

REPORT on MEETING between the Department  
Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland,  
the National Farmers Union of Scotland  
and the Scottish Potato Trade Association  
held at East Craigs, Edinburgh, at 11am. on  
Tuesday, 2nd November, 1976.

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Present: D.O.A.S. - Dr. J. Hardie, Mrs. L. Turle, Dr. Milton Shaw, Mr. K. V.  
Runcie and Mr. D. C. Todd.

N.F.U.S. - Messrs. B. Forrest and R. Sandilands.

S.P.T.A. - Messrs. D. H. Lindsay and D. Blackmore.

Dr. Hardie occupied the chair.

Mr. Runcie opened the meeting by explaining that, following experience gained in the anti-aphid campaign during season 1976, a further campaign by the three Colleges of Agriculture for 1977 was planned. Three categories of activity had been drawn up with relevant sub-headings and endorsement and participative assistance of the Union and the Association were again being sought as follows:-

Alert: A new leaflet, placing less chemical and more good husbandry emphasis than last year, and expected ready mid-December. Spray warning postcards to growers during season as required.

Control: Tactical Leaflets (a) Chemicals  
(b) Boxing and Stores  
(c) Burning down

Educational: Meetings with producers, demonstrations in stores (discussed with chemical companies and granule applicator manufacturers), Press, Radio and TV campaign (with more emphasis on "in - season" follow-up in 1977) and closer liaison with Educational, training and other investigative facilities.

In reply to Mr. Runcie it was generally agreed that publicity of problem and counter plans would help, rather than hinder, commercial marketing interests. The ensuing discussion led on to agreement on a vital need to restore widespread early and continuous roguing capability with "on farm" training in disease recognition courses if possible, the Union and Association to stimulate growers to train their staff. Dr. Hardie stated that '76 crop certification failures could have been lessened with greater roguing effort, Mrs. Turle adding that mis-timing of sprays/

sprays reduced their effectiveness too. Dr. Hardie explained the process of leaf roll disease to support his call for wider row-spacing of crops to admit light to allow disease to show itself. Mr. Runcie also stressed the importance of post-inspection roguing and spraying asking for the trade to emphasise the growers responsibility primarily to eradicate the disease rather than simply to obtain certificated crops. Mr. Todd called upon buyers to retain at least one label to identify complaints that may arise.

Mr. Sandilands suggested the Union could help by publishing an article in support of the Campaign and can help with leaflet distribution, as well as improving timing and co-ordination of advice. The following discussion resulted in agreement to the framing of a "Philosophical Article" covering the various points raised - climatic and topographic differences between Scots and Dutch situations, burning down programmes, aphid species and behaviour, maintenance of continuity of toxicity in tubers, similarity of seed and ware interests counter to Dutch imports and English fears of insufficiency of future Scottish supplies.

It was arranged that Messrs. Runcie and Todd would draft a single article for vetting, signature and issue by the meeting in December, to be followed in January by an Explanatory Article (prepared by Mr. Runcie) a "weather article" in February and a "Practicalities Article" in March, both latter prepared by Mr. Runcie and Mrs. Turle. Mr. Sandilands agreed to write Messrs. Runcie and Todd with details of copy deadlines, publication dates and permitted lengths for material to be published in the Union's "Farming Leader". It was agreed by all present that all articles would be circulated to them and be freely available to other publications.

Mr. Runcie also explained that the three Agricultural Colleges were considering arranging a "closed" Conference in a central venue possibly Perth and enquired if this might co-incide with the Association A.G.M. Mr. Lindsay agreed this had possibilities and Mr. Todd asked to be kept informed of any outcome. Mr. Runcie also proposed that the occurrence of to-day's meeting be circularised as widely as possibility.  
The Meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Chair.