

18. In conclusion, the Federation reiterates the essential points of the position it has taken in this presentation.

Agricultural chemicals are here to stay. They are of profound importance in providing adequate supplies of high quality food products for growing populations at home and abroad.

Farmers have a critical stake in efforts made to safeguard the food supply from harmful chemical contamination. They recognize the potential dangers from the improper use of chemicals, and they support government regulation and control of the chemical industry to the extent required to protect the public interest.

Only highly trained, competent scientists can be relied upon to provide the data necessary for policy making decisions relative to the chemical industry. However, it is the job of legislative bodies to assess the adequacy of the data upon which policy is based, and the adequacy of national policy and nation policy-making procedures in this field.

The Federation believes it would be useful in the policy making process for legislative bodies to involve representatives of the users of the chemicals and the consuming public on a continuing basis. In this connection it may be noted that the Pest Control Products Act contains a provision for an advisory board that is not now being used.

The study of this Special Committee can be highly useful, both in assessing the adequacy of present legislation and regulations dealing with chemicals, and in improving public confidence in the procedures followed within the government to ensure a safe food supply.

Respectfully submitted,

CANADIAN FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE.

Mr. J. M. BENTLEY (*President, Canadian Federation of Agriculture*): Thank you very much Mr. Chairman. It is a pleasure for us to appear before you today on this most important matter. I think the matters discussed in this brief in the main are pretty well known to all members of the committee. I believe possibly we all realize the importance of these chemicals in the growing of crops. I do not think there is any argument in that direction.

The method of control in the use of these chemicals is a very important matter and one which receives a great deal of discussion at this time. I would like to emphasize just how we deal with the subject in Alberta. I happen to be a member of a committee which has to do with antibiotics, herbicides and pesticides in dairy products in the province of Alberta. This committee, of which I happen to be a member, was set up by the Alberta Dairymen's Association. In the province of Alberta this association has representatives of the producers as well as of the plants, distributors and processors in the dairy business. Therefore, we have all the people in this association who are interested in the dairy business in the province of Alberta. We have set up different committees in various fields. As I said, I am a member of the one on antibiotics, pesticides and herbicides. On this committee we have Mr. Daniels of the federal food and drug department, Dr. Kadis who is one of the laboratory technicians in the Edmonton dairy lab., and Mr. Ray Dixon who is doing dairy improvement work in the province of Alberta; we also have representatives of the plants and, myself, as a representative of the producer interests.

In the province of Alberta we have a sampling procedure by which periodically and systematically samples of milk are taken as it comes in. If we have any difficulties at all with regard to any residues, either from antibiotics or from herbicides or pesticides, then we track this right down to