



Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

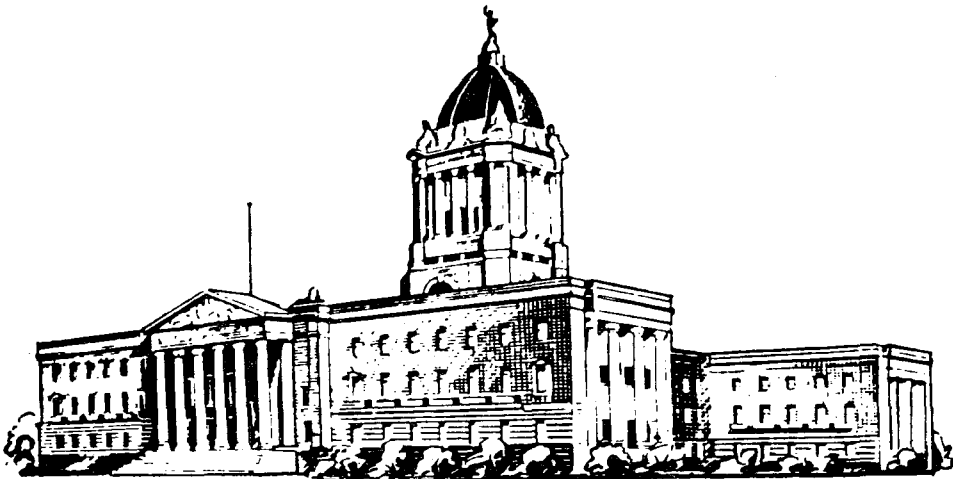
STANDING COMMITTEE

ON

STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Chairman

**Mr. Robert Anderson
Constituency of Springfield**



Friday, July 14, 1978 8:00 p.m.

**Hearing Of The Standing Committee
On
Standing Committee On Agriculture
Friday, July 14, 1978**

Time: 8:00 p.m.

CHAIRMAN: Mr. Robert (Bob) Anderson.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We appear to have a quorum. The first witness on the list is Mike Taczynski of Gypsumville. Is he present? He appears not to be here. George Higgs (not present). Ted Wilson (not present). Jim Chegwin (not present).

MR. ROSS: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Chegwin has sent a brief in as he was not able to be present. I have the brief with me. I would read it into the record if the committee. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Uskiw.

MR. SAMUEL USKIW: Just on that point, Mr. Chairman, are you suggesting, sir, that you have a brief to present for Jim Chegwin, and then another one for yourself, or just the one?

MR. LYLE ROSS: I'm Lyle Ross. My name is on the list. I have a brief to present for myself, but I have a brief in hand from Jim Chegwin who is unable to be present, that I would read into the record on his behalf. Also, I may add, Mr. Chairman, the first name on the list that was mentioned previously was Mike Taczynski, who is unable to be present. His brief is also here now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am informed by the Clerk that these briefs if deposited with the Clerk will be included in the records of our proceedings and printed that way. Mr. Driedger.

MR. ALBERT DRIEDGER: Mr. Chairman, could the speaker please identify himself?

MR. ROSS: I am Lyle Ross from Basswood.

MR. DRIEDGER: Mr. Chairman, is the gentleman on the list?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is number 19.

MR. ROSS: I didn't come up to speak on my own behalf; I came up on behalf of Mr. Jim Chegwin whose brief I had in my possession. I wanted to make it known to the committee that a brief was here, that he had been unable to attend, and that I would read it on his behalf.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Driedger.

MR. DRIEDGER: Mr. Chairman, I'm just wondering, will the order of procedure be according to the list that we have?

MR. CHAIRMAN: As I have it.

MR. DRIEDGER: Would Mr. Ross be appearing again under number 19, then? Is that the idea?

MR. CHAIRMAN: That was my understanding, unless the committee wishes otherwise.

MR. HENRY J. EINARSON: Mr. Chairman, as I am given to understand, if there are any people who are unable to be present, and a brief is left here, then that will be filed with the Clerk, and can be recorded. I don't think, as I am given to understand the rules of the committee, that anyone

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who is not present, that someone else is able to present his brief. Rather, that brief will be left with the Clerk and can be recorded. When, as Mr. Lyle Ross indicated, I believe that his time will come on the roster as the Chairman receives them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Uskiw.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, On a on a point of order, there is nothing in the rules preventing a person to represent another person with a brief. That has been done consistently since I have been a member of the Legislative Assembly, Sir, so the Member for Rock Lake is not correct. Anyone can present a brief on behalf of another person, it is done every year, by lawyers and by ordinary people. The Farm Bureau did not present the brief in the name that it was listed last night, Mr Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. Perhaps we can resolve this by indicating to Mr. Ross that were you to leave the documents with the Clerk, they will be photocopied and distributed to the Members of the Committee. They will also be included in the records. Should you wish to present the briefs that will also be acceptable.

MR. ROSS: If there is a choice there, Mr. Chairman . . .

MR. USKIW: You would have both choices. You can read it and then leave it for the committee. or you can just table it, if that is your preference.

MR. ROSS: I would prefer to read it and I would prefer to leave the copies that are available with the committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN: By all means. Mr. Einarson.

MR. EINARSON: Mr. Chairman, then to clarify things, I am not going to be difficult here. If Mr. Ross wants to read the brief that Mr. Chegwin has left, I have no objection to that whatsoever. The point that I was making is that I didn't feel it was fair that Mr. Ross should be allowed to be questioned on Mr. Chegwin's brief and at the same time be allowed to be questioned on his own brief. I have no objection if Mr. Ross wants to present Mr. Chegwin's brief, there is no problem there whatsoever.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Proceed, Mr. Ross.

MR. ROSS: I'll present these copies after then.

This is a brief from Mr. James Chegwin, WOODY Y, Chegwin Cutability of Cattle, Angus Limousin, P. O. Box 1208, Swan River, Manitoba. It says here: James K. Chegwin, Brief to Law Amendments Committee of Manitoba Legislature, Re Bill 25. "

I write with appreciation to be able to present my views in the formation of laws that will affect me and future Manitobans. I write in respect for the system set up. Bill 25, if passed as drafted, will, in my opinion, remove these democratic rights from the cattle producers in Manitoba. The fact that it will be forced on the producers without a vote by the producers is a vivid reason for this opinion. Bill 25, if it becomes law, would prevent cattle producers from guiding changes in our marketing system that would provide an economic atmosphere and environment that would be more satisfactory for producers and other workers and business people dependent on the beef industry.

In the above paragraph, I am thinking of the broad fluctuations of price in our present system. This insecurity is not only undesirable to the producer, but is the cause of instability to the many more workers and business people involved in the industry, and to the consumer. Our entire history in this area has been a record of instability. At the times when we Manitobans have had depressed markets, much of the economy of Manitoba has also been depressed.

We must be free to guide our marketing system so that it would be more desirable to Manitobans. I believe that Bill 25 should be scrapped in its entirety. The very essence of the bill is wrong. There are many amendments, deletions and additions that would make this bill of some value to the beef producers, dependent workers and businessmen. A checkoff supporting our present system is not desirable for Manitobans.

Respectfully, Jim Chegwin."

MR. CHAIRMAN: Does that complete the brief?

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MR. ROSS: That completes the brief.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. I understand you also had a brief for Mr. Mike Taczynski.

MR. USKIW: A point of clarification, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if Mr. Ross can tell us whether that brief represents the individual or an association?

MR. ROSS: My understanding is that it is an individual viewpoint. Other than that point of clarification, I am not prepared to answer questions on whatever he intended or otherwise.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Adam.

MR. DRIEDGER: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I just wanted to ask whether it was not agreed that there would be no questions asked of the person presenting the brief on behalf of Mr. Chegwin?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I believe there were no questions to Mr. Ross in terms of the brief. It was simply to determine whether or not the brief was that of an individual, or a brief representing a group.

Mr. Adam.

MR. A. R. (Pete) ADAM: Mr. Ross, are you prepared to answer any questions on Mr. Chegwin's brief?

MR. ROSS: No, I am not.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ross.

MR. ROSS: I also have here a brief submitted by Mr. Mike Taczynski. I wish to read it into the record.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before we proceed, I would remind all witnesses that at our first hearing the committee decided to put a time limit of 30 minutes on the presentation of briefs. This does not include time for questions. Proceed, Mr. Ross.

MR. ROSS: On behalf of Mike Taczynski, who is unable to be present.

"I am against this scheme because, first of all, it violates the principle of taxation without representation.

"The Americans staged a revolution about that and I don't think we should take it lying down.

"They tell us that we may be allowed to go hand in cap and beg the bosses of this "Cattlemen's Association" for our money back but the essence of this whole scheme is that they have the right to that money and not us, the cattle producers, and that's not acceptable to any self-respecting man. This scheme is set up for a small group of feedlot operators who control the so-called Beef Growers Association and so-called Cattlemen's Association, who may not ever own the feedlot and the cattle in it, but operate them for the packing companies or chain stores.

"When these cattle are sold the objective would not be to sell them at an adequate price but a low price so that the supermarkets could push beef as a loss leader and increase sales.

"This may not be happening now but it did happen a few months ago. The interests of the packers also demand that these cattle out of their own feedlots be sold at lowest possible price because that did set the price for all other cattle sold on the market.

"The other half of the group that is pushing for this scheme are a few big cattlemen. In the most cases these gentlemen have other interests and operations and do not derive their livelihood exclusively from cattle so the price of cattle is not a matter of life and death to them. It is to us small cattlemen. These cattlemen emphasize the large scale of their operations and the number of cattle they have. I'm certain they would dearly love to have a scheme where their cows would have a vote against the small cattlemen. They may succeed, too, if we don't watch out.

"I'm convinced that the final objective of this scheme is the total elimination of the cattlemen, because he would not survive under the prices that have prevailed in the last several years. The cattle farmers would either be controlled by a few big operators, or the packers and supermarkets, or a combination of both, which would mean no good for the ordinary farmer or consumer. The big sum of money which would be collected under this scheme would be used as a millstone around the farmer's neck to push big business concepts of a way of life as they wanted and not necessarily

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what people need.

"They tell us that the money would be used to promote the sales of beef. That has been done before by reducing prices and I fail to see where the farm family would benefit. All that we, the small cattlemen, are asking for is that we be given the chance to express our opinion and not to be saddled with an obligation that is not in our interests. Since the cattlemen never did have a say in what his beef will sell at — I am finding it difficult to read the type here — the price sell to the largest quantity of beef at the lowest price. Remember, that's what promotion is all about.

"The family farm cattlemen will not be able to withstand the punishment and will go under and will end up in the slums of Winnipeg on welfare because they will be too old to be employed. Their children, having nothing to do, will learn crime and will end up in jail while the family farm will be taken over by big neighbours until they in turn are swallowed up by bigger operators. If you go into the farm community today, you will see all family members putting up hay and doing other useful jobs. Don't deprive families of that environment.

Respectfully submitted, Mike Taczynski."

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Ross. Mr. Driedger.

MR. DRIEDGER: Mr. Chairman, could that brief also be presented to the committee as such?

MR. CHAIRMAN: As representing an individual?

MR. DRIEDGER: Are copies of that going to be available?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, that is correct. The next name on the list is Bruce Medd. Is Mr. Medd here? Bruce Medd. Mac Lelond. Is Mr. Lelond here?

MR. ROSS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, both Mr. Medd and Mr. Lelond were here for the hearings last night and both had to go home today, or last night, in fact. They went home after the hearings. I also have submissions to give on their behalf.

MR. CHAIRMAN: For Mr. Medd, please. Order please. Mr. Ross.

MR. ROSS: On behalf of Mr. Medd, who was here last evening prepared to give his submission and the hearings adjourned prior to his being able to do so. He had left in the morning with road construction going on in his farm and the fence ripped out and he didn't figure he could wait over a day to get back and find out whose part of the country his cattle may be on when he got back.

"The Honourable Mr. Downey, Mr. Chairman, and members of the committee.

"My name is Bruce Medd — mine isn't, obviously — I am on the local Manitoba Pool Board at Beulah. By permission, I am representing that board.

"At our last meeting a resolution was passed, June 7, 1978, asking Mr. Deveson, the President of Manitoba Pool Elevators, to honour a resolution passed at a meeting held at the Virden Auction Market. People at this meeting came from as far as Strathclair and Tilston. If you have a copy that reads Teulon, that is in error; it should read Tilston.

"The resolution is as follows:

" 'That this meeting requests the board of directors from Manitoba Pool Elevators to personally seek a meeting with Agriculture Minister James Downey, and ask for a postponement of Bill 25 until such time as a plebiscite can be held among livestock producers in the province and further that the results of the meeting with Mr. Downey be made public by way of a press conference to be held immediately following the meeting.'

"This resolution was also passed at the subdistrict council 504 meeting representing Beulah,, Decker, Crandall, Miniota and Isabella. As a cattle producer, I am opposed to Bill 25. This bill in its present form will do nothing to change the marketing system of beef, therefore leaving all the advantages to the big producer. The idea that is being circulated is that a person who opts out loses his right to vote and, in itself, forces a person to stay and not opt out whether he wants to or not. To me, this is Fascism."

I also have to submit for the record on Bruce Medd's behalf two lists of names that were drawn up of people opposing the beef checkoff.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will you present that petition to the Clerk or deposit the petition with the Clerk?.

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MR. ROSS: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. I understand you have a fourth petition with you, that's a fourth brief.

Mr. Driedger.

MR. DRIEDGER: Mr. Chairman, the next speaker, could you identify who it is for?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes. Mr. Ross.

MR. ROSS: Submission to the Standing Committee on Agriculture of the Manitoba Legislative Assembly on the subject of Bill 25, presented in Winnipeg July 14, 1978, on behalf of Local 511 of the National Farmers Union.

"Honourable Mr. Downey, Mr. Chairman and Committee Members. I am Mac Lelond from Miniota representing Local 511 of the National Farmers Union." I might add that Mr. Lelond was also in yesterday for the committee meetings last night but the meetings were adjourned before he had an opportunity to present and he was not able to be here today.

"I wish to present a brief for discussion concerning Bill 25. The fact that this, if passed in its present form, would be a very dangerous bill as a few men appointed by the government could do almost anything they want in the following two years before an election is held as the Minister has absolutely no control over them, or farmers either for that matter.

"I would also like to touch on statements made by government MLAs about over-production of beef in Canada being a controlling factor in the poor prices for cattle in the last three or four years. According to statistics I read, this is not so and I read from a clipping: 'Canada's 1976 imports of 209.5 million pounds of beef from Australia, New Zealand and the U.S. compared to total exports of only 86.9 million pounds. This deficit between imports and exports of 122.5 million pounds is equivalent to approximately 350,000 live cattle. The facts reconfirm our belief that Canada, which has been in a net deficit position in beef production since 1969, has not experienced low beef prices because of over-production surpluses but because of surpluses created by high imports.'

"Also with statistics, I would like to quote in part what the Senate Standing Committee on Agriculture has released as a report recently. The recommendations of the committee state as follows:

""(1) that Canada adopt a long-term beef import policy and that parliament enact legislation to regulate the importation of beef, veal and live cattle for slaughter.

""(2) That the legislation regulating the importation of beef, veal and live cattle for slaughter provide for the establishment of annual quotas for each supplying country.' "

"I quote this report to show you that a government appointed national meat authority is a necessity to enact any legislations of this nature. Under Bill 25, money will likely go to the Canadian Cattlemen's Association as it does from other provinces. The Canadian Cattlemen's Association oppose a national meat authority. They oppose an orderly marketing of feed grains and they support the abolition of the Crownst Pass rail rates. In other words, they are strictly an open-market organization. Our local of the National Farmers Union is not in favour of any part of this Bill 25, however, we feel if this bill becomes law, then we believe in democracy. Following this belief, we ask for an opting-in clause, that is, we would not put any money into this organization by a checkoff when we sell cattle. Only those who are in favour of this checkoff opt in.

"In summary, Local 511 of the National Farmers Union, representing farmers from Beulah, Miniota, Birtle and St. Lazare oppose Bill 25 in its present form and request a plebiscite, all of which is respectfully submitted on behalf of Local 511 of the National Farmers Union, Mac Lelond, president."

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Ross.
Keith Proven.

MR. KEITH PROVEN: Mr. Chairman, I have in fact two briefs. One is a resolution passed by the local Pool Committee at Basswood which I would like to read into the record, and then I would like to go on to my main brief, if I may.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Proceed.

MR. PROVEN: This resolution was passed at the Basswood Pool Committee meeting, May 12, 1978:

Whereas, Manitoba Pool Elevators was founded on the principle of orderly marketing for commodities produced by farmers, and

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Whereas, the proposed beef checkoff legislation would negate this principle, and

Whereas monies will be collected without holding a referendum, and

Whereas Manitoba Pool Elevators and its farmer members have a very important role to play in the beef industry in Manitoba,

Therefore, be it Resolved that the Basswood Pool Committee direct the president of Manitoba Pool Elevators to make a strong representation on their behalf to the Minister of Agriculture, James Downey, demanding that a referendum be held immediately to ascertain whether beef farmers want checkoff legislation. Basswood Pool Committee.

Now my main brief. On behalf of the Members of Local 516 of the National Farmers Union, I am presenting this brief on Bill 25, The Cattle Producers Association Act. The membership of Local 516 is unanimously opposed to Bill 25. Local 516 comprises the R.M.s of Minto, Odanah, Clanwilliam Saskatchewan, Harrison and the LGD of Park. In political terms, our Local takes in a large area of the rural constituency of Minnedosa. At the next election, I hope we can make Dave Blake very aware of that fact. He was here last night and unfortunately he is not here tonight, so I hope he reads the record.

In order to set facts straight, we have 65 paid up NFU members in our Local' approximately one-half of the membership has cattle. All the cattle producing members are running small cow-calf operations — 30 cow average — with some of them feeding out their own calves. In general, the rest of the farmers in our local who have cattle would have small cow-calf herds. The feeding out of cattle in our area is not regarded as a major part of the cattle industry. We do have four or five 200 to 300 head feedlots and some smaller operations.

Historically, our area has had cow-calf herds to utilize the wastelands around sloughs and poplar bluffs. The cow-calf industry never was that rewarding financially. The farmers were able to derive some benefits from this type of land use. We have seen a drastic drop in the number of cattle herds in our area in the last few years. In fact, if it was not for the previous government's initiative we could not support a veterinarian. In looking at statistics from over the last 50 years, we find that in only six of those 50 years has there really been a true return to investment for the cow-calf man.

It must be noted that in the framework of our agricultural marketing system the cow-calf market is right at the bottom. He, in fact, has been the leader in supporting the consumer with low-cost beef. We must admit that cattle have been a secondary industry to grain in our area but it is ridiculous to assume that the cow-calf man should always carry the rest of the industry on his back.

Our local had hoped that with Bill 25 we would have enlightened legislation that finally would give the farmer the legal opportunity to control his own destiny. It is with sadness that I have to present this brief for it is now obvious that instead of our energies being directed at a marketing problem we must fight legislation that is quite simply useless.

Our local definitely does not want to see our money go towards a retirement fund for the president of the Manitoba Beef Growers Association or to provide financial assistance for an organization which is either too lazy or does not have the concern to go out and solicit membership.

We know that the main thrust for this legislation came from the Manitoba Beef Growers Association, an organization which in all their public utterances have indicated that they are completely in the pocket of the packers and the large chain stores. It is our observation that when you hear Charlie Mayer or Tom Ellison speak, you are hearing the words and thoughts of the packers. In fact, their credibility is so low that we treat them like the government. Whatever is said, do the opposite and nine times out of ten you will be right. —(Interjection)— I didn't mention any government.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I would like to go through the Act and outline some of the main concerns.

Definitions, Section 1(e). I don't need to read out the clauses, I hope. Everyone is familiar. Does this mean that the Manitoba Agricultural Credit Corporation will have a voice in the proposed organization? Will the chartered banks and credit unions also be represented? Will the packers who own and feed their own cattle have a vote? This refers to who will be a member of the organization.

Purpose, Section 2. How can you improve the marketing system without some power in the Act? It has been our observation that farmers try to make more money within the system by becoming more efficient. Packers try to make more money by screwing the farmers. For example, we still have a heifer and steer price differential and packers have imported cows to depress our market. Chain stores try to make more money by screwing the packers and the consumers. That is unrealistic mark-ups, plus in recent publications there has been indications that chain stores have been able to force the packers with different kinds of discount buying that makes the packers in effect the slaves of the chain stores.

Objects and Powers of the Association, Section 6(1)(a). This part of the Act perpetuates the myth that advertising will make us more money. In fact, the only winners are the advertising agencies.

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They can have a contract to push beef, pork and poultry, when really each segment of the industry is in the business of providing red meat. We should be co-operating, not competing.

1(d). It would be safe to conclude that this clause means the Canadian Cattlemen's Association. We are vehemently opposed to giving money to this organization, which has as one of its principles the scrapping of the Crowsnest grain freight rates.

1(f). Without legislation. Without legislative teeth, this clause is redundant and is simply printing to fill a space.

Restrictive Powers, Section 6(2). This is the key clause if we are to have an effective organization. We agree that marketing is the most vital facet to a viable beef industry. Beef farmers must control the pricing mechanism or we will always be the loss leader of the agricultural industry. We must be able to move towards a system that allows a farmer to know his production costs and to charge for his product accordingly.

Regulations, Section 7(1)(a). We are not opposed to providing information on cattle numbers, prices, etc., so long as this information is compiled and passed back to the farmer. Whenever information has been collected in the past it has been used by groups other than farmers to manipulate and control the market. We are suspicious that information gathered will not be used for us if we do not have a marketing mechanism in place that is controlled by the farmers.

7(2). We are opposed to the compulsory checkoff aspect of the Act. The government may say that it is not compulsory but in fact it is. The only way it could be voluntary would be if when you market animals you are asked whether you wish to contribute, yes or no.

Scope of Regulations, Section 8. This clause appears to be very ambiguous as it could be read to mean that 1) Any group opposing this Act could be stopped from participating in the decision-making process of the group, 2) Purebred breeders could receive special status, advantages, etc. In here it should read advertising financed by all of us.

Limit on Fees, Section 10. We have a limit of 25 cents per head in the proposed Act but no limit to the number of times it can be collected. Therefore, it is possible to have the same animal collected on three or four times. There is no indication whether imported cattle will be subject to levy or, similarly, whether large purebred sales in auction rings will have to pay.

Administration By-Law, Section 11(1)(a). Who will oversee this appointed group to make sure that all procedures are legal?

1(h). How will we ensure that this group will not eliminate all opposition to their ideas by not registering any potential bona fide producers? In general, clause 1 is so unclear it could be used very effectively to limit membership, even though a farmer does contribute his 25 cents per head.

In summing up, we would have to say that we feel the Act is ill-conceived and very inadequate and should be **thrown up. It obviously will only help support a special interest group and will have no positive effect on 99 percent of the cattle growers of Manitoba. If the Act is not to be scrapped, then we would suggest the following amendments:**

- 1. Place it under the umbrella of the Natural Products Marketing Act.**
- 2. Stop direct to packer sales.**
- 3. Initiate a policing agency that would make it possible for auction markets to operate in a truly professional and competitive fashion.**
- 4. Establish a study group to devise a policy on alternative marketing systems.
e.g. Canadian Wheat Board.\$**

5. Police both packer and chain store mark-ups.

If these amendments were made we could see that a start was being made to create a truly equitable marketing system.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I would like to mention some of my own observations. The cattle population has dropped drastically in our area in the last few years due to poor prices and a complete mistrust of the present marketing system. The sad part that we see in the cattle herd disappearance is that marginal land is now not used, or is misused. We see land that could pasture cattle being broken and turned into grain land that is marginal at best. We see sloughs being drained and brush bulldozed that is altering irreversibly the moisture retention abilities of our land. We see soil eroding from rolling land that should be sown to grass.

These are things that any thinking and feeling farmer must be concerned about. As a committee, it would be fair for you to ask, "What does this have to do with Bill 25?" Farmers are not stupid. If given a decent return from their cattle herds, they will do the right thing in terms of land management. If the system does not provide adequate returns, then they will turn to short-term solutions to save their income. This will be done in spite of long-term harmful effects. I charge you then with the responsibility to make sure that laws are enacted that will aid the farmer and not hinder him.

All of which is respectfully submitted on behalf of National Farmers Union, Local 516."

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MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Proven. Will you submit to questions from members of this committee?

MR. PROVEN: The phrase "submit" sort of bothers me; it bothered me last night. I will stand here and try and answer questions, but submit, I'm not quite sure.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Perhaps it my choice of words, but I think you know the meaning.

MR. PROVEN: Yes, I understand your meaning, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Driedger, please.

MR. DRIEDGER: Mr. Proven, you are a cattle operator right now?

MR. PROVEN: Yes, I am.

MR. DRIEDGER: How many head do you market per year?

MR. PROVEN: That has been an interesting question and you have had a variety of answers, have noticed. I won't beat around the bush. I have a 40 cow-calf herd and I feed normally 20 to 30 calves a year.

MR. DRIEDGER: Thank you, that's all.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Any further questions for this witness? Mr. Uskiw.

MR. USKIW: In your submission, you are indicating total opposition to this kind of legislation, but you conclude with the observation or the suggestion that should this legislation be proceeded with that it should be amended to some degree. I raise the question with you of whether it is first of all proper for a government to pass a law which would set up or establish a farm organization in which farmers would, by law, have to participate? As a matter of principle, even with the amendments that you suggest, do you think it would be right for a government to move in this way?

MR. PROVEN: I am not opposed to a government acting in accord with the wishes of producers. If 50 plus 1 percent of the producers ask for a marketing board type of situation, I could support that.

MR. USKIW: Then let me pursue it, because you qualified your answer by suggesting that you would support a marketing board.

MR. PROVEN: I will qualify that further then by saying that in terms of political reality, I feel that a marketing board is closer than what I would actually like to see, which would be a national meat authority.

MR. USKIW: Let me try to get at the substance of my question. You are indicating that you would support a marketing board if 50 percent-plus of the farmers wanted one. My line of questioning has to do with whether it is right that any government move to establish an association such as Bill 25, even if 100 percent of the producers wanted it, given the fact that, (a) it is sponsored by the government; (b) it has no provision for appeal of the decisions of such an association, as does, indeed, marketing legislation under The Natural Products Marketing Act. In other words, there are no built-in safeguards for public protection in this bill and therefore, even if you had a referendum and every producer voted for it, do you think it is right to introduce such a measure?

MR. PROVEN: I cannot agree with Bill 25 at all.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions for this witness? Mr. Einarson.

MR. EINARSON: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask Mr. Proven, you state in your brief here — Mr. Mayer's and Mr. Ellison's names are mentioned — and you seem to compare them with the government in this province. Are you saying, and do I understand you, that you don't trust the government of the present day?

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MR. PROVEN: I did not say that in my presentation.

MR. EINARSON: Mr. Chairman, I would like to read then: "It is our observation that when you hear Charlie Mayer or Tom Ellison speak, you are hearing the words and thoughts of the packers. In fact, their credibility is so low that we treat them like the government." When you say "the government," are you speaking of the government of the present day?

MR. PROVEN: I am not speaking of any particular government; I am speaking of government. As you may understand, farmers have a feeling that when a government recommends you sow 25 million acres of wheat, you immediately go out and sow 25 million acres of rapeseed.

MR. EINARSON: Through you, Mr. Chairman, to the witness on the stand, as a farmer, I fully understand what you have just said. Now I would like to ask you, Mr. Proven, assuming that Bill 25 passes in its present form — in this legislation we are talking about the purpose of this legislation and I use one example of our grading standards . . .

MR. PROVEN: Mr. Chairman, if the other members are going to talk, I really can't concentrate on the question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your point is well taken. I would remind all members of this committee to bear in mind that we can only listen to one speaker at a time. Mr. Einarson.

MR. EINARSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to say I rated my comments with the witness who was listening to my comments and I appreciate that.

I am concerned, Mr. Chairman, with the fact that those who say they are opposed to this bill, and I am asking the witness, Mr. Proven, when he says that he is opposed to this bill — I want to ask him, assuming that this bill becomes law, and assuming that one example, for instance, in the grading standards, under the section where we deal with the purpose of this bill, these matters are achieved by means of a checkoff. Also going from that step to the second step, and, Mr. Proven, since you are opposed to the bill, you are given the opportunity to allow yourself to not contribute to the funds for which the purpose of this bill is intended — following that, Mr. Proven, that you have not contributed to the fund, you are still being able to acquire the benefits from this fund, namely, say, improved standards in our grading of beef, and if, as you tell me, you are a farmer, you produce beef, you market beef in the City of Winnipeg or other places, are you telling me then that you are opposed to this bill, and the provisions are that you don't have to contribute to it, are you going to accept the benefits thereby for those who are already paying into the fund, under the purpose of this bill?

MR. PROVEN: I think you are making a false assumption in the fact that Bill 25 could have any possible effect in aiding me as a producer. I do not honestly feel that it can have any effect. If you are talking about \$150,000 of checkoff money for grade standards to be changed, it would take 10 times that much in research money to have any effect at all. The Federal Government already is doing that and I just don't see what a provincial organization could do to facilitate any change.

MR. EINARSON: Through you, Mr. Chairman, to Mr. Proven . . . Perhaps I should pose this question. Do you agree that we, as beef producers in the Province of Manitoba, should have a united voice speaking on behalf of the producers marketing beef in the Province of Manitoba?

MR. PROVEN: I do not believe that any one commodity organization is all powerful. I believe that one organization should speak for all farmers, because we have a common interest in feeding people.

MR. EINARSON: You say that one organization, Mr. Proven, should speak for all farmers. Then, what organization would you suggest should do that very job?

MR. PROVEN: The only organization that I can possibly suggest would be the National Farmers Union.

MR. EINARSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Adam.

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MR. ADAM: Just on that very last point. If this bill becomes law, and you say that you should have an association that represents all farmers, would it be your intention to come to this Minister or a subsequent Minister, perhaps in 1981, requesting the government to establish a bill that would be called "The Manitoba Farmers Association"?

MR. PROVEN: Yes, I could agree to that, but it would be under the auspices of the National Farmer Union . . .

MR. ADAM: And it would have the same rights, the same rights as this bill here No. 25, that would have a checkoff on each and every 33,000 farmers in this province.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before Mr. Proven answers, I would remind all members that there is a substantial amount of background noise here, various conversations going on between members. I trust that we will treat all our witnesses with courtesy so that we can hear what they have to say.

Mr. Proven, please.

MR. PROVEN: I'm not quite sure that I understood your question, but I'll answer in terms that I would want to answer.

I'm not opposed to farmers paying checkoff legislation for an organization. I feel farmers should pay for their own organization. It should be a voluntary, membership organization.

MR. ADAM: Yes, I understand that, but what I am saying is, what position would this government be in, or a subsequent government, should any group come forward and demand and request similar legislation as being proposed now? What alternatives would a government have, in your opinion?

MR. PROVEN: Somehow I'm not reading you at all, in your question.

MR. ADAM: Well, I'm saying that the government is sponsoring a bill giving all these powers to an association. Let's presume that another association comes forward, in the disguise, the name is disguised, not NFU, but The Manitoba Farmers Association with the same provisions in this bill this is what I'm asking, what alternative would the government of the day have, or this government should such another request come forward now? What stand would they be able to take? There is already a precedent being set here?

MR. PROVEN: I would assume that they would be against this kind of bill.

MR. ADAM: Would they have to acquiesce to that request, or do you think they would turn it down?

MR. PROVEN: I would think they would turn it down.

MR. ADAM: You think they would turn it down. In other words, they are playing favoritism here in this, is that what you're saying?

MR. PROVEN: Favoritism? You'll have to explain that further to me.

MR. ADAM: Well, it has been quite established now that this is being sponsored by The Manitoba Beef Growers, and it has been drafted by them, apparently, and it's quite obvious that that is where it comes from.

MR. PROVEN: Yes, I'm not arguing with that.

MR. ADAM: So, I'm just concerned about what happens if this very overwhelming possibility that in 1981 there will be a change of government, and if a group comes forward requesting a similar bill, what should a government do? Accept another similar bill, or reject this one?

MR. PROVEN: Reject this one and accept only what The National Farmers Union presents.

MR. ADAM: Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Any further questions for this witness? Thank you very much, Mr. Proven. The next name on the list is Bill Bajus; Brian Bajus; George Telford. Is George Telford present?

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rudy Usick.

Mr. Rudy Usick.

MR. RUDY USICK: Mr. Chairman, in addition to the brief that is being passed out by the clerk, I have an opening statement I have a few copies of that I would like you, as Mr. Chairman, to get and some other members as far as it goes. I don't have that many copies of it. But there are a few things that I would like to say in general, just before I get into the brief itself.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have 30 minutes, Mr. Usick.

MR. USICK: It's one page, so it won't take very long.

The opening statement to the Agriculture Committee of the Manitoba Legislature.

Mr. Chairman and honourable meers of the Manitoba Legislature:

The main text of our brief, which was prepared some two weeks ago, will follow this opening statement we want to present at the present time.

After sitting in on these hearings for several hours it appears that anyone who suggests amendments to Bill 25 is considered in favour of the principle of Bill 25 as such. We wish to make it clear from the outset that this assumption is incorrect, and the following are some of our reasons:

1. In our opinion, if Bill 25 in its present form is presented to the cattle producers in a referendum it would be defeated by 80 percent to 90 percent of the cattlemen.

2. This bill, if brought in without a referendum, will prove to be the most permanent, divisive element between cattlemen and cattlemen's organization that we have ever had.

3. It is a complete fallacy to talk about one organization for cattlemen if this bill becomes law; for example, just look at what we have today, and what we will have tomorrow, re cattle organizations:

(1) We have the MICP — The Manitoba Independent Cattle Producers Organization, that I represent here tonight — if this bill goes through I can see our organization gaining in strength.

(2) We have Manitoba Pool Elevators and its Livestock Division — no one is suggesting this will change with Bill 25. They will continue to speak on behalf of cattlemen any time they so desire.

(3) We have The National Farmers Union — Bill 25 will not put the NFU out of existence or mute their opinions. If anything, it will promote the need for a larger NFU.

(4) We have farm Co-operative Auction Markets like Ste. Rose and others, that speak and have an influence on various segments of the cattle industry, feeder cattle, feeder calves, stock cows, etc. Bill 25 will not change this.

(5) The Manitoba Federation of Agriculture — is now in existence and will no doubt continue whether we have Bill 25 or not and they will continue to speak on behalf of cattlemen.

(6) We have the Manitoba Cow-Calf Producers, who have virtually no members and have agreed to amalgamate with The Manitoba Beef Growers, who have indicated they will probably disband if Bill 25 goes into effect. This is not definite, however, because it has also been indicated that if their supporters are not put in on the first provisional board, and if they are not re-elected in the farm elections, then they could see a definite reason to continue in existence.

So what will we have achieved in Bill 25? At least six organizations now speak for the cattlemen in Manitoba. For certain we will have six organizations in the future and maybe seven, the one that would be set up. How much truth is there in the assumption that we will have one voice for cattlemen? That, Mr. Chairman, is the opening statement and I would then like to get into the brief itself.

Mr. Chairman and members, we want to thank you for the opportunity to make the viewpoints of our organization, the Manitoba Independent Cattle Producers Association, known to the Legislature. We hope that in discussing Bill 25 and the proposal for a compulsory checkoff, with a government appointed board to be followed by a government law setting up a provincial cattle organization, that you do not confuse the name of the new organization with our own. We are a democratic and independent organization of cattle producers in Manitoba.

Why Bill 25? We strongly resent the setting up of a compulsory cattle organization in Manitoba with a compulsory checkoff without a vote of cattle producers. We have had two producer votes involving beef checkoffs in Manitoba: (1) In February, 1974, with 7,271 producers registered and 5,747 ballots returned — 79 percent voted. We had 2,451 voting yes (43 percent) and 3,245 voting no (57 percent) to a checkoff of one-tenth of one percent on all cattle sales being sponsored by the Manitoba Beef Growers. (2) In March, 1977, with 14,952 producers registered and 12,404 ballots returned — 83 percent voting — we had 2,821 voting yes (23 percent) and 9,445 voting no (77 percent) to a checkoff of 60 cents for slaughter cattle and 30 cents for slaughter calves to finance a total marketing board operation. It can be argued that people voted yes or no for various reasons

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in 1974 or 1977, on these two proposals, but it cannot be disputed that the vast majority of cattlemen opposed both checkoffs. How can it be possible, in a free democracy, to be confronted one year later with a government proposal for a third type of compulsory checkoff of 25 cents per head or all cattle sales without a vote of producers?

We therefore propose to the Honourable Members of the Legislature two things:

(1) That a select committee of MLAs of the Agricultural Committee of the Manitoba Legislature hold public hearings over the summer recess and early fall and report back to the next session of the Manitoba Legislature their findings regarding the cattlemen's viewpoints on Bill 25 and the proposal for a compulsory checkoff and the formation of a compulsory cattlemen's association.

(2) That section 7(2)(a) of Bill 25 be amended to read: "until the referendum of eligible cattle producers is held on the merits of this entire bill and 50 percent plus one, or more, of the eligible producers voting thereon vote in the affirmative.

I've entitled the next section "Democratic Control by Cattle Producers." We feel it inherent upon us to point out serious deficiencies in the present Bill 25 regarding the initiation of the Act, the building of the organizational structure via the administration by-law, and the appointment of a government board with wide powers. We propose the following amendments to improve the democratic control by producers:

(1) Amend Section 1(e) to read as follows: "producer means any person who raises or keeps cattle in Manitoba." The balance of this Section to be deleted as it leaves the floodgates open to include everyone but cattle producers.

(2) Amend Section 3(1) to strike out the words "appointed or." We do not see any necessity for a government appointed board, particularly when the Minister of Agriculture has assured the Legislature that no by-law or fee deductions would be implemented until after the producers elect a board.

(3) Amend Section 4 to read "The Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council shall divide the province into" — and we put 12 electoral districts and that can be subject to discussion here this evening — "with approximately the same number of cattle producers in each district, and shall be responsible for the supervision of nominations and election of 12 bona fide cattle producers to hold office until re-elected or members are elected to take their place." And that will do away with any appointed board in the interim.

(4) Amend Section 6(2) to strike it out in its entirety. We feel the Manitoba cattle producers can impose their own restrictions on their own board of directors through their own administration by-law.

(5) Amend Section 7(1)(b) adding at the end "after the producer has assigned the deduction on each sale." I understand this is what Saskatchewan has now done after they've tried the proposal which is inherent in Bill 25. In other words, there is no need for any refunds or red tape. It would then be a true voluntary deduction by producers as some now intimate it is.

(6) Amend Section 7(2)(a) as already spelled out at the beginning of the brief, and 7(2)(b) until the election of the members of the association is held under the amended Section 4.

(7) Amend Section 11(1)(b). "The election of the members of the association and fixing their term of office." By amending Section 4, we will have democratic control of the organization by cattle producers from Day One.

(8) Amend Section 11(1) by adding an additional section (j), "The calling of at least one annual provincial meeting of the membership each year with the date, notice and business to be transpired thereat, including reports of the board of directors, an annual audited financial statement and policy resolutions from the membership." There is no provision in the bill for an annual meeting and other matters thereon as spelled out in the proposed amendment.

(9) Amend Section 11(2) to add the following as subsection (b): "That the election of all provincial directors be by secret mail ballot of all producers in each district." We strongly believe that all producers should be involved at all levels in the democratic process.

(10) Amend Section 11(3) as follows: "The Administration by-law may be repealed, amended or re-enacted by the affirmative vote of 50 percent plus one of those voting at any annual or special general meeting of the registered producers on a resolution, notice of which has been mailed to each registered producer not less than 30 days before such meeting, setting forth, in the case of an amendment, the effect of the proposed change in the administration by-law. But where required notice of an amendment of an administration by-law has not been given, the vote of 66-2/3 of those voting on such resolution is required to approve the amendment." This is normal democratic procedure in any democratic organization. Unanimous consent — which is in the bill — is tantamount to no provision for amendment at a provincial annual meeting.

(11) Amend Section 11 by adding a new Section 4 titled Revocation of The Act. "Where the Association receives from its eligible membership, a request for the revocation of the Act, if it is satisfied that the producers requesting the revocation represent not less than 10 percent of them, of all the eligible producers designated in the Act, or administration by-law, as entitled to vote

the Association shall submit to a vote of the producers entitled to vote thereon, the matter of the revocation of the Act.”

And No. 2: “The matter of the approval of such Act shall not again be submitted to a vote of producers under the Act during the two years next following the date on which the vote on the Act is taken under subsection (1).”

Now, these guarantees for democratic control are now in existence under Manitoba law, regulation No. M-20-R-1, passed September 9, 1967 — which is by a former Conservative government — to cover conditions under The Natural Products Marketing Act, and we feel that that kind of amendment is the very least that we require in Bill 25.

All of which is respectfully presented on behalf of the Manitoba Independent Cattle Producers Organization.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Usick. Will you submit to questions from members of the Committee?

MR. USICK: Yes, I will.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ferguson.

MR. FERGUSON: Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman and Mr. Uskiw — or Usick, I'm sorry. —(Interjection)— Well, the names are so close together I guess you can be excused for . . .

MR. USKIW: You could have tried Uruski, too.

MR. FERGUSON: Well, the three. But in any event, we are certainly glad to have you out and voicing your opinion. But here again, you are representing the Independent Cattle Producers Association, and my first question to you, Mr. Usick, would be, what percentage of the cattle herd of Manitoba do you feel that your organization represents?

MR. USICK: Well, I'm not sure we've worked out a percentage as such. We do not disclose our membership, so therefore I would say I would probably decline to answer that question as such. I do know that we represent as many cattle producers as probably any of the other organizations that now speak for the cattle producers.

MR. FERGUSON: Do you believe, then, that there should be one organization to represent the cattle producers in Manitoba?

MR. USICK: Well, there is no possibility of that happening under Bill 25, or any other bill, unless you chose to dissolve the organizations like the Manitoba Pool Elevators, the Manitoba Federation of Agriculture, the Manitoba Independent Cattle Producers, the National Farm Union. If you — and I suppose you do have the power, if you so chose to use it — that if you chose to disband all of these six organizations that I mentioned in my opening statements, that you could then propose a bill and set up one organization. But the suggestion that this bill is in effect setting up one cattle organization is a complete fallacy. There is no truth to that statement whatsoever, and it will be very apparent within six months or a year, or following this bill, when you will have six or seven voices speaking on behalf of the cattlement.

MR. FERGUSON: Then do you believe that somewhere along the line that there should be a checkoff on the cattle producers to finance an organization?

MR. USICK: Well, certainly, I've been in organizations for over a generation. I started speaking on behalf of farm organizations back in 1952, and I've been involved in organizational structures, in setting up of constitutions and administration by-laws and all the rest of it, and I know that one of the most pressing needs in organizations certainly is finances; there's no question about that. And the wider support you can get off producers to an organization, the better off you are. But to impose such a condition on producers without their consent, and having already six voices speaking on behalf of cattlemen is, in my estimation, as I said, probably one of the most permanent and divisive elements that can be introduced into the organizational structure in Manitoba, and probably can do more harm in the long term than anything possibly the members of the Legislature could dream up. And therefore, to that extent, unless the producers themselves are requesting it and vote thereon, I'm afraid I couldn't support a proposal to impose such a settlement on producers. I think the producers themselves have to be involved in that particular type of condition.

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MR. FERGUSON: Well then, Mr. Usick, did you ever personally sign a document recommending a compulsory checkoff on all cattle marketed?

MR. USICK: A compulsory checkoff?.

MR. FERGUSON: Yes. Did you ever, yourself?

MR. USICK: Well, I'm not sure just what you are meaning when you're talking . . .

MR. FERGUSON: Would you like me to jog your memory then, Mr. Usick?

MR. USICK: Yes, please do.

MR. FERGUSON: Did you ever then, sign a commission of inquiry report and advisory committee which recommended financing of a beef organization by a compulsory checkoff on all cattle marketed?

MR. USICK: We submitted a report that recommended that that type of organizational structure be set up, and followed by a vote of producers so that we would have in effect producers supporting that kind of setup.

MR. FERGUSON: But you personally signed a document to that effect?

MR. USICK: I signed a report that included quite a number of recommendations. I wouldn't say that it was only set up for a compulsory organization; it wasn't an organization at all. We were talking in terms of setting up a marketing board.

MR. FERGUSON: Then might I ask why you have changed in midstream, whereby at one time that you felt that it should be a compulsory checkoff and now, all of a sudden, you feel that it shouldn't be.

MR. USICK: Well, there are a lot of people . . .

MR. FERGUSON: You signed a document.

MR. USICK: No.

MR. FERGUSON: Oh, yes you did.

MR. USICK: A marketing board is not a farm organization. A marketing board is set up basically to improve the marketing structure, which needs substantial changes, and anyone who suggests that a marketing board is a farm organization is incorrect. And there are a lot of people who, when they talk about marketing boards and talk about farm organizations, seem to infer that they are one and the same thing; in my estimation they are quite different.

MR. FERGUSON: Then, Mr. Usick, you are quite aware of the fact that the Provisional Board, which is something that is always established in any . . . To my knowledge in politics, a provisional board has always been established by the government by Order-in-Council to regulate such by-laws, whatever may be required, then an elected board takes over, and the bill also states, that the Provisional Board will have no power whatsoever to levy a fee or do anything else. They will have no power until such time as they are elected, and when they are elected, then they will lay down the rules and regulations which will govern the body. Now, you have made a statement that there will be no representation, but there will be no problem whatever either, until that elected board is in place.

MR. USICK: Okay, can I answer? You have about three questions now; could I answer a couple of them before you ask any more?

MR. FERGUSON: Certainly.

MR. USICK: Or I'm going to forget some of the first question. First of all, you said you have never heard of a government proposal or any kind of a proposal where you didn't have a provisional board.

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MR. FERGUSON: Establishment of a board by government.

MR. USICK: Yes, before a board went into effect.

MR. FERGUSON: Right.

MR. USICK: The last vote that we had of producers, in 1977, had explicit in it that there would be no appointed board by the government. It was explicit that from Day One if the marketing board would have carried, that the board would first be elected by producers, there would be no interim board. So I disagree with you that there has never been any provision for such a condition.

MR. FERGUSON: It wasn't elected either, was it, the vote didn't carry?

MR. USICK: Well, the provision did not carry and therefore there were no elections, but the proposal was there. That's No. 1. Number 2, you're saying that in this bill, in Bill 25, there is no provision for the provisional board to make use of any of the conditions in Bill 25, but I would submit to you, sir, as I said, I've been involved in farm organization from the ground up. I've been involved in organizations that have started from scratch; I've been involved in constitutions, setting them up; I was involved for two years with a proposal for amalgamating the Farm Union with the Federation, all the rest . . .

MR. FERGUSON: We're quite aware of that.

MR. USICK: All right. The most important thing in the setting up of any organization is the constitution or the basis of the organization and the administration by-law is one of the most important things because this, in effect, sets up the organization. Now the whole administration by-law is not going to be set up, not going to be one voice in there by any elected cattle producers. It will be done entirely by the appointed board. And not only is it going to be done entirely by an appointed board, but the provisions in the Act, which are not subject to amendment by the producers but only subject to amendment by members of the Legislature, which is quite a difference, will mean that it will be almost impossible to amend that Act.

We've already said in our brief that the provisions now in the Act say that you have to have notice to all producers 30 days ahead of time and then 60 percent vote. That's what is in the bill, if you want to amend the Act. Now how many producers are going to be in a position to send out a letter, presumably a registered letter — how else are you sure you are going to get it out — to all the producers in Manitoba before you want to make an amendment? And if you don't do that provision under this same Act of the Legislature, if it carries, the only other way you can amend it is to bring it in at the annual meeting by unanimous consent of all people there. So it only takes one person to stand up who is opposed and the administration by-law cannot be amended.

Now you're suggesting that the provisional board will have no powers. I would say that the provisional board have all the powers of setting up the kind of organization that is going to be imposed on us.

MR. FERGUSON: Mr. Usick, I think you are quite aware of the fact that, under the terms of this present bill that the provisional board, their basic function would be to arrive at an honest voters list designated to give the cattle producers of the province a vote, the province would be split into 12 or 14 — your brief says 12, the projected is 14 — that . . .

MR. USICK: Alberta has seven. They have three times the cattle population that we have.

MR. FERGUSON: Well, that may be, whatever it is may be fair ball, but we're dividing the province basically under the bill into 14 areas. The provisional board, their basic function would be to lay out an honest, as I said, an honest voters list which might not be comparable to one we had in 1977, and whatever other rules would have to be established to get the show on the road. Consequently, I think that you're putting quite a lot of window dressing on your statements that this particular board would have that much say. I don't really think that they would have; they would have say to get the particular bill in force, get it operative, and then consequently the elected board would carry on with the regulations and whatever else may be required.

MR. USICK: Well, I concentrated on the administration by-law, Mr. Ferguson, and I think if you were to check Section 11(1) of Bill 25, it says: "that within three months after coming into force

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of this Act, the association shall pass an administration by-law which shall provide for . . ." all of these things. Now, in all the discussions I've ever heard of in the election of producers, at one time they were talking about 1980, another time they were talking about 1979, but certainly a long time after three months, the people who would set up the administration by-law — which is the whole constitution, the whole set up of the organization — would be done by an appointed board and then they would provide in an Act of Parliament, which is not subject to amendment by the producers, an almost impossible situation to amend it. I maintain, and in my experience in farm organization and constitutions and amendments of same, that that is one of the most important controls of the entire organization that the Minister or the government or the appointed board can make without any say or without any control by producers, and once put into effect, almost impossible to amend. We take very strong exception to that aspect of it.

MR. FERGUSON: Mr. Uskiw, are you a cattle producer?

MR. USICK: Yes, I am. I have been all my life.

MR. FERGUSON: Cow-calf?

MR. USICK: Cow-calf and finishing cattle.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Uskiw on a point of order.

MR. USKIW: For the purpose of not fudging the record, would you ask the Member for Gladstone to correct his address to the witness.

MR. FERGUSON: Well, there are three names all the same.

MR. USKIW: No, I'm sorry, the record will show who is asking the question and who is answering and the Member for Gladstone is attempting to fudge the record because he is not happy with the evidence that he is receiving from this witness, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ferguson, would you please correct your slip of the tongue.

MR. FERGUSON: Mr. Chairman, if I made a slip of the tongue, I certainly will apologize and I certainly will withdraw. Well, I certainly wouldn't have wanted to ask Mr. Uskiw the question I'm asking Mr. Usick because I know very well with Mr. Uskiw, I certainly wouldn't get an answer at all. Thank you very much for your answer, Mr. Usick. I'm all through.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Einarson.

MR. EINARSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman, through you to Mr. Usick, you are a member of the Manitoba Independent Cattle Producers Association?

MR. USICK: Yes, I am.

MR. EINARSON: What is your membership?

MR. USICK: You mean the fee, or what?

MR. EINARSON: No, what is the total number of farmers?

MR. USICK: We don't make our membership public.

MR. EINARSON: You don't make it public.

MR. USICK: No.

MR. EINARSON: Would you like to elaborate why you don't want to make it public?

MR. USICK: Well, we have our reasons.

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MR. EINARSON: Is that your answer, you have your reasons . . .

MR. USICK: Yes, I do.

MR. EINARSON: . . . but you don't want to elaborate why you don't want to make it public?

MR. USICK: Well, let me . . .

MR. EINARSON: Are you telling me that you are ashamed that you are a member of the Manitoba Independent Cattle Producers Association?

MR. USICK: No, by a long way not.

MR. EINARSON: Okay. I would like to ask you why?

MR. USICK: I would suggest to you that few, if any, cattle organizations or other organizations in Manitoba make their membership public. If you would ask the Manitoba Beef Growers, for example — I wasn't here when they presented their brief — I doubt if you asked that question, or if you did, if you got an answer from them.

MR. EINARSON: Through you, Mr. Chairman, to Mr. Rudy Usick, I believe — and I stand to be corrected if I'm wrong — but I believe the question was asked of the Beef Growers, of the Farmers Union, that question was asked and I believe they gave an answer. However, that be as it may, Mr. Chairman, I'm not going to press the point.

I would like to ask Mr. Usick another question. How long has the Manitoba Independent Cattle Producers Association been in operation?

MR. FERGUSON: We had that mean bastard in Sam's office.

MR. USICK: That is incorrect and a deliberate slur by the Member for Gladstone. That has been cleared up for a long time passed and I don't think, Mr. Chairman, I came here to be ridiculed or lies be made on the floor of an agricultural committee of the House which is absolutely incorrect.

MR. EINARSON: Mr. Chairman, on the point of order, I want to say here at this committee that I am the one who is presenting the question and anything that is made on this mike is what is being recorded and anything that I say is recorded; anything that the witness says will be recorded. At least I hope that's the way it will be. So, Mr. Chairman, . . .

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, on the same point of order, the Member for Rock Lake knows fully that the recording devices pick up all of the voices regardless of whether they are officially spoken or otherwise, so the witness is quite right in reprimanding the Member for Gladstone.

MR. EINARSON: On the same point of order, I don't think that the Member for Lac du Bonnet has any point of order when he makes that comment.

MR. USKIW: You're not the Chairman.

MR. EINARSON: All right, Mr. Chairman, that's fine. I am now going to repeat my question to Mr. Usick and ask him if he can tell me how long has the Manitoba Independent Cattle Producers Association been in existence' when were they formed?

MR. RUDY USICK: Well, we were formed approximately a month and a half before the last vote on the beef marketing board came into existence. It was formed in the Strathclair area by a group of farmers in that area, unbeknown to myself or others. They called a public meeting. They wanted to have someone support the position for a marketing board, debate for a vote was starting and they wanted to have some type of representation. So they called a meeting in the Strathclair Auction Mart. It was a very stormy night. They asked one of the members of the Beef Growers to attend. He did not show up, the farmers had their own meeting, and they discussed the position. It appeared that there was no organization that was taking a strong stand in favour of the marketing board and they decided to do something about it that evening.

Subsequent to that, they called a further meeting the following week in Elphinstone. They invited myself to attend because of my association on the Inquiry Commission in Manitoba. They had various

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questions there and the organization really started in Elphinstone officially. A name was put on it. Memberships were taken and it started from that point on.

So the organization started, in effect, before I became involved in it. Following that I was also in a position where I had taken a strong stand on marketing boards over a period of some 25 years. I felt that the truth was not coming out in some of the meetings that had been held and I became involved in the organization. I wasn't Chairman. I was just one of the directors, and at their next annual meeting I was elected President.

MR. EINARSON: Mr. Chairman, I thank Mr. Usick for his answer. It's a lengthy one. I still haven't had an answer to my question. I would like to know when was the Manitoba Independent Cattle Producers Association formed. As far as the witness is concerned, he said that he became involved — he did not give me any definite date — whether it's a year or six months, or two years.

MR. USICK: Well, it's approximately a year and a half now.

MR. EINARSON: Approximately a year and a half. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's what I wanted to know. He has been in operation for approximately a year and a half.

Then, Mr. Chairman, from the comments the witness has just made, you are strongly a believer of marketing boards. Is that correct, Mr. Usick?

MR. USICK: Me, myself, as an individual?

MR. EINARSON: Yes.

MR. USICK: Yes, I might say I have not only supported marketing boards; I have worked for them in the sense that I would like to see more of them. I do have some reservations in that regard. I am particularly in favour of producer marketing boards. There are, as you know, various types of marketing boards.

MR. EINARSON: Well, in other words, Mr. Chairman, to you Mr. Usick, we are talking about one particular commodity in agriculture and that's the beef industry.

MR. USICK: And you're talking about Bill 25.

MR. EINARSON: Well, listen, Bill 25 pertains to the beef industry in the Province of Manitoba, no other commodity; let's get that straight. I'm asking you, then, Mr. Usick, do you feel that the beef industry should be brought under a marketing board? Do I understand you correctly? I just want to make sure that I understand you on all your comments.

MR. USICK: Well, we had a vote, as you know, on the marketing board and the producers chose not to put one into effect at the present time. And I am prepared to accept that position of the producer. It won't stop me from continuing to work in that regard, but, at the same point, we did have a vote and I think the most important thing that we should remember with Bill 25 is that there is no provision in these amendments for a vote of producers, neither before the bill comes into effect nor after it comes into effect.

In other words, it will be imposed on us by a government law and after it's imposed we will not be able to get rid of it, outside of changing the government, I suppose, and if that's the last resort that's kind of an odd way to make democracy work, that we have to have a complete change of government to change a law that has passed.

MR. EINARSON: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Usick you have presented a brief on behalf of the Manitoba Independent Cattle Producers Association and in this brief there is no signature. You don't have your signature, nor do you have any official person of the Manitoba Independent Cattle Producers Association. So I must ask you how authentic is this brief.

MR. USICK: The Clerk passed the brief around to the Chairman. I certainly have always signed briefs that I presented and if the Chairman will present the brief that he has, I think as Chairman on behalf of the Committee I certainly will sign that brief and make it authentic to satisfy your position. I have always signed every brief that I have ever presented and I fully intended to but I did not pass the brief out to the Chairman in this case.

MR. EINARSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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MR. CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions to this witness? Mr. Uskiw.

MR. USKIW: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I want to raise the question of principle again with respect to Bill 25, the same question that has been put to virtually every witness that has appeared so far, that is, do you accept as a matter of principle the idea of a government enacting legislation for the establishment of an association, whatever that association is? We're not talking about cattle here; it can be any association. And I raise that question in the context of our historical position, that private associations have been brought into existence, historically speaking, through a private member's bill introduced in the Legislature and not sponsored by a government bill, which carries the authority of the state. So that in essence in a private member's bill the members of the Legislature are free to vote as they wish and therefore the government is a neutral party to that proposition, whether it passes or not.

I ask you whether you believe that it's right to break that longstanding tradition through the introduction of Bill 25 in the name of a Minister of the Crown.

MR. USICK: Well, I didn't look at it quite in that manner. I have been party to delegations to governments over a period of a generation or more, and in various delegations there have been proposals expressed to Liberal, Conservative and NDP Governments talking about a fee deduction or a fee on behalf of an organization. And one of the responses that I have always heard from all governments — past Conservative Governments, past Liberal and NDP Governments — is that when an organization, any organization, would speak on behalf of the majority of the producers then they might be in a position to come to government and ask for a fee deduction on behalf of all the producers. And even then, it would be some question of whether or not they would receive it. Certainly, although we do not make our membership public to Mr. Einarson or anyone else, we readily admit that we do not represent the majority of cattlemen and we know that no other organization represents the majority of cattlemen in this province. Therefore, we find it quite odd that we have got a government proposal to set up an organization to collect fees from everyone in the province, on a compulsory basis.

MR. USKIW: Well, again, it leaves me in somewhat of a quandary as to the principle of the procedure that was used by the government. To highlight the point I'm making, would you agree that the Government of Manitoba, on request from the Manitoba Federation of Labour, that a bill similar to Bill 25 be passed, naming the Federation of Labour of Manitoba as an organization representing all workers in Manitoba, and that that organization have the powers that are now contained in Bill 25, over the employees — all employees in Manitoba, and the employers? Do you think that that would be right?

MR. USICK: No, I think there would be a great deal of opposition, particularly from farmers, and even in the labour ranks, from that kind of a proposal. And as we have already said in our opening statement, we are not in favour of Bill 25 as it is presently constituted, and we are convinced, from the meetings that we held this spring and the meetings that we've had in the province, that 80 to 90 percent of the producers, if given an opportunity in a referendum, and setting up the referendum on the bill as it is now in printed form, 80 to 90 percent of the producers would defeat it, without any question. So, I can only say that I wouldn't support that type of principle for the Federation of Labour or anything else, because I'm not in favour of it in Bill 25 either.

Bill 25 needs some very drastic changes, but the first and most important of which is that it should be given to the producers for a vote. Any suggestion in a democratic country such as we are living in — and we have had two votes and cattle referendums for deductions — to put in a deduction without a vote of producers is, as we said, one of the most divisive elements, and permanent divisive elements, that we can possibly introduce into the Province of Manitoba.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, you were on the Manitoba Marketing Board for a number of years, involved in the supervision of marketing boards that existed in Manitoba at that period of time.

MR. USICK: Yes.

MR. USKIW: Boards and Commissions. Is it correct, would my recollection be accurate, that when we had votes for the establishment of marketing boards, which contained powers that imposed obligations, responsibilities, and denied in fact some freedoms of the people on the passage of those Acts, that there were campaigns on the part of many people, arguing that those were basic denials of their freedom and their rights, even though they had a chance to vote on that question?

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MR. USICK: Oh, yes.

MR. USKIW: Would those arguments be logically presented to Bill 25 as it is now expressed before you?

MR. USICK: Even more so, because there are more things than just basic freedoms. I mean, the very first and most basic is that the producers are not asking for this bill. The bill is being imposed on them by legislation, without a vote, and many of the people that have — so-called freedom fighters, or people who say that they want freedom of choice — certainly, I can't see how any of those same type of people can support this type of proposal. And at one point or another, if this does go through, at some point in time they're going to be asked to defend that particular position.

MR. USKIW: Should the government proceed with Bill 25 and it becomes law in a short period of time, how does your organization propose to deal with the fact that the government will recognize only this association as being the spokesman for cattlemen in Manitoba?

MR. USICK: Well, of course, if we have any government that proposes to say that one person speaks for cattlemen and another one doesn't, they have to live with that particular decision. I can't see how they can take that position, because we're not setting up one cattle organization. I made it very clear, it's a complete fallacy to talk about one cattle organization by Bill 25. We now have six cattle organizations in the province, and we probably will have seven when this bill goes through.

MR. USKIW: Are you, sir, aware that the government position and arguments on second reading are that when Bill 25 is passed, that it will unify the cattlemen, that all cattlemen will participate in the elections, elect a board of directors, and do as the majority of cattlemen want, and therefore it will be a democratic process in effect ultimately? Are you aware that those arguments were presented?

MR. USICK: No, I must say that I'm not.

MR. USKIW: And therefore, the government would be obligated to recognize this association as the association speaking for all cattlemen in Manitoba.

MR. USICK: Well, all I can say is the government would be very wrong in taking that attitude.

MR. USKIW: Well, they have stated that that is the way they see this bill evolving in second reading.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ferguson.

MR. USICK: Well, Mr. Chairman, this whole bill —(Interjection)— Now, I drove a . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: As I perceive it, the questioning was completed and the answer was . . .

MR. USICK: No, I wasn't finished the answer. I was starting to say, because the question referred to what discussion happened in the Manitoba Legislature, and whether I knew of it or not, and I was going to say that this bill is being brought in at one of the most busy seasons for cattlemen. The question of putting up the hay — and putting up the hay is very necessary in Manitoba — and there are a lot of people who do not even know that Bill 25 is in the Manitoba Legislature, a great deal of cattlemen. I have spoken to a number of cattlemen in the last few days and they're certainly not aware that Bill 25 is in the Legislature, or what is in Bill 25. And there will be a lot more evident opposition if this type of legislation is pushed through at a busy time of year when they are not in a position to make their voice heard, and I know that people who have wanted to present briefs are having a great deal of difficulty in taking the time to come to this particular hearing.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ferguson.

MR. FERGUSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I only have a couple of very brief questions. Mr. Usick — I've got it straight this time, Mr. Usick — you are a very firm proponent of the marketing board system, is that correct?

MR. USICK: I have supported it over the years.

MR. FERGUSON: Would you go so far as to be a supply-management proponent also?

MR. USICK: In some cases, not always.

MR. FERGUSON: I see. I understand that you are involved in the rearing and harvesting of trout in your area; would you go so far then as to say that all of the fish harvested in the Minnedosa-Erickson area should be marketed through the Freshwater Fish Marketing Board?

MR. USICK: Through the Freshwater Fish Marketing Board?

MR. FERGUSON: Yes.

MR. USICK: Well, there is provision for that marketing now; people can make use of it if they so desire, and some of them have on occasion.

MR. FERGUSON: But would you go so far as to say that your belief would be that you would like to see the fish from that area, in this local enterprise, marketed through the Freshwater Fish Marketing Board?

MR. USICK: Well, of course, if it was done, it would probably increase the price. The price, because it is you might say a rare product in the province — there are only a limited number of freshwater lakes that are suitable for trout production, and the question of a quality production out of such lakes is. . . you know, there's a limited area for the expansion of same. The market is slightly disrupted now by people charging different prices at different levels, and probably if it was co-ordinated, the price could be raised considerably, although myself, in the fish I have sold, I have always had a quality product. I have never had any problem in disposing of same, at a fair price. I would say a much better price than I have been getting in cattle; in fact, two or three years ago I seriously considered going entirely out of cattle, and by the way, no one has ever asked me if I am even in cattle production tonight, which is strange.

MR. FERGUSON: Yes, I did ask you.

MR. USICK: Just if I was in production.

MR. FERGUSON: No, I asked you . . .

MR. USICK: But I've noticed that most of the witnesses they've asked, how many cattle, and so on. But I seriously thought of going out of cattle and going entirely into trout farming, because when I had choice animals, and I had difficulty in getting 35 cents a pound, and at the same time I could get \$1.50 and \$2.00 a pound for trout, and no difficulty at all, it certainly made one wonder.

MR. FERGUSON: Would you not agree then, Mr. Usick, that if, as all of the arguments that you are proposing here, that this thing is so undesirable, do you not feel that if it is so undesirable, that all the cattle producers have to do is cut off the funding and opt out, and the thing will fall flat on its face? Now, what is all the fuss and furor about? If it isn't going to work, given a trial period of 18 months, and if it doesn't work out, all anyone has to do, any cattle producer has to do, is opt out. There will be no funding and consequently the thing will be all over.

A MEMBER: That's not true.

MR. FERGUSON: Mr. Chairman, it certainly is true.

MR. USICK: Let me answer that question, Mr. Chairman, because I've heard this question in the last couple of evening, and I think some members of the MLAs are operating under a fallacy in that regard, too. The most important thing in the organization is the administration by-law; that's the most important thing in it, because that sets up the organization. And that administration by-law is being set up by a government-appointed board — nothing to do with producers. Now, I have an administration by-law that has been proposed for this organization. I've had this by-law for several months, long before this bill came in, by the proponents for this legislation. They didn't even know what the organization or Bill 25 was going to call it; they didn't know it was going to be called the Manitoba Cattle Producers Association. They called it The Cattle Producers Act, and maybe you've seen that administration by-law; that's one thing.

No. 2, when the Manitoba Beef Growers had their last annual meeting — and this is the Manitoba Co-Operator, Page 12 of the March 9th issue. I want to read one of the motions that they passed at their meeting to deal with the very fact that you suggested. "Some delegates to the Brandon meeting expressed fears, however, that a heavy run on refunds could result in financial embarrassment to the Association, and a resolution was passed urging that the refunds be applied for on a quarterly basis." Every three months. "This would not mean that the money would have to be refunded quarterly, but that those opting out of the plan will have to notify their wish for return of the money every three months." And later on, it also says, that the money would not be refunded until six months after the year end.

So what you can put in that administration by-law can make it almost impossible for people really to opt out, and when they do opt out, basically we have the average producer in Manitoba marketing a small number of cattle. We have a select group of people in the province, mostly feedlot operators that market a large number of cattle, but if you took the total number of cattle marketed in the province, and the total number of producers, what do you have? 20 or 30 as probably the average number of cattle that are marketed by all the producers in the province?

Now, if you set up a refund system as they have already passed in their annual meeting, and they have already drafted it in an administration by-law some months ago, and if you suggest to a person who markets 20 head of cattle — and that might be the average; it might be less — that he's going to have to apply every three months. And if we're talking about five head of cattle, for example, that he markets every three months, and he's going to have to send the 14-cent stamp — and he's going to have to do it within that three months or he would lose his eligibility to get it during that three months. —(Interjection)— You're talking about a lot of small producers who would be excluded because (a) they would not even know that they could apply for the refund, (b) that they might have to apply for it on a three-month basis or some other kind of system that the administration by-law would bring in . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. Mr. Usick.

MR. USICK: And the suggestion therefore that people can just opt out — they can opt out if you would take the amendment that we are proposing, and we have already spelled out under No. 5 on Page 2, we are suggesting amending Section 7(1)(b), adding at the end, "after the producer has assigned the deduction on each sale." And that's exactly what Saskatchewan has now done. No need for any refunds or red tape; it would be a true, voluntary deduction by producers, as some now intimate it is. It's not a voluntary organization now; it's a compulsory organization, with the funds kept for a year and maybe six months after the year end. Completely compulsory in every respect, and God only knows what kind of a system our administration by-law will be brought in by the provisional board.

MR. FERGUSON: Mr. Usick, thank you very much for the very brief answer. Under threat of another speech, I think that possibly you are coming through with some preconceived ideas of what the regulations may be. They, of course, will be up to the elected board and here again . . .

MR. USICK: The provisional board, as I understand it, it is being brought in by the provisional board' not the elected board.

MR. FERGUSON: That is correct. As we are mentioning the Saskatchewan organization whereby the Minister of Agriculture in Saskatchewan saw fit to take over the administration of the funds, this of course goes against our philosophy whereby we would like to have some of the administration of the funds and the collection, etc., and the election of the officials involved in this particular Act,

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be done by the people and not have any of the heavy hand of government coming in and saying that all of the sudden if you do have \$100,000 we will introduce a bill, which I think in Saskatchewan was Bill 73, whereby Mr. Kaeding took over the administration of the fund, we here are quite confident, and I think our Conservative Government here is quite confident that the elected officials will be quite competent to handle the money collected, and they will do it in a very honest and straightforward manner and I'm sure to the benefit of the cattle producers in Manitoba.

I don't think I have anything more to say. Mr. Usick, thank you very much for your answers, and that is the end of my questioning.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Downey.

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, I have one or two questions for Mr. Usick. Were you a member of a beef inquiry in Manitoba that was held in the past few years?

MR. USICK: From 1974 to 1976?

MR. DOWNEY: That's correct.

MR. USICK: Yes.

MR. DOWNEY: Were you under oath on that particular inquiry?

MR. USICK: Was I under oath?

MR. DOWNEY: Yes.

MR. USIKW: Mr. Chairman, I raise a question of order, Sir. I may be wrong, but as I recall it unless you can correct me otherwise, I thought I was the next speaker after Mr. Ferguson.

MR. CHAIRMAN: On my list, I have Mr. Ferguson, then Mr. Downey, then Mr. Gourlay, then Mr. Uskiw.

MR. USIKW: Okay.

MR. DOWNEY: I asked you a question, sir, were you under oath?

MR. USICK: We took an oath of office to look into the matters of inquiry when we were first appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor. Following that time, we then became members of the inquiry and we took members who appeared before us, under oath. I think that is, as I understand, the situation.

MR. DOWNEY: Would you agree that the majority of farmers in Manitoba receive The Manitoba Co-operator newspaper?

MR. USICK: The majority of them?

MR. DOWNEY: Yes.

MR. USICK: I believe that would be true.

MR. DOWNEY: Are you aware that some several weeks ago, Bill 25 in its entirety was printed in The Manitoba Co-operator?

MR. USICK: Well, if it was, I didn't see it.

MR. DOWNEY: I think the record of The Manitoba Co-operator and of many farm people can verify — and I can provide a copy of it, not immediately, but I could, for the committee — that it was printed in The Manitoba Co-operator. Have you received this week's edition of The Manitoba Co-operator?

MR. USICK: Yes, I have.

MR. DOWNEY: Would you be able to remember what was on the headlines of this week's Manitoba

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Co-operator?

MR. USICK: Something about Bill 25 being referred to the Agriculture Committee.

MR. DOWNEY: That is correct. Did you support, in that committee which you were a member of, a compulsory checkoff for beef cattle in Manitoba? —(Interjection)— Yes, sir, "no" would be sufficient.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would remind this witness and all others that no witness is obliged to answer any question.

MR. USICK: I want to try to be as correct as possible and I was just looking at the recommendations that we . . .

MR. DOWNEY: I could perhaps carry on to the next question . . .

MR. USICK: Well, could you enlarge your question and indicate exactly what part, because there were quite a number of recommendations, as you remember.

MR. DOWNEY: This is only one part that I am asking for. Did you support . . .

MR. USICK: Could you refer to that particular recommendation, or read it out . . .

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, I believe it is up to the members of the committee to ask the questions in this particular committee, is it not?

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The witness before us is prepared to answer the question. He is asking the Minister whether he would elaborate, for his benefit, in order that he may answer the question, the section which he is making reference to, with respect to the recommendations that were signed by Mr. Usick in the Inquiry Commission Report. All the witness is asking for is some assistance so that he can locate the section to determine whether or not, in fact, there was such a provision as mentioned by the Minister of Agriculture.

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, I'll clarify my question. Did the witness, in a report to government of which he was a member of a committee that held hearings across the Province of Manitoba, was he a part of a committee, that a part of the recommendation to the government was to have a compulsory beef checkoff to support an organization in the Province of Manitoba? Was he a member and was that part of the recommendation which he was a member to?

MR. USICK: Well, it wasn't a checkoff as you infer. It was a levy on cattle to finance the administration of a marketing board. That is, as I pointed out to an earlier witness, a marketing board and the services that it does, is different than a farm organization.

MR. DOWNEY: I have another question. Were you a member of the Manitoba Marketing Board, Mr. Usick?

MR. USICK: Yes, I was.

MR. DOWNEY: At what period of time were you a member of that board?

MR. USICK: Approximately five years.

MR. DOWNEY: For five years.

MR. USICK: Up until about January of 1977, I believe.

MR. DOWNEY: So you would start about 1972.

MR. USICK: Something like that.

MR. DOWNEY: Were you a member of that board when the government of the day made it compulsory for the hog producers of Manitoba to market through the Manitoba Hog Marketing Board, that deducted a fee from every hog in the province, whether they wanted to be a part of that or

not?

MR. USICK: Of course, the Manitoba Marketing Board themselves, only look over or supervise the administration of the actual marketing boards. The Manitoba Marketing Board as such is not involved in the day-to-day operations of a board. They are a supervisory board, as you would appreciate.

MR. DOWNEY: If I could follow up to that particular question, were you a part of the Manitoba Marketing Board when that particular regulation was put into effect by the government of the day?

MR. USICK: Well, as I recall, I can remember taking part in the election of producers, because I chaired two or three of the meetings when it was changed from a government board to a producer board, and I remember supervising some of the district elections at the time. I can't really recall if I was on the board or not.

MR. DOWNEY: Did the Manitoba Marketing Board recommend to the Minister of the day that all hogs produced in Manitoba should be marketed through the Manitoba Hog Producers Marketing Board?

MR. USICK: Well, the Manitoba Marketing Board doesn't operate in that way. The Marketing Board does not initiate proposals on behalf of producers. The proposals are initiated within the marketing boards themselves and they are then submitted to the Manitoba Marketing Board for perusal and to see if they come within the Act and are then forwarded on to the Minister. But the recommendations do not come from the Manitoba Marketing Board as such, they come individually from the producer boards and unless the producer board supported the . . . the Marketing Board really doesn't even look at them.

MR. DOWNEY: Did the Manitoba Hog Producers Marketing Board recommend to the Manitoba Hog Marketing Board that all hogs produced in Manitoba should be marketed through the one marketing agency?

MR. USICK: I really can't recall if I was on the board at that time or not, I really can't.

MR. DOWNEY: I have another question. You say you were a member of the Manitoba Marketing Board for some five years, up to 1977. Were you involved in a government research project, for which funds were provided by the government, in the livestock business?

MR. USICK: Are you talking about the Inquiry Commission into Livestock Marketing?

MR. DOWNEY: I am just asking you if you were involved in a research project for which funds or cattle were provided by the provincial government?

MR. USICK: If you are referring to the Inquiry Commission, I was a member of the Inquiry Commission that studied livestock marketing in Manitoba, as I said, from 1974 to 1976.

MR. DOWNEY: I am asking you a question, did you have cattle or funds from the government of the province for a research project project, funds which were provided out of the Manitoba Horned Cattle Fund?

MR. USICK: Well, if you would refer specifically to the . . . I have been involved in various agricultural associations and various things with ag reps, for example, who have conducted various items over a long period of time, so I'm not just sure what you are referring to. I know in one case I was involved with feeder steers and we were checking what kind of yield and grade we were going to get off grass-fed cattle, if you are referring to something like that.

MR. DOWNEY: Who provided the funds or the cattle for that project?

MR. USICK: The cattle were my own. I received no funds from the government. Does that answer your question. I had 25 of my own steers on that program and the only thing that was done was that they took cattle from various producers all across the province that were on grass and grass finishing. I had them on natural pasture up near the Riding Mountain National Park, as part of my herd, and I took 25 steers of my own herd and I said, all right, we are going to market them. We

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are going to get into this program. What was involved there was that come about the middle of October, they said, all right, we are going to market a group of these grass-fed cattle and my 25 steers were loaded by the Erickson Transfer, were brought into the abattoirs, were slaughtered, were hung up. We were called in and we looked at the various carcasses hanging on the rail. The chief of the grading standards came in and discussed the various grading of the various carcasses with the producers that were involved and we were paid on the basis of the grading that was done on those carcasses.

MR. DOWNEY: Okay, thank you. You referred to 7(2) of the regulations, or the way that a refund could be obtained from a producer who did not want to participate in Bill 25. Although it does not spell it out specifically in this particular part of the Act, but I think that there have been a lot of assumptions. All the Act reads, to this particular point, that there can be no funds received until after a producer-elected board, and after that producer-elected board establish the means of opting out or providing for individuals not participating with their funds, that there is no way that you could assume — or it would be a complete assumption, would it not — that the funds would be held for a year or six months.

Would you not agree that it would be up to the producer-elected board to provide for a means of refund of funds, the way this Act reads.

MR. USICK: No, it is just the very opposite of that. The way that it reads under 7(2)(b), it said that there would be no regulation . . .

MR. DOWNEY: I think, in fairness, you should read all of 7(2).

MR. USICK: All right. "No regulation imposing fees under clause (1)(b) shall be made (a) until the election of the members of the association is held within the time specified under subsection 11(1) . . ."

MR. DOWNEY: Which says, sir?

MR. USICK: Subsection 11(1) says: "Within three months after coming into force of this Act, the association shall pass an administration by-law . . ." and so on.

And it says, "unless it provides and sets out the procedure for the refund of fees of those producers who apply."

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, I would just like, for clarification, do you read in there that a producer has to wait one year to get his funds back?

MR. USICK: No, I was reading that from the resolution which passed at The Manitoba Beef Growers annual meeting that this was one of the proposals that they had . . .

MR. DOWNEY: Well, may I for clarification? You are now here to present your views on Bill 25, not a resolution from a Beef Growers meeting, and that we are here to deal with this specific bill.

MR. USICK: Well, I would suggest to you, Mr. Minister, that I have heard beef growers talk, and Beef Grower directors, and they assume that all of the directors of The Manitoba Beef Growers will automatically be appointed as directors of this proposed new organization.

MR. DOWNEY: Could you back that up if they . . .

MR. USICK: . . . This is what they are thinking.

MR. DOWNEY: That is the assumption, Sir.

MR. USICK: And the administration by-law, they already drafted some months ago.

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Usick, is that not an assumption? Would you agree that that is an assumption?

MR. USICK: Well, it may be an assumption on their part . . .

MR. DOWNEY: Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Uskiw on a point of order.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, I'm wondering whether our witness is prepared to leave us a copy of that administration by-law proposal .

MR. USICK: Yes, I can leave that.

MR. USKIW: Well, when a person is referring to a document, every member of the committee is entitled to ask if a copy of that document can be retained by the committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN: When these remarks are completed, Mr. Usick, could you leave that document with the . . .

MR. USICK: Could I have one provision, that you make a copy of it and send it to me in the mail, so I will have a copy? This is the only copy that I have.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I'm certain that can be arranged.

MR. USICK: Yes, okay.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gourlay, please.

MR. DOUG GOURLAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The questions that I was going to put to Mr. Usick have already been put, so I'll pass this time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Uskiw.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, the Member for Gladstone in his remarks just a few moments ago dealt with the proposition in the Province of Saskatchewan, which we are not debating, but he was debating, and so I want to deal with that, Mr. Chairman.

The Meer for Gladstone referred to the fact that in the Province of Saskatchewan they have a checkoff, in which case the government has assumed control of the funds of the checkoff. It's interesting to note, Mr. Chairman, and I'd be interested to hear comments from the Meer for Gladstone about these provisions. It says that a trust account established under the provisions of this Act, and that every dealer shall not later than the 10th day of every month, make or cause to be made a return to the Minister in such form as the Minister may prescribe. That's probably what the Meer for Gladstone has been alluding to, and I would appreciate if he would correct me if I'm wrong.

MR. FERGUSON: Mr. Chairman, the statement I'm alluding to was a statement in The Free Press, to do with Bill 73, introduced in the Saskatchewan Legislature passed during their last session, which said that, "Mr. Kaeding, the Minister of Agriculture, had taken over administration of the fund of The Cattle Producers Association," and the fund I believe at that time was in the neighbourhood of \$100,000.00. This is where I'm getting my information from.

MR. USKIW: Well, Mr. Chairman, that report probably alludes to the fact that moneys have to be paid, collected and made payable to the Minister, as he may prescribe by regulation. The bill that I'm reading from is dated 1970, Mr. Chairman, the Province of Saskatchewan, wherein at that time the NDP was not the government of Saskatchewan.

MR. FERGUSON: So what? It has nothing to do with this.

MR. USKIW: Well, it has a lot to do with your statement, because you alleged, Sir, that the new Minister in Saskatchewan had taken upon himself the responsibility of assuming control of that fund when there was always a provision in the Saskatchewan legislation for government control of that legislation and the fund, and how it was to be utilized.

MR. FERGUSON: Then, Mr. Chairman, may I ask the former Minister of Agriculture, up to the introduction of Bill 73, who had the administration of the fund? Was it the cattlemen, or was it the government of Saskatchewan?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. This does not appear to be a point of order, it appears to be a

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debate which can be more properly conducted in the House.

MR. FERGUSON: Mr. Uskiw raised a point of order.

MR. USKIW: You should read your legislation before you say . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. Are there any more questions for this witness? There being none, thank you very much, Mr. Usick.

MR. USICK: This administration by-law, do you want me to leave that in your hands then, and you will see that I get a copy of it?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Deposit it with the Clerk, Mr. Usick, and he will deal with making copies and seeing that you get them returned.

MR. USKIW: One last question, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I had understood that the questions had come to an end.

MR. USKIW: Well, Mr. Chairman, if you wish to rule me out of order, that is fine. I have one more question.

A MEMBER: Ask "by leave".

MR. USKIW: No, Mr. Chairman, I don't need leave. Mr. Chairman, I do not need leave. The witness is still there. We have not called another witness.

MR. CHAIRMAN: By all means, Mr. Uskiw, please proceed.

MR. USKIW: Yes, I would like to know, Sir, what your organization intends to do, or what its course of action will be, if you are in a position to indicate, should the government not accept the advice of the majority of briefs that were presented in the course of these hearings asking that this bill not be proceeded with, or that it have very substantive amendments introduced before it's proceeded with? In either event, what would be the position of your organization with respect to how they will attempt to present their views to the government after this new association is formed and officially recognized by the government as the spokesman for the cattle industry in Manitoba?

MR. USICK: Well, this is something that we will have to look into as an organization. I might say that we have been disappointed with the procedures as have gone on up to this point with Bill 25. We had a public meeting at Grandview earlier this spring, where the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Downey, was invited to attend, and we met privately with him, a group of us from the Independent Cattle Producers. We had been given some assurances at this meeting which have come to nought, and so we have been rather disappointed in this aspect of it. Now we've come to the point where the bill is in the Legislature, there is no provision for a referendum, and I must say that it was inconceivable in our thinking, that we would get to that stage without a referendum. Now your question is referring to what would be our position if this bill goes through the House in its present form. Now, it's inconceivable in my way of thinking that the bill has got to this stage. It is even more inconceivable to think that the bill would proceed through the House in the form that it is, and certainly I am not in a position to say as yet what the organizational point of view is, but I can say that we have discussed it to the point where certainly we will be going out on a membership drive to increase the membership within our organization. I think there will be a fruitful field to work in if this bill goes through in its present form, and if the government chooses or does not choose to hear from us as an organization, that is something that they will have to decide and live with on their own. We do live in a democracy.

MR. USKIW: Yes, I wonder, Sir, would you clarify what assurances were given to you by the Minister of Agriculture at that meeting? You mentioned something about certain assurances were provided . . . \$

MR. USICK: We took the Minister to task on the fact that we were not going to have a referendum before this bill was introduced. He was attempting to take us to task in return for suggesting that, how do we know there will not be a referendum? Am I not correct, Mr. Downey?

Well, there were quite a number of people there, I think some of them from Grandview — if

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this hearing goes on tomorrow, they will want to come here tomorrow and are back up that claim. There a number of them, that if the hearings are not finished tonight, will be coming tomorrow, because the way the hearings went last night. We did not think that it would be possible for them to come a long distance and be heard because of the fact that you only went through about five briefs last night, and we don't know when you will adjourn, so some of them are planning to come tomorrow, and if there is a number of them come, then you can attempt to correct them. I know that that was their thinking, and you gave no indication to suggest that there would not be a referendum. I think that was misleading, to say the least.

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, on that answer, did I make them believe that there would be a referendum?

MR. USICK: Yes, you certainly did.

MR. DOWNEY: On this particular issue?

MR. USICK: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. That is not a point of order.
Mr. Einarson.

MR. EINARSON: I don't want to . . . the witness has been here for quite some time, and I just want to ask two questions, very briefly. I hope that I can get a direct answer.

Regardless of the name of an association established, if it were by beef producers in this province, do you believe in a compulsory checkoff of all cattle marketed?

MR. USICK: Not without a vote of producers.

MR. EINARSON: Then I ask you very very forcefully, did you sign or were you signatory to the Commission of Inquiry Report, and the Advisory Committee which recommended financing a beef organization by which a compulsory checkoff of all cattle marketed?

MR. USICK: I signed the report, but the report did not recommend as you suggest or infer in your question, a compulsory organization. There was no organizational structure of that kind at all suggested; we were talking about a levy financing marketing board operation, not a farm organization.

MR. EINARSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, we have here a problem in this committee arising from some comments and statements that were made by the Minister to our witness.

The Minister, in making his comments insinuated some impropriety on the part of this witness with respect to some research project which I didn't quite get what it was, and I think that is very unfair, without the Minister clarifying . . . —(Interjection)— Well, I raise the question of privilege, Mr. Chairman, that a witness may have been slandered here, which is not the purpose of this meeting, and the Minister, I believe, is obligated to either clarify what he was getting at or at least remove any doubt from the minds of anyone present in this room, that there was any impropriety. It is totally and absolutely unfair for the Minister to have made those comments, unless he had something to say of substance, but to leave that kind of innuendo hanging in the public air, is not acceptable, Mr. Chairman.

MR. USICK: I would certainly like to know what he was referring to myself, because I attempted to answer his question and he dropped the matter. I'm not sure what you were referring to?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please, order please. It is my understanding of the rules of procedure that a witness is not allowed to address a point of privilege or other point of procedure.

MR. USKIW: But, Mr. Chairman, I think it's common courtesy that the Minister should be allowed to clarify his statement. I don't think it's proper to allow this witness to go back home without knowing what the Minister was alluding to and leaving some question as to his integrity. —(Interjection)— Well, it's a matter of common decency.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Does the Minister wish to respond?

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MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, I'm talking about a little bit of common sense and decency.

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, I will respond. I think the witness has had the same opportunity to refrain from answering any question that has is being asked of him at this hearing as any other member of the committee or witness to it. For clarification, I was not trying to indicate anything other than the fact that I was asking the witness whether he had been involved in a research project with the government, that's all. And it was clarified that he was, in fact, involved in a research project of grading of cattle, and I'm satisfied with that answer. I've no further questions on it.

MR. USKIW: For the purpose of clarification, can the Minister tell the committee whether in his mind there was any impropriety in that particular arrangement that he alluded to, now that he has raised the question?

MR. DOWNEY: No, it was just as I have said, it was for clarification, and the member has the right to answer or not to answer the witness, or as many witnesses in the past have decided not to answer. I know there has been no inference on the member of the committee at all.

MR. USICK: Well, it's up to the member whether he's satisfied or not.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This completes the examination of this witness. Thank you very much, Mr. Usick.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Claude St. Jacques? Order please. Is Mr. St. Jacques in the audience?

James Bezan. Order please, order please. James Bezan.

Ken Riddell, Ken Riddell?

Richard Klassen. Richard Klassen?

Norman Edie, Norman Edie?

Dorothy Crozier. Dorothy Crozier?

If the committee is still sitting tomorrow morning, these names that are not here go to the bottom of the list and will be considered at that time.

Richard Rattai. Richard Rattai?

Lyle Ross. We can go to the next speaker and he will be considered after the next speaker.

Clarke Robson. Clarke Robson?

A. D. Jones. A.D. Jones?

Mr. Ross, please.

MR. LYLE ROSS: Mr. Chairman, members of the committee. I'm Lyle Ross from Basswood, Manitoba. I farm there with my father who is in the process, I suppose you would say, of retiring. About a week ago he just had a house moved into Minnedosa. I also work together with my brother. The land base at home is 320 acres, a half section, of which at the present time I am renting and have been renting the grain acres. My dad has been a beef producer all his life, I suppose, because he never did anything else other than farm. At the present time he has 12 cows with calves at foot. My brother has 30 cows and his normal practice has been to buy about 20 light-weight calves in late summer, early autumn, and feed them through winter. Often they are sold as two-way cattle, sometimes fed out but often they go at a stage where they would still go back to a feedlot.

I'm presenting this presentation on my own behalf. I do not have a written brief to hand out to the members of the committee. While my presentation is given on my own behalf much of what I have to say and my approach to the discussion on Bill 25 is influenced by the fact that I am a member of the National Farmers Union, Local 516, and I am a national board member for Region 5 which is Manitoba, of the National Farmers Union. I'm sort of debating, sort of thinking about how you open up something like this. I guess I was, having sat through the hearings last night, I was thinking, well, what really is my purpose here? First I thought of what's my purpose back home when I'm there and the purpose of my work on the farm is to create wealth. In that situation my labour is the father of the wealth and the land is the mother.

The purpose of my speaking to this committee is to protect my rights over the wealth that I have created and to influence the conditions upon which that wealth will be shared with the rest of society. To say that that wealth now is shared with the rest of society is a lie. It is more like a case of rape. I have learned that as an individual farmer I have no control over the economic, the political and the social pressures that are put upon me as a farmer. I have learned that I must unite my voice with others of my class so that together we can fight to protect our legitimate rights as farmers and as food producers. Together we can promote the policies that we believe are required

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to ensure that we can live with one another and not off of one another.

I'm not really very disciplined, I guess, at sitting down and writing a comprehensive brief in time that it meets a certain deadline and can be printed up and distributed so from this point on, I'll be touching on areas that are of concern to me in dealing with Bill 25 and in the beef issue, the whole beef industry. While it may wander, I hope that the gist of it comes through. I also have some things that I'll be referring to that I would be prepared to, and would want to table with the committee, as material that the committee can use in its deliberations after these hearings to further this process.

I guess the first thing that I want to touch on is the question of unity and the idea and notion that Bill 25 is one that will unite cattle producers. I can say truthfully that anybody that believes that they are going to unite all cattle producers is living in a dream world. Working from that premise, then given the fact that the beef industry historically has been made up of factions vying with each other for superiority, I suppose you might say, and also influence, and given the fact that I said as a farmer I believe in a philosophy that says I want to live with my neighbour, I don't want to live off of him, I go about the process of uniting farmers by first working with the people that I know that have something in common and common beliefs. My involvement in the NFU and my reading of the history of the farm struggles in Western Canada, leading up to the formation of what now is the National Farmers Union in 1969 from an amalgamation of provincial farm unions, I know that you cannot create unity without people volunteering their support, consciously accepting the responsibilities and the need to be united. So in Bill 25, of course, I reject it as a unifying force because, of course, it's not based on the principle of someone volunteering their support.

Volunteering, to me, when I'm out canvassing for the Farmers Union is going into somebody's farm yard, sitting down with both the husband and a wife, because we are a family unit, explaining the purposes of the Farmers Union, explaining the policies that the people involved in the Farmers Union have developed through their democratic process and through their yearly convention, at which time the policies that are decided on by the delegates are the policies by which all members of the union live and, in particular, the people that are elected as officers of the Union. I sit down and tell them that it's going to cost them \$100 to belong to the Farmers Union and they have the right, which is only theirs, to decide on the basis of the information presented to them, on the basis of what they know about the NFU, to decide to join or to say, "No, we don't want to join."

Needless to say that's not always easy and it's often frustrating because at the present time we find that the farm people are, I suppose you would say, bombarded with all kinds of information, propaganda, about rugged free individuals. They are forced, as a result of the economic system in which they produce and in particular beef producers, if you're talking to a beef producer families, to spend most of their time worrying about how they're going to survive, meet their commitments and meet their debts. So they don't always see beyond the farm gate, as you might say, and one of the things, I guess, that I would like to introduce to this committee are things that I know about in the beef industry that affect my idea of what is required to provide a return for beef producers.

One of those things is what's happening in some of the other parts of the world. . In the Toronto Globe and Mail on December 6 of 1975 there's an article on raising beef on the Bar VW, with Brazil underlined. "Brazil — Raising Beef on the Bar VW." I'd like to read a couple of paragraphs.

"Sao Paulo: In September this year, the U.S. space authorities notified their Brazilian counterparts that large parts of the forest of the Amazonas seemed to be on fire. The Brazilians, alarmed, studied their maps and aerial photographs taken by NASA satellite ERTS. They next pounced on a well-known manufacturer of small, beetle-shaped German cars' long since established in Brazil. 'What are you doing in the Amazonas?' the Brazilians asked. Volkswagen calmly answered, 'Look, we're just burning down a piece of h. forest; we're clearing the jungle for our cattle ranch. It is all in accordance with Brazil's plans for developing the Amazonas regions,' which is absolutely true. Volkswagen . . . and this was as of 1975, the end of 1975. I don't know how the situation exists today. Land was cheap there; at its lowest, Amazonas land sold for \$1.00 a hectare — 50 cents an acre. Volkswagen bought 160,000 hectares for its ranch at Rio Crystallino. Georgia-Pacific, a U.S. company, bought 500,000 hectares. Italian Liquid Gas bought 680,000 hectares. Japanese Toyomenka, 300,000 hectares."

That's part of the information that I have come across that affects what I think is happening in the beef industry, and that also affects the positions I take within my own community and within these hearings as to what is required in Manitoba. It's going to look a little bit strange, me standing up here saying that I just want everybody to stay free of the marketplace. I don't want any government involvement. If I take over my Dad's 12 cows and 320 acres, of which 100 is not suitable for cropland, to think that I'm going to compete with the Volkswagen Corporation or Italian Liquid Gas or DelTec in Brazil, and produce beef, and compete on an equal basis.

Another thing that I think has to be put on the record in a way, as to why I take the positions I do on the beef question. I refer now to an article in the Montreal Star, Saturday, January 22, 1977. In a report of the Quebec Police Commission Commission Inquiry into organized crime, it

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says: "Fortunes involved, says witness. Probe told of Obront's wide business links." I have a picture of one Willie Obront and one side of documents presented at the Quebec Police Commission Inquiry showing the deposits in nine bank accounts, that William Obront in documents in alleged to be Willie Obront. Willie Obront is known as one person very involved and very influential in the meat business in Montreal. "The most startling new evidence came at the end of the week from a witness who said that Obront controlled incredible amounts of money, and that he had direct or indirect interests in dozens of Montreal area companies.

"Other testimony given during the week . . . " — these are excerpts from this article in the Montreal Star — "Other testimony given during the week indicated that Obront had more than just a casual relationship with two alleged underworld kingpins, Paolo Violi and Vincenzo Cotroni."

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would remind the witness that we are considering Bill 25, and I would ask you to direct your remarks as closely as possible to the bill under consideration. If you can relate your experiences and your information to the bill for the benefit of the Committee, it would be more helpful.

MR. ROSS: Well, I can sort of finish off this, Mr. Chairman, by saying that I would like to table these photocopies of articles from the Montreal Star, also one from the Leader-Post, Regina, Friday, February 4, 1977.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Those documents are newspaper articles which are public documents, and are not therefore necessary to be tabled.

MR. ROSS: All right. I would just like it on the record then, that one of the things that I accept as a reality in the beef industry in Canada and in North America and in the world, is the involvement of organized crime, a very influential involvement in the mechanisms, the marketings and the production of beef.

A number of people referred — well, it has been referred by other Committee members and by other witnesses, I guess, that Manitoba is the only major beef producing province without an organization of cattle producers, a well funded organization, financed by a levy. I have information from the Alberta Cattle Commission which is financed by a compulsory levy on all cattle marketed in Alberta, and also from the Saskatchewan Checkoff Trust Fund. The evidence clearly indicates that the majority of the funds collected in both of those instances have ended up going directly or indirectly to the Canadian Cattlemen's Association. I do not agree with the positions of the Canadian Cattlemen's Association, and therefore I have to question the validity of setting up a similar situation in Manitoba to finance an organization and the interests of an organization which I do not support.

Further to that, and I suppose in a sense going back to the unity debate, it's also come clear in Alberta just recently, where the Alberta Cattle Commission applied for and has been accepted in the UniFarm in Alberta, which would be close to the equivalent of the Manitoba Farm Bureau here, and while I have my ideological differences as to how farm organizations should be structured, preferring and believing that they have to be direct membership organizations controlled by the members, it's I think important to point out that once the Alberta Cattle Commission was accepted into UniFarm, and they were accepted in on the basis that their policy on beef would be the ruling policy on beef in UniFarm, that it has set up a direct conflict of interest within the UniFarm organization in Alberta, because on the one hand you have the Alberta Cattle Commission as a member, with a policy advocating the — for instance, the Alberta Cattle Commission supports the continued development of an open, competitive market for feed grains. You have the Alberta Wheat Pool also as a member of UniFarm, which has as its foundation a policy advocating orderly marketing for grain. You set up a situation which cannot be resolved without the organization ultimately breaking apart. I suppose, because of my ideological differences, I should say, well, better that the same thing happens in Manitoba and the Farm Bureau will have to face those problems, and will ultimately fall apart, but that is not the point, because in struggling with that particular question, and because the organization and the structure of the organization is not set up to resolve those differences, ultimately it will mean all farmers are more divided, rather than more united. I feel it's important that I make those comments, in light of Bill 25, if this organization is set up, if they accept as part of their policy an open market for feed grains, if they apply for membership in the Farm Bureau, if it sets up a contradiction between the Manitoba Pool Elevators' orderly marketing policy and the Beef Association's open market policy, then I feel that will lead to the division of farmers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would remind this witness that he has five minutes.

MR. ROSS: Okay. I would like to also, in addition to the press article, I would like to table this

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for the use of the Committee. It is not a press article, it's in information compiled by the National Farmers Union, which I think would be useful.

Okay. I'll end off then just by talking that my concern really is food. I am opposed to Bill 25; I don't believe it's going to unify farmers, I believe it's going to divide them. I do not believe in the compulsory aspects of it. I do not believe that advertising food, promoting food, is advantageous or is useful as a way of spending money, although you might say that the advertising that we now have, if you watch television for a day — and I suppose many people do on a sustained basis and particularly people from urban environments — may get the impression that the necessities of life are clean wash, deodorant that keeps you from smelling for 24 hours, a cottage at the lake, whatever else. And those are ingrained then in their minds as necessities, and because they don't see food as a necessity, and yet because we haven't developed a system yet where people can live as human beings and continue to live without eating — they get hungry — and so then they go outside, they suddenly say, "Well, I'm hungry, so I'll go out and buy some beef." But television hasn't told them that beef is a necessity, and while they're prepared to pay any price at all for what they perceive as necessities from TV, they go out and buy beef and they're hungry, and they don't have much money, so then they complain. And I think that Bill 25 is not going to solve the problems of beef producers; it's not going to solve the problems of consumers being able to afford food. It's going to perpetuate the system that we now have which I have indicated is influenced by organized crime; it's going to play into the hands of international corporate companies who act as world traders; it's going to continue, I guess, a philosophy that in order to survive, farmers have to chew up their neighbours and that's not a philosophy that I, as an individual, am prepared to support. That's really, I guess, enough to say.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for your brief, Mr. Ross. Will you submit to questions from the members of this committee?

MR. ROSS: Yes, I would.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do any members of this committee have questions for Mr. Ross? Mr. Uskiw.

MR. USKIW: Yes, I wish to ask my standard question, just for further clarification, and that is whether you would support the principle that government should introduce laws that place people into an association not of their own choosing. I'm not talking about cattle, let me clarify, sir. Traditionally legislators have been very reluctant to use government as an instrument to introduce private associations or private clubs or organizations. Traditionally, legislators have allowed that particular question to rest with a private member who may wish to introduce such a measure and hope to receive majority support but whatever happens to it, it doesn't carry the status of government support. As a matter of principle, do you think that we should break that tradition, a long-standing tradition, as is now being done in Bill 25?

MR. ROSS: No.

MR. USKIW: Let me then ask you the other question: If 100 percent of the producers voted for this measure, should a government give its stamp of approval in the form that it is in Bill 25?

MR. ROSS: No.

MR. USKIW: Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Any further members wish to question Mr. Ross? There being none, thank you very much for your presentation, Mr. Ross.

MR. ROSS: Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: As I recall, before we heard Mr. Ross' brief, I called the names of Clarke Robson and A.D. Jones who did not appear to be present. Is that still the case?

Darlene Henderson. Mrs. Henderson.

MRS. DARLENE HENDERSON: Yes, I'm Darlene Henderson. Before I begin, I will try to show why I have a right to speak to this committee concerning Bill 25. There are some people on this committee who may feel that for a brief to have credibility, it must be presented by a beef producer. I am not a beef producer. My husband and I grain farm 1 ¼ sections at Sinclair, Manitoba. We are constituents of the Arthur riding, Mr. Downey's riding. We are members of the National Farmers

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Union, Local 506, and we feel strongly that Bill 25 is an example of a denial of freedom of Manitobans, therefore, I would be negating my responsibility as a citizen of this province if I did not object to Bill 25. When I speak as "we" in the brief, I am referring to my husband and I.

May we suggest, Mr. Chairman, that Mr. Downey has been totally irresponsible, not only to the beef producers of Manitoba but to all Manitobans. I would like to clearly outline why we suggest that Mr. Downey has been an example of a poor legislator and has neglected his responsibility, not only to his constituents of Arthur riding as their representative, but as well has negated his responsibility as the Agricultural Minister of this province.

Mr. Downey, as a Minister, as a member of the official government, has introduced a bill in the Legislature legislating for the formation of a commodity group proposed to be known as the Cattle Producers Association. This clearly demonstrates, perhaps because of his innocence as a recently elected member, his unawareness of the fact that this is not proper procedure, traditional procedure, for a government to pursue. Had this bill been introduced as a Private Members' Bill whereupon the members of the this Legislative Assembly could have voted freely without the restriction of Party affiliation, then it would have been evident to Manitobans that this Bill 25 was not in effect a payoff to a select group of elite businessmen who parade under the banner of the Manitoba Beef Growers. However, due to whatever reasons Mr. Downey may be able to suggest as reasonable to explain his course of action, the Minister of Agriculture did introduce Bill 25. Therefore, he alone must accept the responsibility for this horrendous piece of oppressive legislation.

To explain why Manitobans have a right to claim that this is poor legislation is evident by the very fact that although this government promised in their mandate to the people of Manitoba that they would enshrine the basic principle of freedom in all of their legislation, it becomes evident that this government has no intention of offering freedom to any one except a select group of people. It is a miscarriage of justice and equality to suggest this new group proposed for the purpose of benefitting some beef producers will not receive preferred treatment from the present Government of Manitoba by the very nature through which the association is to be created. That means evidently, Mr. Downey, that any other group of producers in Manitoba, because they did not "have the good fortune to be formulated via a government bill," may have to take second place to this association. In other words, any one who may have the foresight and the fortitude to disagree with this association will be second-class citizens in "free Manitoba."

It has been suggested that any beef producer who does not wish to contribute to the beef checkoff may request a refund, however, a point which has been missed is that under Section 7(1) when information is demanded of a beef producer, it is compulsory that that information be supplied and if it is not, a producer may be sent to jail. However ludicrous as it may seem, it has been further suggested to this committee, as an amendment, that a fine would be more desirable than a jail sentence. We fail to see what difference the form of punishment makes when the principle of freedom is destroyed.

The dictatorial authoritarian power of this organization sets a precedent in Manitoba for here is the proposed formation of a so-called private organization which would not be answerable in any way to the government and namely to the Minister of Agriculture of the day, or to the Manitoba Legislature. This organization will have the power to make political statements which will affect not only beef producers but all people of Manitoba. The beef producer who has not opted out may have some limited recourse but what recourse will be available to other farmers and/or citizens who may not agree with the philosophy of this group.

A point of very great significance and interest in the bill is the exemption clause of Section 12(2) which allows for sales from farmer to farmer to be exempt in this checkoff fee. Does that mean that the producer of purebred cattle who deals mostly in farmer-to-farmer sales will be exempt from this organization? Are the producers of pedigree cattle still another elite group of Manitoba society to receive special privileges from this association and therefore from this government? May we point out, Mr. Chairman, to Mr. Downey, that we believe in the freedom of association, however, one of the founding principles of the organization to which we belong, the National Farmers Union, is that membership in farm organizations should be voluntary. Only by having a voluntary membership does an organization stand on its own merit, responsible and responsive to its membership. In our view, an association which calls for compulsion as its requirement of membership creates the potential for discrimination and harrassment of the member who chooses to opt out of that organization.

Mr. Chairman, we must reiterate that the credibility of this Progressive Conservative Government will be seriously damaged if this committee allows this bill to become law.

In conclusion, we feel that the Progressive Conservative Government has been elected as a body responsible to its people and we feel that with guidance from the populace, you will be very responsible.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mrs. Henderson. Will you submit to questions from members of this

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committee.

MRS. HENDERSON: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are there any questions to Mrs. Henderson from the members of this committee? Mr. Uskiw.

MR. USKIW: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I merely want to put the question of whether you believe that any organization should be set up by an Act of the government, of any government, if it is indeed a private organization.

MRS. HENDERSON: Would you clarify that question?

MR. USKIW: Yes, well again, there are many private organizations in existence in Manitoba today and throughout the country but they have not been brought into being by the passage of a government piece of legislation. They have been brought into being by a Private Members' Bill or under The Coanies' Act but not enshrined with the status of government support and therefore maintains the government's neutrality with respect to that association, or any association in existence at the time. This particular piece of legislation breaks that very long-standing tradition in that this legislation virtually enshrines The Cattlemen's Association as the group that shall, from hereon, represent the cattlemen of this province and be recognized as the only association to represent cattlemen. That is the point of my question, whether that is acceptable to you.

MRS. HENDERSON: No.

MR. USKIW: Yes, okay.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do any other members of this committee have questions for Mrs. Henderson? There being none, thank you very much, Mrs. Henderson.

The next name on my list is Lorne Parker. ,§

MR. LORNE PARKER: Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee, I must apologize that I don't have a typed brief to leave with you. I sat here for the last three evenings making some notes and I intend to work from those.

I farm at Ste. Agathe, as most of you know, together with my wife, my son and my daughter-in-law. We operate about a 1,500 acre grain and beef cattle farm at that location. As a matter of interest and to forestall at least one question, we normally fatten out between 100 and 300 head of cattle per year. To date, in 1978, I think we have marketed 200 head.

My first involvement with a cattle organization was with the Manitoba Stock Growers, as a member. I was elected to their board in 1971. I accepted nomination to that board with one objective high on my list of priorities, to do what I could do to help create a unified properly-funded, articulate and effective cattle organization in the Province of Manitoba and I think we are pretty close. I was at the meeting in Brandon on February 15th, 1972, when five farm groups met to discuss the possibility of forming one strong cattle organization. The NFU was represented at that meeting by Harold Proven from Basswood, Bud Miller from Stockton and Barry Blixhavn from Killarney.

A steering committee was struck, chaired initially by myself, which eventually resulted in the amalgamation of four existing cattle organizations into the Manitoba Beef Growers. Their first board meeting, incidentally, was held on December 27, 1972. The NFU participated in one or two meetings of the steering committee and then opted out.

I wrote the Premier of the province on February 28th of that year and I have that letter with me and I'd like to read it to you. —(Interjection)— 1972.

"I have enclosed a list of those people involved in a recent livestock meeting at Brandon. The meeting was held with a view to establishing closer working relationships between the various farm groups involved in the production and marketing of beef cattle.

"A steering committee was struck and all groups agreed to participate. The subject of checkoffs was not on our agenda but it had a thorough discussion over coffee. As I said at the Farm Bureau meeting with your Cabinet, the hangup on checkoffs for beef promotion seems to be the fact that many members of the National Farmers Union do not believe in spending their money for this specific purpose. Personally, I believe they are mistaken but I do respect their wish to opt out if they do not wish to contribute.

"At the same time, speaking both for the stockgrowers and the Manitoba Farm Bureau, I earnestly hope your government will reconsider the beef producers request for a voluntary checkoff. We are prepared to suggest a detailed plan."

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The letter was replied to by the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Uskiw, on March 20th of the same year, of 1972. I won't read it all. He says he has been asked to reply. "As you know," he says, "the reason why I have not been able to proceed with any proposal for a checkoff on beef cattle is the fact that there has been considerable disagreement among some of the groups with respect to how funds from such a checkoff would be used and by whom such a fund would be administered.

"I would like to say at this time that if the groups which were listed in the letter that you forwarded are able to come to an agreement such a checkoff system might be workable. Then I would certainly be willing to give further consideration to its possible implementation."

With this encouragement from the government of the day the Manitoba Beef Growers at its first board meeting in December of 1972 set up a legislative committee. As Chairman of that committee, I can advise this group that it took a year, or a little more, and some eight meetings with the Manitoba Marketing Board to come up with a plan which was acceptable to both the sponsoring producers and the Manitoba Marketing Board.

In discussions with the Minister of Agriculture of the day, I think he made two points to our committee. One, he said if you don't succeed the first time try and try again. That's why I am here tonight. And reference was also made to the struggle that potato producers — and I believe at that time he was a potato producer — went through to get themselves organized. I haven't forgotten that conversation and I don't intend to. Secondly, he insisted that there be no opt out provision because, he argued, the big producers would opt out and leave the little guy carrying the load. I find it rather odd that he is now arguing the other way.

As you know, a plan was developed and voted on in 1974. It failed to carry, but I have said down here 42 percent — I notice Rudy Usick said 43 — of those voting did support the proposal. Not bad, considering that there was absolutely no help from the Minister or his department in attempting to explain — not sell it but at least explain the plan to 14,000 or 15,000 producers — with the exception of financing the direct costs of the referendum and mailing a covering letter. And I believe that was read previously to this committee.

Considering the major effort that was made by Mr. Uskiw and his department to get a "yes" vote for a more recent proposal, our 42 percent in favour in 1974 I think compares very well with the 24 percent in favour in 1977.

I should point out that the Manitoba Cow-Calf Association and the Manitoba Beef Growers jointly approached the Manitoba Marketing Board in late 1975 with a plan almost identical to the one voted on in 1974. We were advised by letter from Mr. Craig Lee, secretary of the Manitoba Marketing Board on September 5, 1975, as follows:

"The board decided to refer the plan to the Manitoba Livestock and Meat Commission for a review of the proposal and the role the association may have. The commission is expected to report in the not too far distant future and the board decided to reserve a decision on the timetable for the proposed vote until the commission reports.

"As I indicated to you on September 3rd, I feel we would still be able to hold a vote no later than April, 1976."

Signed by Craig Lee, Secretary.

No referendum was held in 1976, but after a series of meetings held with producers by the Manitoba Joint Livestock Committee a proposal put forward by the Minister was voted on in 1977. It is unfortunate that the 1977 referendum did not test out the beef grower cow-calf plan at the same time as the proposal that was voted on.

I relate this history, Mr. Chairman, in an attempt to show this committee that cattle producers have worked long and hard in an attempt to create an effective organization. After seven years of frustration in trying to attain that goal under an NDP administered Natural Products Marketing Act, both the Cow-Calf Association and the Beef Growers decided to support a special Act of the Legislature as the preferred vehicle. Our two boards appointed a committee of five with myself as Chairman. We developed a proposal, tested it as widely as was practical, and this has had some discussion with this committee, and presented it to government in a manner similar to our earlier proposals to the Manitoba Marketing Board.

Bill 25 is, of course, a government bill, similar, I should say, in principle but not in detail, to our suggestions. In general, Bill 25 has very similar definitions, purposes, objects and powers to our 1974 proposal. Bill 25 may not be perfect in the eyes of some but it's workable, I think. It is democratic and the need is now for action, not procrastination.

Charlie Mayer suggested two possible amendments regarding penalty provisions and definition of registered producers. I support those suggestions.

There is one other area of possible amendment that I should like to comment upon, and it pertains to Section 7(1)(a). I have always regarded information as crucial to sound farm management decisions. I'd like to repeat that. I think information is crucial to producers if they are going to make good on-farm management decisions. Information regarding cattle statistics in Canada is notoriously

I believe that cattle producers would have more faith in an information reporting system run by their own association than one run by government. We need these powers in the bill even though they may only be partly used, as was suggested by a previous speaker. We want to be assured that we continue to get price information from the packing coanies in this province so that we can report those rail prices and hopefully live prices to producers.

The same goes for retail chain store margins. By gentle persuasion the beef growers have been getting some of this information and reporting it through their phone-in rail price service — a first, I think, in Canada. If I might say so, paid for by a very limited number of producers, in essence, out of their own pockets.

No elected board of responsible cattlemen is out to antagonize the processing or retailing industry but we need the clout, just in case. Manitoba is still the only province presently reporting rail price info. An elected board would be doubly careful, under this bill, not to antagonize producers. They don't want members to opt out because of extra bookkeeping, and of course, they have to stand for re-election, I would suggest every two years.

It seems highly unlikely that it would be worthwhile to penalize a small producer to get information, but if an outfit like Klassen Feedlots or Parkdale Farms, in that case, the elected board might well feel that that information was worth going after, and I might say that that information is coming forward voluntarily right now.

I suggest a monetary penalty ranging up to \$2,000 would be adequate. I might add further that the beef growers' record of confidentiality in regard to its rail price information would also have to pertain to its dealings with producers. As the bill is now written the only appeal is to the government and Legislature. I must point out that powers given can be taken away, if abused. I, for one, am very conscious of that fact. If you decide, in your wisdom, to amend this section, for goodness sakes, don't pull all its teeth and destroy one of the most useful functions of the proposed association.

In line 4, Section 7(1)(a) where it now says "as the association requires" could be amended to read "as the association may reasonably require for the purpose of achieving its objects and exercising its powers under this Act." If an information reporter refused to submit information with this kind of wording the onus would be not on the information reporter but on the association to prove in court that the specific information was vital to the economic well-being of producers generally.

Considerable thought has been given by my committee to possible administrative by-law and this was talked about earlier tonight. I think that Mr. Usick will recall that when we made our 1974 proposal and plan to the Manitoba Marketing Board, I believe we were the only commodity group that ever submitted a detailed administrative by-law, and we did it obviously because we, as other people have expressed here and really speaking in opposition, we wanted to be sure that it would be a fully democratic organization. In recent weeks, we have pulled that administrative by-law off the shelf simply to have a look at it and see how much of it would have to be changed and, frankly, very little of it would have to be changed because the objects and principles are almost identical and I think that is the extent of that exercise.

In view of the question and answer of the last two evenings, I would like to make two or three additional comments. I noted that three times as many cattlemen supported our proposal for a new organization and checkoff in 1974, as there are presently members of the National Farmers Union — 2,400 and something, as compared to 800 — and all NFU members are not beef producers. The combined membership of the Beef Growers, the Cow-Calf Association, and the various purebred associations, I estimate, is at least half and probably over half. At one time the Cow-Calf people said they had something over 4,000 and I believe we presently have 1,900 on our list. I don't know how many are in the purebred associations, but it would certainly add half.

Secondly, there seems to be a concern in your committee, Mr. Chairman, that every producer wasn't consulted by the board of his organization, as to whether he supports Bill 25. In most cattle organizations in this province, that would be impossible, given our present state of financing and lack of paid employees or manpower. In principle, there is no doubt that the vast majority of members of the above-named organizations support Bill 25. The final decision in going with a proposal was left up to elected officials and that, in my opinion, is exactly what they were elected for, and they will stand for re-election on whether they did right or wrong. I am perfectly prepared, and I make no apology for supporting that approach.

Thirdly, Mrs. Skelton made the point that farmers won't participate unless they are involved in the planning, and I agree with her. Mrs. Nicholson said there was no opportunity for input. They are both misinformed. As I related near the beginning of my remarks, three members of the NFU were initially involved when we started talking checkoff in 1972. This year, at a meeting in Manitoba Pool Elevator's board room, with a cross-section of cattle organization personnel and Manitoba Pool directors and staff present, I informed Brad McDonald, Lyle Ross, and Keith Proven, that we were again pursuing our new organization and checkoff. Our invitation for them to work with us and that

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one or more NFU nominees be submitted as ' possibilities to the Minister, if the bill passes, for the interim board, was rejected. If you can't involve elected officials, it is hard to involve their membership.

Tony Riley said that the Manitoba Cattle Producers Association would use the checkoff money against the Cow-Calf men. As one who has worked hard on a volunteer basis in an attempt to build a strong cattle organization, I resent that statement and it is the only one that has made, I think, in all these hearings, that I would say that of. I regard it as totally untrue, inflammatory, and divisive. We have an opportunity to build upon Bill 25. There is no way that I, for one, will be party to an association that smacks of special privilege, or vested interest. I hope that my record and that of my family connections bears out that statement.

Mr. Riley suggested that under Section 8, feedlot operators could be exempted. The real reason for this clause was because some districts, in particular, of the present Cow-Calf Association, to be precise, it came particularly from east of the Red River and south of Highway No. 1, seemed to have a good system of communication developed. They wanted to be sure that this system could continue to function within the new organization, even if it did not appeal to other districts.

Charlie Mayer mentioned things an association might well do, but he didn't mention one that I think is worth mentioning if the committee is not already fully aware of it. There is an organization based in Saskatoon known as VIDO, or the Veterinary Infectious Disease Organization. A circular that I got from them just in the last two or three days points out, again, that the facilities there were funded — the buildings were put up by a charitable organization — but all operating costs are covered by an appeal to producer organizations, provincial and federal governments. I regret that neither the Manitoba government, and both the past and present Minister or the Federal Government, have put a nickel into operating costs. But I doubly regret getting these kinds of things, as a member of a producer organization, and not having a nickel to spend, because I know that if we could put in \$4,000 or \$5,000 as producers, we would have tremendous leverage with the Department of Agriculture in cranking out some money to support it, if producers in this province thought it was worthwhile. If you put up a buck, you are liable to get at least a matching one, and I can't give you a better one. One of their major research projects has been on calf scours, and I think they are a problem in Manitoba and certainly, Mr. Adam, they are a problem in your area, and, you know' it is these types of things that we need to. . .

Mr. Adam was concerned that a flat fee of, you know, 10 or 15 or 25 cents a head, was not fair. I share your concern. I favour and always have favoured a percentage fee, say one-tenth of 1 percent. But the interesting point is that on the committee that I am involved in in sharing, and there are three cow-calf producers on the committee, they are the ones who insisted that we recommend that the initial fee be a straight per-head deduction. But what I really want to point out is that the amount of a fee, after the first annual meeting or subsequent annual meetings, if you want to put it that way, will be entirely up to the kind of administration by-law that is in force or is amended by that annual meeting, and a 60 percent vote at an annual meeting, I think, should be sufficient to amend. So it will be under the control of producers. It could be a percentage, it could be a per-head, and it could be amended in light of the job that was to be done.

I think, also, Sir, you were concerned about the directors' term of office. If I had my druthers, I would vote for a two-year term. I think if there are 14 districts, that those terms should be staggered so that you are electing half that board each year.

Mrs. Larson pointed out how difficult it was to keep a volunteer association alive and I have had some experience on that one, too, that is the history of volunteer associations. Her concerns of producer control, one man vote regardless of size, are totally in line, I might say, with the thinking of my committee and of myself.

Rudy Usick suggested, I think, that a change in the administrative by-law would take, you know, a vote of 100 percent at an annual meeting. I don't where he got that idea but I certainly wouldn't be a party to that. My own suggestion, again, and that of my committee, if the time came, or if we were a part of the board, would be a 60 percent figure.

I think, Mr. Chairman, I would like to conclude, if I might, and if I have about 30 seconds left

. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have five minutes.

MR. PARKER: I don't need five minutes. . . . with a few brief quotes from a very recent editorial in that famous paper, The Manitoba Co-operator, which I understand goes to most farmers in the province. I don't know whether you have all read it but if you didn't, I think you should. Dated July 6, 1978: "A recent headline in the Michigan Milk Messenger, the official publication of the Milk Producers Association, carries a message that might well be pondered by Canadian farmers as well as their counterparts in the U.S. The message was: Protesting farmers reap harvest of congressional ill-will and bitterness. Under that headline, an article began by saying that Congress had decided

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that it was running the country instead of militant, demonstrative, minority groups. It was referring, of course, to demonstrations staged by the American Agricultural Movement."

I'll skip a paragraph or two: "The farmer demonstrators, according to the article, got a bucketful of press clips, gobs of television attention, but in the end drew a deep reservoir of resentment and ill-will. One farm organization official was quoted as saying he hoped he never heard of a farmer again. The lesson to be learned here is that headlines do not constitute success, nor do they measure the effectiveness of a campaign. In Canada, there are a large number of general and farm commodity organizations which have established effective communications with government. They have grown over the years to understand public relations, and the best way of achieving the desired objectives of their various members, but normally they do not generate headlines."

It is quite obvious that I agree with the sentiments expressed in that editorial and I think that is the way that farm organizations should operate and function.

That's the gist of my remarks, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for your presentation, Mr. Parker. Will you submit to questions from members of this committee?

MR. PARKER: Yes, I will, with the proviso that those questions are, you know, limited to two or three or four from each member and that there are no long speeches. If they are short and snappy, I'll try to answer them in the same way.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, I raise a matter of order here. The witness does not have to answer any questions if he wishes not to, but I don't think it is proper for this committee to receive admonitions from a witness that they will only do certain things if we do certain things. The witness is free to answer questions or to refuse to answer them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I was about to, before you did draw that to our attention, Mr. Uskiw, point that out to our witness. If our members are willing to put questions to Mr. Parker. . . Mr. Adam.

MR. ADAM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I only had a couple of points to make on the remarks presented by Mr. Parker, in that he referred to comments that I made with regard to my concern. The reason I raised those points was that there is nothing in the bill - that suggests that a term of office will be two years. It is entirely up to a board, some board that may be appointed in the future, to decide what that term of office will be. The only point that I was making was that it is possible, if they so desire, to make their term of office for five years or ten years, and the legislation doesn't say otherwise. That's the only point I was raising.

MR. PARKER: I am quite aware of that, and in response and in fairness, I thought that I should indicate to you what the general thinking of the people who are proposing it had in mind. And that is why I answered that way.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Does that complete your questions, Mr. Adam? Do any other members of this committee wish to question this witness? Mr. Uruski.

MR. URUSKI: , y Mr. Parkerou have indicated that in your opinion — that is, would it be the general thinking of the people who would formulate the by-laws that there would be a provision to allow matters to be raised at district meetings which would not be part of the regular agenda items for the annual meeting? If members wanted to raise new issues at an annual meeting, would a provision of that nature be made?

MR. PARKER: I would anticipate that would be possible at both the district meetings and the annual meeting. I might add further, and I forgot to look at the bill now, whether our suggested year end is in there or not, but I think it would help if I did describe some of the thinking of cattle producers in that regard. We favour a June 30th year end to allow staff to compile an annual report, a financial statement, a record of activities of the past year. We feel strongly, and when a previous witness, I noted, made that point, that the notice of district meetings where elections would take place, should be accompanied by that annual report, to every registered producer in that district. Is that helpful — what you were getting at?

MR. URUSKI: Yes, it is helpful, but I'm wondering, in addition to that, if there are producers at that annual meeting, would the thinking that you are proposing allow for items to be raised that producers who may just come to the meeting and be able to discuss with their elected representatives annually, would there be a provision to allow for other matters to be raised at the annual

MR. PARKER: Yes.

MR. URUSKI: That's the thinking.

MR. PARKER: Yes.

MR. URUSKI: Could you tell me whose thinking that represents?

MR. PARKER: Which?

MR. URUSKI: Well, you spoke about "we;" whose thinking . . . ?

MR. PARKER: Oh. My reference is strictly to the committee that was struck, two from the Beef Growers, two from the Cow-Calf Association, with myself as Chairman, but our ideas, of course, have been tested with both the boards and as widely as was practical in the time that was available to us.

MR. URUSKI: So then, are you confirming the list of by-laws that were distributed here by a previous witness would be a general guideline of what are to be the by-laws of the association.?

MR. PARKER: Well, what I'm pointing out is that the administrative by-laws that we tabled with the marketing board in 1974, to my way of thinking, would be almost identical to any proposed by-laws, if it was coming from the same sponsoring groups today, because the objects and powers in this bill are almost identical. And that's as far as it's gone.

MR. URUSKI: Would you then be opposed in the legislation, if the producers at their annual meeting would want to extend the powers of their association, would you be opposed to the removal of Section — I believe it is 6(2) of the legislation?

MR. PARKER: If you're asking me whether I, or my . . .

MR. URUSKI: Should it come back to the Legislature, or should the producers themselves not have the right to do as they feel at their annual meetings?

MR. PARKER: In our judgment, at the present time to put in those powers would be divisive, because it's been very obvious at this hearing there are mixed feelings on those marketing powers. I honestly believe that if you had this kind of a cattle organization functioning effectively — let's say 70, 75 percent or whatever, hadn't opted out — and they went to an annual meeting, and they passed a resolution recommending to the Board of the organization that they approach the Legislature of the day and seek those powers, we'd be in a much stronger position, both as government and as cattle organizations, to make that kind of a suggestion. It would be an indication that there was that degree of consensus.

MR. URUSKI: Okay. But what you are saying to me is — or am I reading you right? — that in view of the presentations that have been made at these hearings, it's all right to have views that may be contrary to this legislation, and those be discounted, but only those views that support this legislation would be the ones that will be carried in the legislation. Is that what you're telling me?

MR. PARKER: Well, you're going to have to make a judgment of how strong the support for those two positions are. That's not our decision.

MR. URUSKI: But are you not, in the formation of this association, are you not saying in your presentation that you want cattlemen to run their own industry?

MR. PARKER: You betcha.

MR. URUSKI: If you want that, then why are you restricting yourself and indicating that you support the restrictions that are included in this bill? Why do you not indicate that whatever powers your association desires, leave it wide open and then you decide as to what you shall do with respect to your association?

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MR. PARKER: Because at the moment, we think that that particular power would be extremely divisive, and if there's one thing we need, it's to try and get some consensus within the industry. It's as simple as that.

MR. URUSKI: Well then, would you not agree that there have been presentations to this committee that have also represented views of cattlemen, which feel this bill is very divisive because it restricts the provision that is within this bill, that the restriction that is contained in this bill creates a divisiveness?

MR. PARKER: I respect their point of view, yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Do any other members of this Committee wish to question this witness? There being none — Mr. Uskiw.

MR. USKIW: Yes. Mr. Parker, you indicated that you market approximately 100 to 300 cattle yearly. Are you talking about fat cattle only, or are you involved in the cow-calf end of it as well?

MR. PARKER: Only fat calf.

MR. USKIW: Only fat calf. So then, you would normally — well, you would obviously buy these cattle somewhere.

MR. PARKER: Yes.

MR. USKIW: If we're talking about the need to unify the industry under one association, do you not see a natural conflict as between the seller of feeder cattle and the buyer of feeder cattle, in the same association?

MR. PARKER: No, I don't, because our present board makeup — and there's 14 on the board of the Beef Growers — I think would be about eight cow-calf men, and the balance would be people that run feedlots of various sizes.

MR. USKIW: The present makeup of which board, sir?

MR. PARKER: Of the Manitoba Beef Growers.

MR. USKIW: But we're not talking about the Beef Growers.

MR. PARKER: No, but you . . .

MR. USKIW: We're talking about this association right now.

MR. PARKER: What I'm saying is that my experience over the years would indicate that we have little choice but to work together. Not everybody wants to feed cattle out; some do, right through, and pick up the margins along the way.

MR. USKIW: Is it not correct' sir, that if you are in a tight market situation, that the person that gets hurt the most is the cow-calf operator?

MR. PARKER: I can't answer that question, I'm not a cow-calf operator. What I can tell you, though, is that I have lost as much as \$75, \$80 a head on cattle that I've fattened, and I've also made that much. I think they're both very high-risk enterprises.

MR. USKIW: But is it not a fact, sir, that the cow-calf end of the operation is much more high risk than the feedlot operation?

MR. PARKER: From a practical point of view, and not having any experience, I don't think I can answer it, sir, and I doubt whether you can.

MR. USKIW: Well, is it not a fact, though, that in the feedlot system, you may decide to opt out of feeding at a period when you believe that you cannot make any money . . .

MR. PARKER: That's true.

MR. USKIW: So that the most you can get hurt on is one cycle, or whatever.

MR. PARKER: Yes, but if you jump in and out, you'd better guess right, or you're going to hit it wrong every time. We've had some feedlot operators like that in the Province of Manitoba and they're no longer in business.

MR. USKIW: I appreciate the risk, but is it not also correct that it's not easy to opt out of the cow-calf end of the business?

MR. PARKER: It's more difficult.

MR. USKIW: It's much more difficult, and it's costly to opt out as well as to opt back in.

MR. PARKER: I hope you get the questions that are important, Mr. Uskiw, because otherwise, you're going to miss your opportunity.

MR. USKIW: Well, sir, if you choose not to answer the question, sir, that is your privilege.

MR. PARKER: But I think you have some that are somewhat more vital than the ones you are asking.

MR. USKIW: Well, no, I think it's — we are talking about the need for the unification of the industry. Now, it seems to me it's important to determine how two groups, one buying from the other group, or one selling to the other group, are going to be able to function in this association in the kind of harmony that you foresee, and that's the basis for those questions.

MR. PARKER: Okay. The best way is to get them all around one table. If I was writing the administrative by-law, and I'm not, amongst other things, I would insist, or try to — you know, get my point of view across, that there should be at least five standing committees, one of which would be cow-calf and one of which would be feedlot.

MR. USKIW: Well, then, let me ask you this obvious question. You believe that this bill will serve to unify the industry. Should there be a provision in the bill that cancels it automatically, should it not accomplish that objective, within a given period of time?

MR. PARKER: I think that one's automatic, and that question has been answered before. If we can't retain support, we don't deserve to exist.

MR. USKIW: Well. But my point, sir, is this, that you may retain a measure of support, but there still may continue to be several other organizations speaking for cattlemen in Manitoba, and if that is the case, some time down the road, after this bill has been operative, will that be the evidence that would suggest to you, sir, that we should then repeal this legislation?

MR. PARKER: You're going to have to take a look at the measure of support for the various organizations.

MR. USKIW: You indicated in your comments that there were four existing cattlemen's associations that through dialogue, eventually amalgamated into the Manitoba Beef Growers Association. If that was successful, then why wouldn't it be preferential to continue that approach as opposed to a compulsory legislative approach?

MR. PARKER: Maybe Parker, for one, has run out of steam, and there were a few others that have said that. But I would point out that one of the conditions of my agreeing to act on the Board of the Stock Growers was that they agree to seek amalgamation of those three groups, and we did pull that off, and that's more than anybody else can stand up and say. We're not creating new organizations; that isn't my object and never has been.

MR. USKIW: No, but I agree with you sir. You have been very successful, and since the voluntary approach has been successful, it seems to me that it would be logical to pursue it that much more. Bill 25 is a cop-out to a voluntary approach. If you don't succeed — you suggested that those are my comments — that you should try, and try again — and I recall making those comments to you. Why, then, would you not implement that philosophy at this stage? Why don't you have

. . . ?

MR. PARKER: Your comments were made to me in response to what a question from me as to what we'd do if we lost the first referendum, and you said, come back to you, as Minister, and the marketing board, after a suitable time interval, and we'll put it to a vote again. We weren't successful in having that done.

MR. USKIW: Well, we put a different measure to it.

MR. PARKER: That's right, you certainly did.

MR. USKIW: But what is stopping you from trying again with this Minister, by way of a referendum? Why would you not prefer that? Let's put it that way.

MR. PARKER: Well, I think probably the frustrations of the last two or three years influenced the boards of the two associations to go this route. I, frankly, have no hangups one way or another. My object is the same.

MR. USKIW: Would you, sir, be prepared to go the referendum route now, if the Minister, impressed with the degree of opposition that we have seen in this committee, decided to go that route?

MR. PARKER: No.

MR. USKIW: You don't want a referendum?

MR. PARKER: No.

MR. USKIW: I see. Okay. You implied, sir, that during the last referendum, the Minister in the department did not offer any help. Did you truly expect that the government should be involved in that way, at that time? I thought that . . .

MR. PARKER: As far as trying to sell the idea, no.

MR. USKIW: Right. That's right.

MR. PARKER: But as a facilitator in organizing meetings and what-not, they can be very helpful.

MR. USKIW: Now, you followed that statement with another statement that in the subsequent referendum, the resources of the Department were used to promote a "yes" vote, and that, sir, I don't believe you would want to leave that on the record if you knew it was untrue.

MR. PARKER: I don't think I said a "yes" vote. They were certainly out trying to explain the proposal, which is all you should have been doing the first time. I would also say, sir, that I was out of the country for three months when that vote and that rather wild campaign went on, but if the same effort had been made to explain the proposal in 1974, not sell it, explain it, the nuts and bolts of it, I for one took 80 meetings in attempting to explain that one to producers, with all expenses out of my own pocket, and I was only one.

MR. USKIW: But, sir, do you not recall that there was a suggestion during our discussions, that we steer as far away from the politician as we can on that referendum, so that it wouldn't be misconstrued as a government measure, that the Beef Growers wished to carry that one on their own and we had agreed to that?

MR. PARKER: What we had really pointed out to you, was if you mail the ballot out in an envelope under the Manitoba Marketing Board, it will turn off producers, and that is exactly what happened, in my opinion.

MR. USKIW: Well, all right. Perhaps you are unaware, sir, that I, too, was out of the country for part of the campaign that was generated for and against the last proposal, so you and I were both out of the country for a period of time —(Interjection)— Only for a short period of time. —(Interjection)— Yes, yes.

Are you also aware, sir, that the department was instructed not to participate on one side of

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the question or the other in the last referendum and in fact was not allowed to facilitate any part of that campaign?

MR. PARKER: How many meetings did you take, sir?

MR. USKIW: Only on invitation.

MR. PARKER: Right. I don't think you took any in 1974. Have you any specific questions pertaining to the bill? I'll take two more questions, Mr. Uskiw, and that's it.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, the witness suggested that I didn't participate in any in 1974. I thought I clarified that by reminding you, sir, that it was suggested to me that we keep the politics out of it in 1974, and that, I thought, was a good idea.

MR. PARKER: No comment. That is not a question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you have any further questions, Mr. Uskiw?

MR. USKIW: Yes, Mr. Chairman. You indicated, sir, that Bill 25 is the kind of thing that elected people are supposed to do. Do you really believe that? Do you believe that it is the government's role to introduce measures that form private associations, breaking the long-standing tradition that we have had in this country and in this province that private associations are only sponsored by Private Members' Bills, and that the Members of Legislative Assemblies have a free vote on such matters, giving greater credibility to the associations which are thus formed, without the so-called stamp of government approval, support, or otherwise? That puts the government in the position of neutrality and gives greater credibility to the association that is formed. Do you not see some liability in the association that is going to be formed pursuant to the passage of this bill, because it is a government bill?

MR. PARKER: I am not an expert, obviously, on legislative affairs. You are. My only concern is to achieve an objective which is, I think, clearly stated in the bill. I have no particular hangups on the procedure or the method that has been used, and I think that the proposed organization — you call it a private association, I would call it a farmer association.

MR. USKIW: No, it is not. Private is distinct from not being a government measure, which is the point I'm making, sir.

MR. PARKER: I know, I know.

MR. USKIW: You suggested that introducing marketing powers would be a divisive element in this bill and would not serve to unify the producers. Why would you not allow the producers to make the decision on the kinds of powers that they would use after they are elected? Are you afraid that you might be electing people who may not go along with your particular views, or the views of the Beef Growers Association?

MR. PARKER: Not at all.

MR. USKIW: All right. Then, if not so . . .

MR. PARKER: Wait a minute now. Let me be sure of what your question is.

MR. USKIW: I'm saying are you afraid that people will run for office whom you don't approve of, or that you don't agree with their thinking, and by some chance, in your mind, a majority may be of those who wish to go beyond the measures that you wish to undertake? Is that what you want to guard against by placing the restrictions in this bill?

MR. PARKER: No, sir, not at all, and quite the contrary. If that feeling prevails, then that would be the obligation of that association and I think that's the right. That's the 14-man board and that is what meant by association in this bill, as I understand it, to carry that point of view. Now, if they didn't, I think they would be severely censured and they obviously would not be re-elected. I assure you, sir, if I was one of those 14, I would carry that point of view. Those are your two questions, and that's it.

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MR. USKIW: I'm not finished with that question, sir.

MR. PARKER: As far as I'm concerned, you are.

MR. USKIW: Well, sir, that is your privilege.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions to this witness? There being none, thank you very much, Mr. Parker, for your presentation.

The next name on the list is Peter N. Friesen.

MR. PETER N. FRIESEN: Mr. Chairman, committee members. I am here tonight representing the producers from southeastern Manitoba. I hadn't intended to come to these meetings. As you all know, I have been quite active with the Manitoba Cow-Calf Producers, and just not too long ago resigned as the president and felt that there were many others capable of carrying on. But in the last few days, I have been approached by a lot of people from southeastern Manitoba and also some of the executives of our provincial organization. They have asked me to make a presentation, due to the fact that I have been one of the organizers of the Cow-Calf Producers. I have been active with them until about two months ago. This is the reason I am here tonight.

When we organized the Manitoba Cow-Calf Producers, the very first meeting we had with participation from all over the province, we discussed organizations thoroughly and we came up with a unanimous decision that what we needed was one organization for the province. There were numerous regions at that time that did not like the idea of running around collecting memberships and they felt the only way an organization could be properly funded was through a checkoff. It was at our very first meeting about four and a half years ago that we decided, with a backing of just under 5,000 members, to strive for a type of bill similar to what we have right now.

That is about all I will say in regard to the provincial organization. My main object here tonight is on behalf of the producers in my area, in southeastern Manitoba.

The producers in southeastern Manitoba have had enough of enquiries. We have had the Shewman Report; we have had the Livestock and Meat Commission Report. Both of them told us what producers already knew. Government has tried to solve some of the problems we have had in the marketplace and usually they try and solve them with controls and it just doesn't seem to work. The marketplace is just too complicated to be controlled. Only producers, working with the market, can solve some of the problems and, in time, maybe almost all the problems.

As far as Bill 25 is concerned, the producers in southeastern Manitoba would like, if there are any amendments to be made at all, the only amendment that they would like to see is that it be compulsory. The reason for this is that if you have an organization working for all producers, all benefits go to all producers, so all producers should be willing to share. I could maybe use an example here. It works the same way no matter where you go. When a municipality, city or town decides they have got too much garbage around and they need someplace to leave it, and the majority decides they want to establish a nuisance ground, everybody pays for it, not only the 60 percent or 70 percent who feel that is what they need. So the majority of producers in southeastern Manitoba feel that it should be compulsory.

We would also like to commend our Minister of Agriculture, not only for the bill, but for giving all producers in Manitoba the opportunity to participate in producing this bill. The producers from southeastern Manitoba would like to show their appreciation for this.

The hour is getting late, so I think I'm going to end it right there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Friesen, would you care to answer some questions from any of the members of committee?

MR. FRIESEN: Yes, I would be willing to answer some questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are there any questions?

MR. DRIEDGER: Mr. Friesen, how many head of cattle do you run?

MR. FRIESEN: Together with my son, we run approximately 150 cows. We are trying to finish them all off, so at the present time it would be somewhere in between 300 and 400, that is counting cows, calves, and yearlings.

MR. DRIEDGER: The reason I asked that question, Mr. Friesen, because insinuations have been made by the Member for Ste. Rose within the last six months that you had three head of cattle.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are there any other questions? If there are no other questions, I would like to thank Mr. Friesen for his presentation.

The next name I have on the list is Mr. Brian Larson.

MR. BRIAN LARSON: Mr. Chairman, honourable committee members. I would first like to make a statement. It just happened and I'm still a little shaky. It is the second time that my vehicle has been broken into and vandalized. The first time it was after a Canadian Agriculture Movement picket in the Parliament Buildings here, and tonight it was parked just in the lot here and it has been vandalized and the distributor wires cut, so I just don't know what to think.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. Mr. Larson please.

MR. LARSON: I'd like to make a point that the first vandalism is costing Autopac close to over \$1,000; tonight there's probably \$200 worth of stuff stolen out of the truck and I don't know what else is wrong with it. They told me to move it into the lighted area. I went in and it wouldn't start. So we looked under the hood and the distributor wires were cut.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is my understanding, Mr. Larson, that there was more than one vehicle vandalized here this evening.

MR. LARSON: Right, this is true, there were five or six. . . I admit that this could be all coincidental but it's just that it's happened to me on two occasions and maybe I shouldn't be standing up here opposing this bill.

I'd like to carry on as . . .

MR. FERGUSON: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: State your point of order, Mr. Ferguson.

MR. FERGUSON: Yes, there certainly is a point of order. —(Interjection)— Well, we'll let the Chairman decide that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Could you state your point of order, Mr. Ferguson?

MR. FERGUSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman, is the witness inferring that there is something subversive in the fact that his vehicle has been tampered with twice while he's been on the grounds?

A MEMBER: Why sure, that's what he's exactly saying.

MR. FERGUSON: Very well, then I will point out also to the witness that one of my colleagues Mr. Blake, had \$600 damage done to his car within the last three weeks and he wasn't here as . . .

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, what's the point of order?

MR. FERGUSON: An insinuation, that's the point of order.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, there was no insinuation. The gentleman before this committee indicated that he was here twice and twice he was vandalized. That's all he said. What is the sensitivity of the Member for Gladstone?

MR. CHAIRMAN: On the point of order, I heard Mr. Larson's remarks. If it could be attributed to Mr. Larson that he implied that the fact that he opposed this legislation was the reason for his vehicle being vandalized, I did not draw that out of his remarks. It may well be for his agitated state of mind which all of us would have if we had had our vehicles vandalized, I'm sure explains any inference that may have been drawn by any of the members.

Could you proceed, Mr. Larson.

MR. LARSON: I apologize for that. I am a little upset right now. The first time that it happened there were two young fellows, apparently young fellows, and they came at me with sticks and chains at the end, so apparently it was a bigger threat than . . . You know, I took it as coincidental at the time.

A MEMBER: Now you understand why we're putting chains on the gates after midnight.

MR. LARSON: Mr. Chairman, honourable committee members, as a cow-calf producer and president of Region 10, the northeast region of Manitoba Cow-Calf Association, and member of the Board of Directors, I would submit my opposition to Bill 25. I have listened to a brief by a group of directors from the Manitoba Cow-Calf Association and feel as one of the directors I should make my viewpoint heard. I object to Bill 25 on the grounds that it is undemocratic and gives powers to a minority group. Why is this bill introduced in the Legislature so quickly when nothing was mentioned in the election campaign by candidates running for the party which is now the government? This bill is unfair. It says this association checkoff is for all cattle and yet it has no provisions for collecting at bull sales, 17-odd auction marts throughout Manitoba, or purebred sales or private sales to feedlot operators. I feel that if it's for all cattle, it should be for all cattle.

I am assuming that the stockyards and buyers will be paid to collect the checkoff. Why should we promote beef when packing companies will also benefit by promotion, without paying into it, other than their being paid to take the checkoff off? Why should we promote off-shore, boxed imports, that is, imported beef? There is no provision in that bill to control imported beef that seems to be continually brought in at a 10 percent surplus, keeping our prices we get at the stockyards constantly below our cost of production. It seems to me a few years ago when the Minister of Agriculture in Ottawa, when we were in trouble in Manitoba wanted to stop some of the imports, it was someone in the Canadian Cattlemen's Association that told Mr. Whelan, "No, we've got to have these imports." So, from that I just assume that Canadian Cattlemen's Association is closely tied with the Manitoba Beef Growers, I can only assume that, which in turn are tied in with a strong consumer group that wants cheap food and we, as cow-calf producers have to make a living. We cannot constantly work and borrow money to keep going.

I fear that with the records kept and information collected, this could be: (a) an advantage to buyers who could manipulate the markets, (b) discrimination at the stockyards.

I have to point out an incident that I had at the yards. I brought in six steers. I wanted to put them on rail grade. The buyer told me, "You better take them over to the Auction Mart, to the public yards." I waited around; I insisted that I wanted to send them on rail grade. So he called another man from upstairs and he said to the other one, "Who is it?" I said, "What the hell is the difference who is it? I want to send my animals rail grade." This, again, may have been coincidental and I may be jumping to conclusions, but by the Beef Inquiry Report, if all the things that happened there are true, that they found in that report, I think that there is a great deal to be done in the marketplace insofar as getting the right price, a fair price, for your animals. When they found in that report that on the same day, the same weight of animal, same grade, there was a difference of as high as 30 cents a pound paid to the producer. Now if this bill, if the Inquiry Report was something made up, I'm not just too sure how valid it was, but I read through the report and I found small statements like that with ' all the unfairness in the marketplace and I feel that this bill will not deal with any complaints that producers have.

I feel that an individual should have the right to choose which organization he wishes to belong to. As far as I can see with this Bill 25' it is damn well blackmail; if you don't participate in it, you're no longer a producer as I read that bill and someone could clarify that at a later date. If I wish to withdraw my money, then I have no say at all in the election of officers, the way this board is set up and the way I see it, the way it's set up, how they define a producer. It could be anyone and if it's a rumour that there is a feedlot of 16,000 head going up in Miami or somewhere in that area, I feel that it would be a probability that they could sell a share of \$1.00 to each one of their friends and they could run this whole thing from the top. With all their records, they would know exactly when to sell their cattle; they would know exactly the age of my cattle; they would know when I would have to sell. I feel that by keeping all these records, it would be by the association, the way it reads in the Act keeping these records of my cattle, I feel that I could be very seriously discriminated against at the yards, or when I have to sell them.

By the suggestion made by some of the previous witnesses, I fear that the intentions to promote beef could be negative in that the funds could be used to spread propaganda in farm papers . . . I must have lost a paper running outside.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Take your time, Mr. Larson.

MR. LARSON: Well, I guess I've lost most of my things, so I don't think what I was going to say here tonight will change the government's views on passing this bill. So I'm just speaking as a cow-calf producer and I've talked to many in our area of Lac du Bonnet and Pine Falls and Beausejour and I'd say 95 percent of the people are very much opposed to this bill.

Maybe I could read part of that statement over again. I fear that the promotion, the intention

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to promote beef would be negative in that the funds could be used to spread propaganda in farm papers, promoting ideologies rather than beef sales.

I would like to close by saying that promoting beef, I don't think will give me a better price at the yards. When we promote beef, we will also be promoting Australian canned corned beef. This business of promotion, I think, we need something in that it gives an association a little more teeth. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Larson. Will you submit to questions from members of this committee? Mr. Einarson.

MR. EINARSON: Well, Mr. Larson, I regret to hear your opening comments and hope that you without too terribly much difficulty, will be able to get back home tonight.

You mentioned, if I can follow your remarks just at the last words you mentioned, that you feel that the promotion of your beef would be more of an ideology than actually trying to promote the selling of your meat. Could you elaborate on that particular comment? What relation has an ideology got with promoting selling our beef as farmers, producers?

MR. LARSON: Well, I was at Cow-Calf meetings, the board of director meetings, and the board of directors often said, "There's just . . . Pardon me, a lot of people are getting the Manitoba Co-operator rather than reading the Cattleman's magazine and the Country Guide, a lot of people read The Co-operator. So what they said is, "We have to get somebody on our side on the Manitoba Co-operator." And this is what has happened. When the last referendum was up on the beef marketing board, the Co-operator was full of articles written by the editor against this bill.

MR. USKIW: Against the referendum.

MR. LARSON: Against the marketing board referendum . . .

A MEMBER: Sit closer, Sam, so you can correct him.

MR. LARSON: . . . And now, the Co-operator policy seems to be that they won't even take a letter to the Editor. This is what makes me feel that this so-called promotion will go to filling the papers full of ideology rather than promoting beef to get us a better price.

MR. EINARSON: I would like to get back then to the beginning, Mr. Larson, and you indicate you are a member of the Cow-Calf Producers Association?

MR. LARSON: Yes.

MR. EINARSON: I presume, are you in the production of beef?

MR. LARSON: Yes, I am.

MR. EINARSON: Would you like to indicate how many cows you have on your operation?

MR. LARSON: I have about 80 cows.

MR. EINARSON: About 80 cows. You raise calves then, and do you finish your calves out?

MR. LARSON: Yes, just about 30 we finish out, and about 30 we sell.

MR. EINARSON: You sell as feeders?

MR. LARSON: Yes.

MR. EINARSON: Then if you have a market that you are looking for, part of them are finished beef that you market to the stock yards, or wherever, the balance you find a market for others to finish them out? Is that correct?

MR. LARSON: Yes, that's correct.

MR. EINARSON: Where do you normally try to find a market for selling your feeder calves, then?

MR. LARSON: Oh normally I take them to the public auction ring.

MR. EINARSON: The public auction ring . . .

MR. LARSON: Right, the young 500-600 pound calves.t1

MR. EINARSON: Are you satisfied the public auction market is the best place?

MR. LARSON: Well, I have had arguments with them. We brought in a Charolais steer once, or Charolais heifer, and I think we got \$98.00 for her, and she was about 900 pounds, and I had some confrontation with them, but they said she was in poor shape, and just prior to that the veterinarian was out there, and she said that she could not have a calf, so I sold her to the auction mart.

MR. EINARSON: Talking about your feeder calves, you know, what would they be, say 400 to 500 pounds?

MR. LARSON: Yes.

MR. EINARSON: I'm talking specifically about feeder calves that might range from 400 to 500 pounds. Well, if you're not satisfied at the public auction yards, then do you ever try private operations, that is, feed lot operations that specifically buy calves for that purpose and feed them out?

MR. LARSON: No, I never have.

MR. EINARSON: You never have?

MR. LARSON: No.

MR. EINARSON: Then I was interested in your comments about your experience of taking six steers to the market, and you indicated when you got them there that you wanted to rail-grade those steers, and you were given some difficult time with the buyers. Was this with the packing plants or was this through the public auction rings?

MR. LARSON: No, this was with the Canada Packers. Right.

MR. EINARSON: Well, this was with the Canada Packers. Well, I was just wondering — you didn't seem to complete your story — I was just wondering, did you eventually convince the buyer to buy them on the rail grade, or did you sell them live weight?

MR. LARSON: No, I sold them rail grade.

MR. EINARSON: You did rail grade them? I see. You gave me the impression that you were given such a rough time that they didn't want to buy them rail grade. I gathered that, and I thought maybe you didn't have that opportunity.

MR. LARSON: No, it was just the point that I was making that there are inequities in this system, and they've come up with me, and I'm a very small producer compared to a lot of other cow-calf producers in our area, and I was wondering why, when I went there with those six steers that, you know, they had to know who the hell I was before I was going to take a rail grade. This is what I was questioning. I've never told anyone about this except tonight, it's just that making the point that this bill does not have a space for any complaints. If I have a complaint, where do I take it? This is all I was inferring.

MR. EINARSON: Would you like to see a marketing board established?

MR. LARSON: I think if a marketing board was elected by the people and put to a vote, I'd go along with it. This is why I don't go along with this, there's no vote and you're blackmailed into joining the association, and that part of it I'm very much opposed to.

MR. EINARSON: In the referendum that was held last year, was it not indicated in that referendum the concept of a marketing board?

MR. LARSON: Yes, I think it was a marketing board.

MR. EINARSON: And what were the results of that vote, do you recall?

MR. LARSON: It was defeated.

MR. EINARSON: Right. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Adam.

MR. ADAM: Thank you. Mr. Larson, you indicated that as far as you could determine there was about 95 percent, I believe is the figure you mentioned, of farmers in your area that were opposed to this bill? Is that the figure you used?

MR. LARSON: Yes, I figured it was probably right in Lac du Bonnet and the town, it was probably 99 percent, and we had a meeting in Selkirk to which we invited Mr. Downey, and there were about 50 people there, and I think again 99 percent of the people did not want the vote. We sent out around a piece of paper, and about the same percentage in Selkirk did not want this checkoff.

MR. ADAM: Well, that is the same kind of situation that I received in my area, and I was wondering since you are a director of The Cow-Calf Association, and I understand that there is a petition now that the chairman has . . . I was told by another director of the Cow-Calf Association, that they were sending in a petition, and there are two directors, I understand, who have signed that petition in opposition to Bill 25. So, in view of what has come to light since May 12, when this bill was introduced in the House, and which on Page 2114 the Minister of Agriculture read into the records, and I will quote:

"The resolution passed at The Manitoba Cow-Calf Association, a resolution that read, 'After a lengthy discussion, a motion was carried and The Manitoba Cow-Calf Association supports in principle the establishment of a Manitoba Cattlemen's Association.'"

In view of the fact that we are now getting so much opposition from many members of the Co-Calf Association, and in particular the directors, such as yourself — well, you're a president of a local, I believe — would you say that that resolution represents the majority opinion of the rank and file, grassroots cow-calf operator?

MR. LARSON: Definitely not.

MR. ADAM: Can you then indicate or express your opinion, how come that this resolution did come to hand and, of course, I did ask the Minister to table it and so far as I know it hasn't been tabled to this point in time, although he did indicate that he would, could you indicate then how come that this resolution did come in? Maybe I'll carry on — how many members, before you answer the other question, how many directors are there, do you know off-hand?

MR. LARSON: Offhand I don't know, but I imagine 14.

MR. ADAM: Fourteen. Have you any idea as to why this resolution was sent out, if there is so much opposition by the grass roots, cow-calf meers, or is this just an executive decision?

MR. LARSON: Right. This is just an executive decision. There was meetings held in drafting up this very bill that I was not asked to, from our region.

MR. ADAM: Were you informed . . .

MR. LARSON: No.

MR. ADAM: . . . of that meeting to draft this resolution?

MR. LARSON: No, I wasn't.

MR. ADAM: Where was this matter held, do you know.

MR. LARSON: I don't know .

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MR. ADAM: You don't know.

MR. LARSON: There's been a couple of meetings with the Cow-Calf — that is directors' meetings, that I was not asked to. Apparently, I was the only one opposing the whole group. Usually a meeting consisted of six or seven people, and I was the only one — in fact, Lorne Parker and Al Church were there with them, guiding the Cow-Calf Producers Association and Beef Growers which way to go, so I was arguing with the whole pack of them. I mean . . .

MR. ADAM: You have just raised a very interesting point. You are now telling us that Mr. Church, Mr. Al Church, was telling the Cow-Calf executive which way to go, is that what you said? Mr. Church was there? —(Interjection)—

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. Mr. Adam.

MR. ADAM: Yes, Mr. Larson. Do you wish to answer that question. I'm asking you, because you indicated that Mr. Church was at this meeting where this proposal was drafted? Is that correct?

MR. LARSON: Well, I think if I recall right, this meeting — it was a Board of Directors' meeting called at the Bonanza, at the Bonanza restaurant 3500 Portage, in that area — and you can't really call it a meeting because there were only six or seven directors there, but Mr. Parker and Mr. Church were at that meeting, and what most of the time happened, they had a meeting after the meeting, when I was around. So, I don't know what went on. I'd seen this bill in the draft form, and now I see it's in law, so . . .

MR. ADAM: But again, Mr. Larson, you're opening up some new information for us, you are saying that there were six or seven, but you're not saying — do you know exactly how many there were? Was it six or seven?

MR. LARSON: I think probably seven, seven directors, but two of the fellows . . . one of the fellows that was here presenting a brief the other night, Cliff Graydon, he was in Peter Friesen's region also, so actually people representing director representatives, maybe there were four, and they were already to go ahead making policy with this bill, and I was always opposed to the way they do it, because in 1974 we had a vote on a checkoff and then last year we had a vote on this, why the hell can't we have a vote on this rather than push it in the way they wanted to.

MR. ADAM: Are you aware that there were two directors of the Cow-Calf Association from the Ste. Rose constituency that attended a second, another meeting which was held, and they expressed their very strong opposition that the Cow-Calf Association would support this measure, and that they asked for a referendum, and they were advised that the executive didn't want to have a referendum because it would be defeated? Are you aware of that?

MR. LARSON: No I'm not.

MR. ADAM: Your remarks have opened up a new piece of information in that you indicated that there were 14 members, you thought that there were 14 members as executive, on the executive, and six or seven have made a decision for all the rest of them. That's what you indicated to me. Is that correct?

MR. LARSON: Yes, I think I'd be safe in saying that. Maybe I should background the Cow-Calf organization a little. It started out as a good intention when the prices were really low, and we were in bad shape, so we got a tremendous membership — I think we had over 4,000 in Manitoba — and also Manitoba Beef Growers members were in attendance to all our meetings, but slowly as the years went by they completely took over the Manitoba Cow-Calf Association. Terry Eyjolfson resigned and all I can say is that it was 95 percent Manitoba Beef Growers members running the whole show, and that's when our membership dropped from — oh, I think we had over 200 in the Lac du Bonnet area, region ten, and it dropped from 200 to 30, and now they And now they've seen that the Manitoba Cow-Calf, in the last referendum, they took a side as opposing the bill without consulting the regions. They just ruled right from the top, the referendum of marketing board vote, and after that it was just completely run from the top, and no producers had any say at all in any of the decisions.

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MR. ADAM: That was one of the reasons why the membership has dropped so drastically, that everything was run . . . it was undemocratic? Is that the way you feel, that it was run very undemocratically, since it was run from the top? —(Interjection)—

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. Mr. Larson.

MR. ADAM: Is that one of the reasons you feel that the membership has dropped so drastically, because the association was taken over by the Manitoba Beef Growers and they ran it as they saw fit without getting in touch with the grass roots?

MR. LARSON: Right. That's what I feel and I think I can back that up, because we had municipal hall meetings, and we had to get the school because the meetings got so big after a while when we were at the Parliament buildings here giving away beef.

MR. ADAM: I know, I was here.

MR. LARSON: And what we got over that, is we . . .

MR. ADAM: This is what you're getting, a snow job.

MR. LARSON: Yes.

MR. ADAM: Yes. Do you think the Minister is giving you a snow job by saying that the Manitoba Cow-Calf Association is supporting this in general, the grass roots?

MR. LARSON: I don't think that the Manitoba Cow-Calf producers support the grass roots.

MR. ADAM: Do you think that the members of the Cow-Calf Association want Bill 25? All the grass root members?

MR. LARSON: No, definitely not.

MR. ADAM: Okay. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Downey.

MR. DOWNEY: Yes, I don't have any questions, I'd just like to say that I also regret the unfortunate mishap to your vehicle. It has been brought to my attention that there have been many vehicles that have been vandalized here this evening on the grounds, and any effort that any members of this Committee can make to assist you in getting home, if your vehicle is not runnable, I'd like to talk to you after. I would recommend that people should check their vehicles. I think that it's been indicated that quite a few of them have had vandalism to them here this evening. It's an unfortunate situation, and I will recommend to the Minister responsible that a lot tighter security be placed in the area, and that we will take an immediate look at it.

MR. LARSON: I'd like to point out that the first incident that I had was when the Canadian Agriculture movement were here with pickets. It was late in the night after that; it didn't happen last night, or the night before. I've been here for two nights. This other incident that I told the Committee about was when I was here picketing against Bill 25 with the Canadian Agriculture movement, and I thank you for assistance in maybe getting home. I have an old set of wires that I have in the truck, and if I have a flashlight, I can probably put the wires in, and if nothing else is done to the truck.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Larson. Mr. Uskiw.

MR. USKIW: Yes. You indicated, sir, that there was a meeting of the Cow-Calf executive called at the Bonanza restaurant, at which time a position was decided upon with respect to Bill 25. Is that correct?

MR. LARSON: No, I stated earlier that they were all ready to make decisions and pass motions, and I just stated out that there is no quorum; how can you guys . . . ?

MR. USKIW: They didn't have a quorum.

MR. LARSON: No.

MR. USKIW: So they never did make a decision?

MR. LARSON: Not that, but I guess they went to the pub afterwards and made these decisions that we got here, I don't know.

MR. USKIW: Well, just let me clarify. This is the Board of Directors of the Cow-Calf Producers Association, that convened a meeting for the purpose of discussing Bill 25, or the checkoff?

MR. LARSON: Yes.

MR. USKIW: And am I correct in the fact that you have indicated that only six or seven people showed up, of the Board of Directors group?

MR. LARSON: Yes.

MR. USKIW: So there was less than a quorum?

MR. LARSON: Yes, that's right.

MR. USKIW: Did they attempt to do business, even though they did not have a quorum?

MR. LARSON: Yes, they did.

MR. USKIW: Was it drawn to their attention. . . .

MR. LARSON: Could I finish, please? Clifford Graydon attempted to start making motions, and I spoke up, they had already passed the motion and were ready to vote on it, and they all asked me why I wasn't voting or speaking on it. And I told them, "You don't have a quorum, so what the hell are you guys doing?" So then they start arguing with me the rest of the day. I had six against myself, including Lorne Parker and Al Church, so I was kind of flustered when I got out of there, I'll tell you.

MR. USKIW: Well, but Mr. Parker would not be a director?

MR. LARSON: No. He was there — I don't know who called him there, but he was there, along with Mr. Church, who I understand is a liaison officer, to push this bill through. I am not just too sure what his position is, but the Cow-Calf Producers never told me what he was doing there.

MR. USKIW: Well, after you raised the question of the propriety of holding a meeting without a quorum, what was the decision of that meeting?

MR. LARSON: Well, they did not pass any resolutions.

MR. USKIW: They didn't pass any resolutions, yet we have their resolution before this Committee as having been met and motions passed in support of Bill 25. How did those resolutions get to this Committee if they had not met in a proper meeting and passed those resolutions? How do you explain that those resolutions made their way to this Committee?

MR. LARSON: Well, you could probably answer that just as well as I could. I don't have an answer.

MR. USKIW: You are a member of the Board of Directors of that group?

MR. LARSON: Yes, I am President for Region 10.

MR. USKIW: And you were not party to a meeting where this resolution was passed?

MR. LARSON: No.

MR. USKIW: I see. What role did government officers play at that meeting?

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MR. LARSON: What do you mean?

MR. USKIW: Well, specifically, you mentioned that Mr. Church attended. What role was he involved in with respect to that meeting? What did he do? What was his function at that meeting?

MR. LARSON: Maybe you could call Mr. Church up here and he could tell us better than could.

MR. USKIW: Well, as far as you can recall, was he involved in the discussions?

MR. LARSON: Well, definitely.

MR. USKIW: Was he indicating government policy, or was he suggesting to this group what their policy should be?

MR. LARSON: Right. He was telling them, I think guiding them in which way to go, as far as could see. In the questions they were all arguing with me. I was one against seven.

MR. USKIW: Was it obvious to you that he was promoting support for Bill 25?

MR. LARSON: Oh, definitely.

MR. USKIW: There was no question in your mind?

MR. LARSON: No question at all.

MR. USKIW: I see. So he was not a neutral civil servant at that meeting, on that question?

MR. LARSON: Definitely not. And I'd like to make a point, Mr. Parker was there, and he also advised us guys we'd better be awfully careful passing a bill like this, without a vote.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Parker advised you?

MR. LARSON: Yes.

MR. USKIW: Why was he concerned?

MR. LARSON: I think he was concerned because of all the freedom fighters' campaigns going against the marketing board.

MR. USKIW: He didn't indicate why he was cautioning you, or . . . ?

MR. LARSON: No, he speaks very quietly. I can hardly hear him at the best of times, but I did hear him say, "We've got to be very careful how we do this, how we slip it into the government," or whatever.

MR. USKIW: Did anyone at that meeting indicate if they wanted or didn't want a referendum on this question? Was the question of a referendum dealt with?

MR. LARSON: Well, like I said, I was one person against all these expert speakers and I've never spoken in front of a mike in my life before tonight.

MR. USKIW: I appreciate that. Don't be nervous, because we are all just as nervous as you are.

MR. USKIW: My question is, did anyone discuss the question of submitting this proposal to the people by way of a referendum?

MR. LARSON: No.

MR. USKIW: At that meeting.

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MR. LARSON: They said, it's the honourable members of the government of the day who have been asking the questions. The people need an organization, and let's give them one.

MR. USKIW: I see. They were not advocating referring that question to a referendum?

MR. LARSON: No.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Downey.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, I haven't completed my remarks.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Sorry.

MR. USKIW: Have you ever been able to determine, since that meeting, how it was that that resolution got to this Committee, since it was not duly called and properly carried out and no motions were passed? The resolution supporting the bill. How do you feel, that it arrived at this Committee without having had that meeting? Have you any ideas?

MR. LARSON: I don't know, sir, I just don't know. I think they had their meetings.

MR. USKIW: Well, when you say "they" — all right, let me clarify who you mean by "they." The remaining group after the meeting adjourned? Is that what you're saying, the people who were left after you left?

MR. LARSON: Well, for all I know, there might have been several meetings after that meeting. I was not informed of meetings, probably for the reason that I was the only one opposing.

MR. USKIW: All right. Who was the President of your association at that time?

MR. LARSON: It was Elgin Hall.

MR. USKIW: Elgin Hall. I see. Was it Elgin Hall, sir, that convened all the meetings? Who did the invitations come from for those meetings? When a meeting was called of that Board, who called you to inform you of the meeting, normally?

MR. LARSON: It was usually Peter Friesen.

MR. USKIW: Peter Friesen. I see. And after this particular meeting which was aborted, you did not receive any further calls for any further meetings?

MR. LARSON: No, I did not.

MR. USKIW: I see. Okay, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Downey.

MR. DOWNEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Larson has indicated that he was at a meeting in the Bonanza. What particular time of year was that meeting, what month?

MR. LARSON: I'm just not sure of the month, it was just in the last couple of months, or three months, or something.

MR. DOWNEY: You indicated that there was a resolution came from that meeting, that that was voted upon. Did you indicate that there was a resolution came from that meeting supporting Bill 25?

MR. LARSON: No, there wasn't. They attempted to make resolutions at that meeting. Clifford Graydon got up and said, "I make a motion that we do this and this," and no motions, nothing was passed.

MR. DOWNEY: Were you at a meeting in Brandon in February of the Cow-Calf Association, at which 14 directors were present?

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MR. LARSON: Yes.

MR. DOWNEY: At that meeting, was there a resolution passed supporting in principle, Bill 25? The proposal of an Association?

MR. LARSON: Gee, I'm not sure. I don't have all my papers with me. I couldn't answer that. You could probably look in the minutes of the Cow-Calf producers and find out if there was ar
. . .

MR. DOWNEY: I have had the minutes sent to me from a Cow-Calf Association meeting which was held in Brandon in support of the proposed livestock association in the Province of Manitoba which was held in the Ag Extension Centre in Brandon in February.

MR. LARSON: Am I supposed to answer to that?

A MEMBER: No, that was a statement.

MR. LARSON: The thing is, there were 15 people there, and I understand . . .

MR. DOWNEY: Well, the question is, was there a resolution passed at that meeting?

A MEMBER: Were all the directors there?

A MEMBER: 14 out of 15; not bad.

A MEMBER: Were they all directors?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

MR. DOWNEY: Was there a resolution passed, is the question before the witness?

MR. LARSON: I couldn't be sure, but I think there was a resolution passed of that nature, of some kind. But I'd like to elaborate a little bit on that, because we were making a big decision without going back to the people in our regions.

A MEMBER: That's what you're elected for.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Uskiw, with more questions.

MR. USKIW: Yes. The Minister alleges that he received a resolution —(Interjection)— Yes, alleges, because we don't know that he has. We assume that he has, from his statement. Given the background of his remarks on this bill to date we are not sure of anything, including the 4,000 letters, so it's in keeping with tradition since October 24. My question is, if a resolution was passed in Brandon defining the policy of this association with respect to this piece of legislation, then why would it have been necessary to have a meeting at the Bonanza to decide the question subsequently? Why would there be this other meeting if there was indeed a resolution already decided upon?

Somehow there's a contradiction here. The Minister says the decision was made in Brandon in February; you are indicating that the organization called a meeting wherein departmental people were involved in helping them make up their mind — and Mr. Parker was involved —(Interjection)— assisting them in trying to make this decision later than February here in Winnipeg and they had no quorum and were not able to proceed. Can you explain to us the contradiction between these two positions and why was then the Brandon resolution not valid in the eyes of the board of directors? Why were they meeting again on the same question if they had already decided that question in February?

MR. LARSON: Well, I don't know because they kept me in the dark. I just don't know how their organization went. I can't make accusations but it seems as though it was the Manitoba Beef Growers that made up this bill and it had nothing to do with the Cow-Calf Association.

MR. USKIW: Well, yes, let me then peruse it. The meeting was convened and you attended at the Bonanza.

MR. LARSON: Yes.

MR. USKIW: What was the stated purpose of that meeting by whoever convened that meeting?

MR. LARSON: I think it was to discuss Bill 25.

MR. USKIW: I see. And was it their intention to send in a document or a resolution to the government on that question from that meeting, indicating support?

MR. LARSON: Well, they indicated to me that if you don't like what we decide at these meetings, you should resign, but I did not give them the privilege, in fact, it was Peter Friesen who asked me to resign if I didn't like what we were deciding at these five or six-member meetings.

MR. USKIW: Well, all right, let me pursue that then. In your constitution, can one member of the board who is elected by one group of people have the right to ask another member of the board who is elected by another group of people in a different district, has he the right to ask him for a resignation, in your constitution?

MR. LARSON: I don't know, sir.

MR. USKIW: That would be an interesting constitution if that were so, Mr. Chairman.

A MEMBER: You ask the Minister for his resignation once in a while.

MR. USKIW: Well, he should, he should have resigned before he got elected.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. —(Interjections)— Order please.

MR. DOWNEY: For clarification, Mr. Chairman, I would like to just tell the committee that I'm not exactly sure of the date in February, but I am prepared to table the resolution from the Cow-Calf Association in the House in regard to what we've referred to and I would also like to ask the witness before us, could it be possible that the meeting . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. Could we have a little quiet so that the Minister can ask the question?

MR. USKIW: Yes, the Minister has indicated to the committee that he is prepared to table a document. Would he table it along with those 4,000 letters that he still has not tabled?

MR. CHAIRMAN: That question has already been ruled on, I believe, in the House.

MR. USKIW: Well, Mr. Chairman, the Minister offered to table a document of support for his measure here? I am now asking him — and it's up to him to tell me whether he wishes to do so or not, not you — whether he would be kind enough to, at this stage, to convince this committee who wants desperately to be convinced that there is that measure of support throughout the province, to table those 4,000 letters which he alleges he has in support of this measure?

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, I have indicated I will. I am prepared to table the resolution from the Cow-Calf Association meeting. In regard to the other matter, it has been dealt on by the Speaker in the House. I would like to ask just one further question of the witness. Could it be possible that the meeting that he had attended, that he's referring to at the Bonanza, that it could have been the possibility that he was there to discuss the proposed by-laws to a proposed association?!

MR. LARSON: Would you repeat that, please?

MR. DOWNEY: I said, could it be possible that the meeting that you were at in the Bonanza, that you referred to, were to discuss possible proposed by-laws for a proposed association?

MR. LARSON: I don't think so because they had that similar draft, it was already made up. I think have it at . . .

MR. DOWNEY: Which draft are you referring to, sir?

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MR. LARSON: Well, it's the draft before this Bill 25 came out. It's a draft of that bill and they had it already figured out . . .

A MEMBER: The elites, the elites.

MR. LARSON: . . . and they indicated to me that this government is favourable . . .

A MEMBER: Mr. Chairman, on a privilege of the House . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. Mr. Larson would you continue.

MR. LARSON: Yes, at that meeting they indicated they had this draft bill and they indicated to me that that's going to be what the cattle producers of Manitoba are going to have.

MR. DOWNEY: No, I have no more questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No more questions? Mr. Uskiw.

MR. USKIW: Yes, Mr. Larson, are you telling us that you saw a draft of this bill away back at that meeting at the Bonanza?

A MEMBER: Put him under oath and let him say that.

MR. USKIW: Don't let anyone scare you, sir.

MR. LARSON: It was something like that. It didn't say Bill 25 on it.

MR. USKIW: No, but was it a document for legislation?

MR. LARSON: Right.

MR. USKIW: Well, you know, are you aware, sir, . . .

MR. LARSON: Not this, but very similar.

MR. USKIW: Well, she has it. Perhaps it would be of interest to the committee to see that document.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is he prepared to table it?

MR. LARSON: Sure.

MR. USKIW: Yes. Perhaps we could take a moment to peruse the document and then we can pursue the question.

MR. LARSON: Here's the rest of my brief.

MR. USKIW: Touche. He wrote on the back of that.

A MEMBER: It takes a wife to find the rest of it, sir.

MR. LARSON: Well, if you'd like to table it and not read what's on the back of every page.

MR. USKIW: Well, yes. Mr. Chairman, on a point of order . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Uskiw on a point of order.

MR. USKIW: . . . would it be reasonable for the committee to make copies of only the printed portion and not the gentleman's own notes and circulate that to the members.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That sounds a very reasonable proposal, Mr. Uskiw. Are there any further questions for this witness.

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MR. USKIW: Yes. Are you aware, sir, that it is normally, well, in fact it has always been a very extreme violation of the privileges of the Legislature for people outside of the Legislature to see a bill being drafted before the members of the Legislature see that bill in the House? Did you know that that is a very serious violation of the privileges of the Assembly?

MR. LARSON: No, I did not, sir.

MR. USKIW: Were you aware . . .

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order . . .

MR. USKIW: What's the point of order?

MR. DOWNEY: If the Member for Lac du Bonnet is indicating that there has been a breach of the rules of this Legislative Assembly, I would ask him to retract because no one had seen that bill that is now before us, Bill 25, before it was introduced for reading the second time in the House.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, I'm merely trying to find out. I have nothing to retract, Mr. Chairman. I am merely trying to find out if this Minister went out, drafted his legislation, made that legislation available to people outside of the Legislative Assembly for their perusal and comment before he introduced it into this Assembly. That's all I'm trying to find out.

A MEMBER: Like your manifesto. Same thing.

MR. USKIW: You are satisfied that what you saw there was indeed a draft bill.

MR. LARSON: Yes, I think it says "draft" right on the top of it.

MR. USKIW: I see. And was the discussion surrounding its presentation on the question of this document being the document that would end up in the Legislative Assembly as a piece of legislation?

MR. LARSON: Yes, definitely.

MR. USKIW: I see. Well, this is most interesting, Mr. Chairman. It's most interesting.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions for this witness?

MR. DOWNEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I have one. Would the witness before us be prepared to go under oath and take the document that he is saying is in fact a draft of the bill that he had seen it prior to introduction.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Downey is still stating his point.

MR. USKIW: Is he stating a point of order?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He's asked the question.

MR. USKIW: I'm raising a point of order, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Uskiw on a point of order.

MR. USKIW: Yes, the witness should not be subjected to that line of questioning. The witness does not have to answer any member of this committee and should not, Mr. Chairman, be intimidated. The witness has offered to table the document that he referred to and that should be satisfactory to this committee. —(Interjection)— Well, he has got the document.

MR. CHAIRMAN: On the point of order, I have tried throughout all our proceedings to indicate to all witnesses that they have no obligation to answer any question. Mr. Larson.

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MR. LARSON: Pardon?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you care to answer the question of the Minister?

MR. LARSON: I'd like him to repeat it and see if I can answer it.

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, perhaps the witness, after we look at the document, would he be prepared to re-appear before the committee to discuss what he had seen in a proposed draft —(Interjection)— He doesn't have to, no that's right, he doesn't have to answer.

MR. LARSON: Well, I can't hear you when six people are talking.

MR. DOWNEY: You have said, sir, I believe, that Bill 25 that you had seen it prior to introduction into the Legislative Assembly, is that correct?

MR. LARSON: It did not say Bill 25. In fact it . . .

MR. DOWNEY: The contents of the bill, sir.

MR. LARSON: I'd say the contents of the bill were very similar to that of Bill 25.

MR. DOWNEY: But the exact bill as it is in 25.

MR. LARSON: Well, I think if you let me see the draft, I will go through it and see if it is the same.

MR. DOWNEY: Okay, I'm satisfied with that.

MR. USKIW: A draft is never the same.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions to this witness? If there are none, thank you very much, Mr. Larson, for your presentation.

The next name on the list is John Whittaker. Do you have a prepared brief, Mr. Whittaker, with copies?

MR. JOHN WHITTAKER: I just have a single page, I don't have copies, but I'll give it to you when I'm done and you can make copies if you want.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No problem. Proceed, Mr. Whittaker.

MR. WHITTAKER: A brief regarding Bill 25 presented to the Law Amendments Committee of the Manitoba Legislature.

I object to this bill primarily for the following reasons: This Cattle Producers' Association should not be set up without a plebiscite of all producers because most producers do not adequately understand this bill and hence the Cattle Producers' Association must not be forced on them.

Second objection: If and when a Cattle Producers' Association is set up, it must be governed by a board of directors entirely elected by producers from the start and this board must contain only *bona fide* cattle producers. That's the end. Submitted by John Whittaker, Erickson.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Whittaker. Will you submit to questions from members of this committee?

MR. WHITTAKER: Do any members of the committee have questions for Mr. Whittaker? Mr. Bostrom.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Whittaker, have you discussed your views and/or the contents of Bill 25 with other cattle producers or people involved in cattle production in Manitoba?

MR. WHITTAKER: Not very much at all. It's just something that isn't discussed very much with the people that I've been associating with. You know, it's a very busy time of year right now and I don't see an awful lot of my neighbours and if we're talking about something, it's about the latest breakdown rather something like this. I don't think a lot of people are really aware that it's coming up.

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MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you have further questions, Mr. Bostrom? Mr. Uskiw.

MR. USKIW: Yes, could you indicate where you are from, sir?

MR. WHITTAKER: Erickson.

MR. USKIW: Erickson, and you are a beef producer, sir?

MR. WHITTAKER: Yes.

MR. USKIW: I see. What is the nature of your operation?

MR. WHITTAKER: Oh, we have about 30 cows and I finish everything.

MR. USKIW: I see. I am sorry I had to step out for a second. Did you indicate the reasons for your opposition to this bill?

MR. WHITTAKER: Yes, primarily for two reasons. The first one was that it shouldn't come into being without a plebiscite; and the second one was that the board of directors should be elected from Day One.

MR. USKIW: You would want to democratize the legislation if there's going to be legislation, is that what you're saying?

MR. WHITTAKER: Well, I said if and when a Cattle Producers' Association is set up, it must be governed by a board of directors entirely elected from the start.

MR. USKIW: Elected from the first day.

MR. WHITTAKER: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do any other members of this committee have questions for Mr. Whittaker. There being none, thank you very much, Mr. Whittaker, for your presentation.

This comes to the end of the names on the list. As a matter of courtesy to people who have not yet been heard, I will read the names of those names that were called and have not appeared in case anyone has arrived since their name was called: George Higgs, Ted Wilson, Bill Bajus, Brian Bajus, George Telford, Claude St. Jacques, James Bezan, Ken Riddell, Richard Klassen, Norman Edie. Mrs. Norman Edie.

MRS. EDIE: Gentlemen, as the hour is one a.m. Saturday morning, July 15th, I would like to make my remarks as brief and precise as possible. I would like to say that I appreciate the opportunity to present my thoughts to this committee as a producer of cattle in the Province of Manitoba.

I have been sitting through the hearings since they began, as much as time would permit. I would like to bring to your attention that I am not an agent of any political party or organization in the Province of Manitoba, that the material presented is sincere comments with questions as a concerned citizen; that I understand the purpose of this committee was to acquire information from producers of the Province of Manitoba who are directly in the business of beef production; and that as a producer present for the purpose of seeking information, I have been disappointed at the length of time utilized for questions repeatedly used and I would like to recommend to the committee that the procedure they use for their committees be determined in session before the committee assembles before the public. I feel this would be most useful to utilize the time of all citizens who are exchanging information pertaining to a certain subject.

Now I would like, with your permission, to use a little preamble because I have been giving as much mental energy as possible to this question, which I concern a very serious one and a very important one to the beef producers of this province at this time.

First, I apologize for not saying I am Lois Edie of Dugald, Manitoba, 36-10-4E in the Municipality of Springfield, fully engaged in agriculture with my husband in partnership as a livestock producer. We farm 1,300 acres of land and we have 300 head of cattle at the present time. We have been engaged in various facets of grain, milk and beef production for over 20 years.

In 1956, as a novice in agriculture, I attended Agriculture Farm Week and Farm Forum at the University of Manitoba to be updated in agricultural techniques, marketing and economics, which affected our business then, just as it does today. At that time I also looked about for an organization,

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possibly where we could input our concerns and suggestions, and as I looked about there appeared to be two philosophies in the farm organizations: Those concerned about what is going to happen to me or them, and those concerned with what they or I could do to make things happen. When I looked at this and having attended other sessions, I thought to myself, here existed a "her" and "him" in agriculture, and that was in 1956. I would suggest to this committee it appears to me that it continues to struggle with a marriage partnership today.

I feel it is because of misinformation and — is it jealousy? — which breeds mistrust. Here I am looking for questions why we have the two philosophies so separate still. Then I am saying, do our rural students continue to receive an inferior education which handicaps their abilities to search for facts, reason and rationale and not enable them to solve problems, evaluate their opportunities and lead productive lives?

Gentlemen, why I am asking that question is because in Ottawa recently I was somewhat shocked to be asked that question. And I said to myself, is this so? Then when I returned and attended conversations at the University of Manitoba, a student came forward and said that I did not receive in Manitoba an education in French, although I received an A mark which enabled me to enter the curriculum course offered at the University of Manitoba. And as a result, she wasn't able to take the course.

Now, I feel with education our minds are developed, and this is an essential thing. Are we educating our people in leadership? Are we educating them to think for themselves? These are questions I submit to you. These questions concern me as a citizen.

Now, the beef industry in this province requires, in my opinion, her and him to terminate their disagreements so their offspring can assist the different segments of the industry to contribute and extract information which will be beneficial to all citizens of this province. I suggest we need a new child. 1979 is the year of the child. I would call that child "Sunshine". And I would like to see growth of the industry through improved communication, a sharing of organizational information, not for the purpose of slapping in the face, but rather for patting on the back. To improve and understand the farm community, I would like to suggest a media tour of our MLAs to farms throughout the province, all sizes and shapes, the same later for consumers in our larger centres, as is being conducted by Ontario producers at the present time; this is very much improving the understanding of the urban-rural communities. I would like to suggest a tour of all segments of the industry to all beef producers in this province. I feel they do require education in their industry so that they may become informed about it and talk about it, so that they may make things happen and that they may build in this province.

Now, as a producer, what are my concerns and suggestions today? They are economic; they are markets; they are herd disease; they are management practices and they are consumer complaints, to name a few.

Then I ask the question: What are other producing organizations in beef in other parts of Canada doing? And then I also ask the question: Do we have bonded agents?

Now in economics, I believe information has been the biggest problem. Pardon me, I believe that inflation has been the biggest problem but Canfax and Beef Watch are two services available, along with government and producer market information in this province, and I ask this question: How well are they being utilized by our producers? These have been helpful to me as a producer and I would their support if a new organization is formed, to assist me with my economic decisions.

Pertaining to markets, a consistent and reliable report developed with the media, government representatives, packers and retailers and other informed sources in the industry today, as have been accomplished noticeably in Ontario and Alberta because of their beef organizations there, with their checkoff. This would be useful and beneficial to me as a producer in Manitoba.

Herd disease, IBR commonly called or, for information of you people less familiar with the industry, it's a severe virus respiratory disease that is present in Manitoba in a number of cattle herds, and brucellosis is a concern. Calf scour is another. This is naming just some of the diseases which are attacking the cattle in this province.

I would like to see media information released from provincial veterinarians to alert producers. I feel we could use the media here much more than we do to inform and educate our producers in the industry.

Managements practices. Some folks in the industry relate this to a sink-or-swim situation. With poor practices you sink, and with good ones, you swim. A strong organization will improve the skills of others through a sharing process, which takes place as producers meet to discuss problems, relate and share concerns at their organizational meetings. For producers this is a most common means of acquiring information today, as it was many years ago.

Now consumer complaints. Price, number one. . How do you explain it? Cholesterol and heart disease, is steric acid in beef fat a factor? We do need a real deal of financial assistance and research to assist the animal fat industry today on this fact. Is neutra-burger, a beef substitute soybean,

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s nutritious as beef? Now, , we have substitutes on the market. Are we aware of this? Are we doing anything in research to assist the producer in this area? With beef, how do you buy it? How do you cook it? These and many other questions are being answered by the Beef Information Centres, which are producer-funded services for consumers by producers of B.C., Alberta, Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia through information offices in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto and Montreal. For further information pertaining to these committees and their work, I would request the committee to contact the Beef Information Centre, 590 Keil Street, Toronto. The phone number there: Area Code 16-766-6871.

Mr. Chairman, would the committee like to have a few minutes to peruse the material before them?

MR. CHAIRMAN: That will not be necessary, Mrs. Edie. Please continue.

MRS. EDIE: Well then, if they would like to just continue their attention this way for a minute, I'd appreciate it.

Beef producer-wise organizations have been established in B.C. as the B.C. Cattle Bells and by the Alberta Cattle Commission in Alberta, called The Beef Information and Education Committee, and for further information I would suggest that you contact Calgary. The number there: 03-269-8287. In Alberta, the women are divided into regions, organized into groups with executives, and each learning about their industry and sharing information at meetings, public displays and fairs. They are using, in my opinion, a positive approach in the beef industry of that province and they are being funded by their producer organization there to enable them to achieve their objectives.

Now, my other question, what are other producer organizations doing? Now at these hearings, I am most disappointed that I haven't heard what the Farmers Union are doing for the beef industry in this province. I have been listening and I would like to be invited to some of their meetings because I haven't been, and I haven't been aware of the meeting at Selkirk or Elkhorn or some of these other meetings which were mentioned and, as a producer, I'm wondering if there are others in a similar situation and I wonder why I was overlooked.

In 1968, the Ontario producers formed the Ontario Beef Improvement Association with the assistance of their provincial government. I phoned the Toronto office to request information pertaining to their accomplishments and I will quote the information provided. "We are working towards standardized procedures in our packing plants grade standards change, transportation of feeder and slaughter cattle, producer security in the market place, for example, prompt payment procedures to producers.

"In 1968" — that's ten years ago, gentlemen — "producers here required similar legislation that you are seeking now and there is less than 5 percent of money claims in refunds."

Re: restricted powers — which I also inquired about. The packers and dealers must pay. These are the market agencies. In ten years there have been few monetary convictions of these people. And pertaining to the producer: He can reclaim his checkoff and there is no further obligation or responsibility on his part. That was in 1968 in Ontario and their organization is doing a lot for the beef producers today.

In 1972, the Alberta Cattle Commission was formed through the Act of the Legislature. I would like to recommend to this committee that they acquire information directly from the Alberta Cattle Commission's office in Calgary to inform them re the activities being carried out by them in Alberta on the producers' behalf. I am of the opinion that if you want information, you go directly to the organization for it. It concerns me very much when people speak on assumption.

In 1973, the B.C. Cattle Producers acquired a levy from the cattle sellers in their province through legislation with their provincial government. They have been working towards producer information and consumer education. There is a levy refund to the producer upon request. A penalty of a fine not to exceed \$500 for corporations or to exceed \$200 for persons other than corporations is the law in the Province of British Columbia.

Now, as cattle producers are unique in their philosophies and acquired, it would appear, that they acquire government assistance as they have in other provinces to acquire their funding. The Cattle Producers Association Act, in my opinion, will provide producers in Manitoba with a levy as has been acquired 10 years ago in Ontario, six in Alberta, five in B.C., the number of years in Saskatchewan I'm not sure, and I would say with it's purpose to establish and finance an organization to initiate support or conduct programs for stimulating, increasing and improving the economic well-being of cattle and the beef industry in Manitoba by developing improved marketing methods, grading standards, quality standards, research and educational programs, all needed in our industry. My husband and I fully endorse this. We have been waiting for some time for an organization which will provide the producers with something positive in this province.

No. 6(1) appears well defined re its objectives and powers of the association. I, as an individual,

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have no hang-up here with my rights being interfered with as I am engaged as a producer, or in that matter, the rights of a citizen.

My interpretation in 6(2) is that the organization proposed and named as an association should not become a business enterprise. Now that's my own personal interpretation. Possibly it needs to be enlarged upon so that the average producer such as myself can interpret it well.

Our operation has good bookkeeping records which we share periodically with the Department of Revenue and we would be willing to share them with any organization for research purposes. We have nothing to hide. Periodically we share them with the university as a producer if they require it for their research purposes.

As a producer, if you don't wish to pay, in my interpretation of the Act, I simply request a refund. It is my livestock dealer who is to collect as an agent. For your information, gentlemen, for information and expertise related to our industry, we would be willing to pay \$150 a year for a well-run organization in this province.

Mr. Chairman, in conversation with my lawyer, I have been informed that this Act can be revoked by the Minister with the Assembly of the House of the Legislature of Manitoba. The recent Farm Law legislation is an example of this action. I see no reason for dismay by any citizen. My concern is what appears to be misinformation being distributed and I feel this would be more the order of the day.

Gentlemen, with freedom rests responsibility. I would hate to be a citizen of Russia today. I thank you for the attention that you have given me and I say, May God guide you in your deliberation. Before I conclude my remarks, I would like to say, I have been working as a volunteer to promote the beef industry in Manitoba and I think that as citizens you have been most fair and you have been most generous of your time in providing this type of forum for the citizens in the area of beef production to come before you, however, I regret that it is such a busy time.

Now I wondered when I sat here how long these proceedings would last and I have listened time and time again, what are other producer organizations doing in other provinces? So I have brought along some samples to show you. Now, the Alberta producers in the province, many of them are saying this — how do you like it? T-shirts are the in-thing, so here you are. "Alberta — Hereford Country." They have 40 percent of the Canadian market and the Hereford population is a large population. I think we should be wearing in Manitoba a similar type of thing.

So, you are also asking what is being done in Saskatchewan. Well, Saskatchewan, the *Horn Economist* there assisted me to acquire T-shirts which say, "Beef is Beautiful." I think it is. We have a stake in the future, gentlemen; I think it's time that we started thinking about it. So with your permission, I would like to leave with the committee — I think I have 12 of these shirts. They fit you, gentlemen, wear them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for your presentation, Mrs. Edie. I congratulate you on being much more effective than I at maintaining the attention of the committee. Will you submit to questions from the members of the committee?

MRS. EDIE: Mr. Chairman, as the hour is late, very late, and the committee have been most courteous with their time, I would like to say that I will not submit to questions. I feel that I have attempted to answer questions that have been asked and to speak candidly about my concern about the industry today. I would like to see you people now take time off, hopefully, and have a nice weekend. Thanks very much.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mrs. Edie.

The next name on the list is Dorothy Crozier. Dorothy Crozier?

Richard Rattai. Richard Rattai?

Clarke Robson. Clarke Robson?

A.D. Jones. A. D. Jones?

There are no more names on the list. The Minister, please.

MR. DOWNEY: Yes, I would just like to, if there are no more presentations, like to thank the public and their participation and their input into discussion and their feelings on Bill 25. I'm sure they'll be most useful. I've indicated at the beginning of the committees that I would be considering some amendments, that we will be working on them and will be presenting them at the reading of the clause-by-clause of the bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Uskiw.

MR. USKIW: Well, Mr. Chairman, I thought it would be fruitful if we could complete the bill tonight and then it could be reported to the Legislature as Bill not to be reported. Sure, Bill not to be

IR. CHAIRMAN: Do you seriously want to . . . Mr. Uskiw, do you care to proceed with the bill a-use-by-clause.

IR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, I don't care if this bill never appeared.

IR. CHAIRMAN: There being no more public submissions, no more briefs to be heard, is it the will of the committee to rise? (Agreed) Committee rise.