

Mr. McNAMARA: I cannot give you a figure offhand, but that is published by the board of grain commissioners, how much corn is moving into Canada.

Mr. JORGENSEN: Perhaps Mr. Milner might obtain that for us.

Mr. McNAMARA: Yes.

Mr. KINDT: I think probably we have talked enough about this that we may now summarize. The 122 feed mills especially, and perhaps the others as well, want to buy direct from the producer and in all probability drive a harder bargain, get this grain cheaper and buy it outside the quota. I obtained my information directly from the brief of the mill feed operators and I take it that my statement is in essence their position.

In analyzing that statement, it boils down to this. I remember the time the wheat board was set up. I helped to write the Wheat Board Act. My understanding of the things we talked about at that time is that they had their bearing on giving the wheat board a complete monopoly in selling their wheat so that they would not be plagued with the individual, like the old grain trader, going to the farmer and being able to bargain with him as an individual. They wanted a central selling agent. That is what we set up. The mills are directly at cross purposes to that objective of the wheat board. If their policy was put in effect there is no doubt that we would be putting a foot in the door, opening the whole thing, and it would smash the pricing system of the wheat quota.

Furthermore the only objective on the part of the mills is to buy this wheat cheaper and be able to carry on their integrated feeding operations which is not in line with the—

The CHAIRMAN: I believe you are getting off on a statement such as I refused Mr. Argue to make this morning.

Mr. ARGUE: You would not even let me ask a question this morning.

The CHAIRMAN: We can take this up after we finish hearing the witnesses.

Mr. ARGUE: Mr. Chairman—

Mr. KINDT: I have the floor. Mr. Argue will have it later.

Mr. ARGUE: Mr. Chairman, on the point of order you have raised, I would suggest that the practice of our committee has been to allow a member in putting questions to make what might be defined as a short statement. The rule comes into effect when a statement is lengthy. I think the statement so far is within the rules of the committee.

Mr. KINDT: If there is any other statement longer than that of the member for Assiniboia I have yet to hear it.

Mr. ARGUE: I am on your side. Why be in heat?

Mr. BRUNSDEN: I take it these gentlemen who are here before us are here to give us information. I suppose there will be another group or perhaps several groups here to give us information. I am not prepared to lay down what I think about the outcome at this stage. I believe that is the job for the committee after the witnesses have appeared.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes.

Mr. JORGENSEN: Absolutely. Our purpose here is to obtain information.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes. Then the individual members of the committee will give their own opinions.

Are there any further questions.

Mr. KINDT: May I ask Mr. McNamara this question: is it not true that the wheat board regards the entire domestic market as a very inelastic market and there is just so much of a market there. If the grain is not sold by the wheat board and part of that market is taken up by somebody else, it denies the wheat board that portion of the market due to the inelasticity of the demand for wheat.