

WHEREAS no governmental organization is charged with looking to the interests of the Eastern and B.C. producers, as is the case for the farmers of the west through the Canadian wheat board; and

IN VIEW of the inaction of the federal government, faced with this very important problem of the eastern and B.C. farmer;

RESOLVED that the federal government adopt the necessary measures to

(a) Establish equitable transportation cost at the farm for feed grains throughout eastern Canada and British Columbia,

(b) Create a feed grains agency for the eastern provinces and B.C. with the following powers:

1. The administration of freight assistance policy.
2. The administration of storage assistance policy.
3. The placing of feed grain supplies in public storage at the appropriate locations, at the times required and in sufficient quantity.
4. To advise the government on feed grains import permit policy so that import licensing shall be under continuous review as a matter of national policy, and to ensure that the response to any need that might arise for issuance of permits be rapid and opportune.
5. The purchase, sale and distribution of feed grains in the eastern provinces and B.C., at such time as is deemed necessary.

(c) The agency and the responsible minister shall have advisory to it and charged with definite and defined responsibilities a committee composed of persons formally representative of organized farm groups in eastern Canada and B.C.

(d) Immediately after the creation of the projected agency to place the policy of feed freight assistance on a statutory basis.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Kirk.

Are there any questions from committee members?

Mr. DANFORTH: Mr. Chairman, I have one or two questions that I would like to ask Mr. Kirk.

This brief, Mr. Kirk, speaks of feed grains, of the licensing of imports, and of an agency to be established to administer the freight assistance and the storage assistance.

I would like to know what is the position of the Ontario farmer. Are soft wheat, Ontario oats and Ontario corn considered as feed grains as far as this brief is concerned?

Mr. KIRK: I am quite sure this is so, Mr. Danforth. I think the intent is that this agency shall be able to purchase feed grains. It is not an exclusive power—as I pointed out in the brief. I think there is no intention that it will not be able to enter the market and purchase feed grains from western Canada and from eastern Canada, and also from foreign sources. That is my understanding of the policy.

Mr. DANFORTH: I can quite appreciate that, Mr. Kirk, but most of the briefs that have been submitted to the committee on the subject of feed grains have been concerned primarily with feed grains from western Canada. Since the meeting on this subject was held in Regina, I would like to have clarification on the question whether the feed grains considered, as far as this brief is concerned, include western feed grains.

I am particularly interested in the power that was considered for this agency in the matter of importation of grain into Canada. I wonder if that would cover the realm of corn, and specifically United States corn.

Mr. KIRK: There is no limitation, of course, on the import of United States corn.