

[Text]

Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, in conclusion it is submitted that the rural feedmills play a useful and important role in producing properly balanced livestock feed with severely limited mark-ups in practice. It is submitted that the prices paid by rural feedmills for grain only reflect but do not set the farmer-to-farmer grain prices. To blame the deterioration of grain prices in farmer-to-farmer intraprovincial trading on rural feedmills is no more justified than blaming the cold weather on the coincidental low reading on a weather thermometer. It is the price structure fixed by one farmer buying from another that sets the prices paid by rural feedmills for its grain just as much as the cold weather sets the low recording on the weather thermometer. For the practical reasons discussed in this submission we submit it cannot be otherwise.

This is respectfully submitted, Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, on behalf of the Rural Feed Mill Operators of Manitoba and Alberta.

The Vice-Chairman: Thank you very much, Mr. Newman. Already seven members have pointed out to me that they intend to ask questions: Messrs. Downey, Stewart (Marquette), McKinley, Gleave, Cobbe, Danforth and Thomson. It is now 4.25 p.m., and before we start I wonder whether the Committee would suggest a time that we should adjourn. Does anybody want to suggest a time that we should adjourn? Shall we proceed with the questioning and find out later on?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

The Vice-Chairman: Mr. Downey has gone, so I will call on Mr. Stewart.

Mr. Stewart (Marquette): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to compliment the group on their excellent brief. My questioning will not take long. I would like to ask the group whether they always pay the posted price to feedmills?

Mr. Lyle Mair (Stony Plain, Alberta, Rural Custom Feed Mills Associations): The posted price or, at times, higher.

Mr. Stewart (Marquette): Than what you pay?

Mr. Mair: Yes, at least the posted price.

Mr. Stewart (Marquette): You pay at least the posted price always?

Mr. Mair: Yes.

Mr. Newman: I might just add to that, Mr. Stewart, that when you have a posted price and you are not getting enough grain then

[no int'l grain]

[Interpretation]

[since '71]

Monsieur le président, messieurs, j'aimerais dire en terminant que les minoteries rurales de provendes jouent un rôle important dans la production de fourrages de qualité. Le prix que paient les minoteries rurales pour les céréales reflète, mais n'établit pas le prix que paie un agriculteur quand il achète d'un autre agriculteur. C'est le contraire qui se produit. Voilà ce qu'en pensent les propriétaires des minoteries de provendes, la *Rural Feed Mill Operators* du Manitoba et de l'Alberta.

Le vice-président: Merci, monsieur Newman. J'ai déjà sept membres qui ont exprimé leur intention de poser des questions: MM. Downey, Stewart (Marquette), McKinley, Gleave, Cobbe, Danforth et Thomson. Il est maintenant 16h.25 et, avant de commencer, je me demande si le Comité pourrait nous dire à quelle heure il voudrait ajourner. Quelqu'un a-t-il une proposition à faire? Peut-être pourrions-nous passer aux questions et en décider plus tard?

Des voix: D'accord.

Le vice-président: Monsieur Stewart.

Mr. Stewart (Marquette): Merci, monsieur le président. Je voudrais féliciter tout le groupe pour l'excellent mémoire qu'ils ont présenté. Ma question sera brève. Versez-vous toujours le montant affiché aux minoteries de provendes?

Mr. Lyle Mair (Rural Custom Feed Mills Associations, Stony Plains, Alberta): Le prix affiché ou parfois plus.

Mr. Stewart (Marquette): Plus que ce que vous payez?

Mr. Mair: Nous payons au moins le prix affiché.

Mr. Stewart (Marquette): Vous payez toujours le prix affiché, n'est-ce pas?

Mr. Mair: Oui.

Mr. Newman: Je pourrais ajouter, monsieur Stewart, que lorsqu'il y a un prix affiché et que vous ne recevez pas suffisamment de