

APPENDIX (2)

MARITIME CO-OPERATIVE SERVICES LIMITED
P.O. BOX 750, MONCTON, N.B.

December 10, 1963.

Mr. D. E. Levesque, Clerk
The Standing Committee on
Agriculture and Colonization,
House of Commons,
OTTAWA, Ontario.

Dear Sir:

We acknowledge your notification of a hearing on December 19th, at 9:30 a.m. at which time your Committee would receive a delegation from this organization. We understand your Committee will be giving consideration to various aspects of the feed grain situation in Eastern Canada, included in which would be the difference in price received by grain producers in Western Canada, and the price paid by livestock feeders in Eastern Canada.

The feed grain and freight assistance question has been given much careful consideration by organized agriculture, both on an Eastern and an all-Canadian basis in the last two years. Through the Canadian Federation of Agriculture we have a clear-cut definite policy in this regard which we understand will be presented to your Committee previous to December 19th. Maritime Co-operative Services fully endorses this policy of the C.F.A. and we would respectfully suggest that the setting up of a Feed Grain Agency to study, then administer feed grain policies is long overdue.

There are problems of transportation, congestion, etc. at certain times of year and problems when shortages exist, of premiums being charged for grain in Eastern Canada. In the overall the problem is not one difficult of solution. Organized agriculture feels that an agency is necessary to solve these problems due to the fact that at least three departments of government are involved, and we sometimes find many frustrations in arriving at solutions to rather simple, but irritating, problems.

It is also necessary that there be an administration of feed and freight assistance policies that is impartial and fair, and is very conversant with all phases of the handling of feed grain.

It is absolutely necessary that a producer appointed committee be advisory to this agency with real powers.

This agency can be an influence in Eastern Canada as valuable to our whole economy as the Wheat Board in the West.

We would stress that no change be made in the present freight assistance policy until this agency is set up.

It would take many weeks to develop the detailed statistics of the spread between the price western grain producers receive for grain and the price eastern livestock feeders pay for livestock feed. This has been surveyed many times, and we suggest it is sufficient to say that it has been established that apart from the periods when short supply produce premiums, the eastern Canadian feed manufacturing business is one of the narrowest margin manufacturing businesses in Canada.