then and we are not now.

Mr. MULLALLY: Mr. Kirk, could you explain again in a little more detail the views of the federation and the part of the resolution which says:

Establish equitable transportation cost at the farm for feed grains throughout eastern Canada and British Columbia.

When you refer to the word "equitable" do you mean that a ton of grain would cost the same in Quebec as a ton of grain would cost in Newfoundland, landed at the farm? Is that your intention? In other words, are you saying that a ton of grain would cost a farmer in Newfoundland exactly the same, landed at his farm, as it would cost a farmer in Quebec? Is this what you mean by equitable transportation? I assume that what you are saying is that if the cost at the lakehead is the same and if you have equitable transportation costs,