

of grain from these storage positions in eastern Canada to the actual feeder. Is it your intention that this agency is going to involve itself in both these areas of activity, or just the one?

Mr. KIRK: My impression is the initial one only. As I believe I said the last time I appeared before you, the actual cost of handling grain, as opposed to changes in the price level, relates to the supply position, the grinding, the shipping, insurance and so on. We have no great intentions of having major margins here, and it is in this field that the co-operative have done an effective job, in our view.

The CHAIRMAN: Would you proceed now, Mr. Mullally.

Mr. MULLALLY: Mr. Chairman and Mr. Kirk, I am certainly pleased that the federation has advanced its position from the one that was taken when you were here over a year ago, and I certainly agree with the new views you have put forward.

The first question I would like to put is a fundamental one. I am wondering how many individual members and representative groups you have in your organization. This would give me a guide as to how broad your basis of support is for the position you are taking.

Mr. KIRK: Well, being a federation, of course, we do not have a simple membership count; we have the problems of overlapping, co-operative memberships and so on. But, we think, through our constituent organizations, we represent the vast majority one way or another of the farmers in Canada.

Mr. MULLALLY: Are you represented in all provinces?

Mr. KIRK: We are represented in all provinces except Newfoundland.

Mr. MULLALLY: Then, when this resolution came up before the meeting in Regina, did it receive very wide support from all sections of the meeting representing all sections of the country? I am wondering what the basis of your support was at the meeting held in Regina when this resolution was passed. How broad was the basis of your support for the type of change you are suggesting?

Mr. KIRK: There was an extensive debate on this question and the debate was devoted largely to explanations by people who were from various parts of the country with regard to how they saw the important aspects of the grain marketing system work and how they thought it would work. The things that are in this resolution now were before the meeting and were passed by the meeting in this form on the basis of the recommendations made on points raised by the people who brought forward the resolution. This came about through our eastern conference. That is how it happened and then the resolution was passed with virtually no dissent.

Mr. MULLALLY: You said the resolution passed with virtually no dissent. I presume that means that it had unanimous approval of all the people who attended the meeting?

Mr. KIRK: Yes.

Mr. MULLALLY: And representatives of all farmers from all parts of the country attended?

Mr. KIRK: That is right. It was a delegates' meeting and there were 79 delegates with a representative from each province right across the country.

Mr. MULLALLY: And virtually all of these people supported the views of the federation as embodied in this resolution?

Mr. KIRK: Yes. We reached a very solid consensus on this resolution.

Mr. MULLALLY: The remainder of my questions are quite detailed in respect of the workings of the agency. General ideas are set out in the resolution and you have given some explanation of these. In the questions I am about to