REPORT on a MEETING between the SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE ASSOCIATION and Messrs. Arthur Young McClelland Moores & Co., held at 25 South Methven Street, PERTH at 3 p.m. on MONDAY, 28th JANUARY, 1985.

PRESENT:

S.P.T.A. - Messrs. R. Doig, K. McKenzie and G. Smillie, with R.D. Hunter (Secretary) and D. Blackmore (Assistant) in attendance.

Messrs. Arthur Young McClelland Moores & Co. - Mr. Alex. McDougall.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Hunter explained the historical background which had led to today's meeting to discuss Members' problems in connection with Income Tax Pay-as-you-Earn (PAYE) and National Health Insurance Contributions (NHIC) on payments made to casual harvest workers. In reply, Mr. McDougall confirmed he had wide experience of problems of this nature and his view that standardisation of various concessions in both fields would be an enormous improvement. However, he recognised that providing Association Members with general information on the subject was a first priority. In the event that unwritten undertakings between the Inland Revenue and the National Farmers' Union of Scotland were not being extended to SPTA Members, a direct approach to the Inland Revenue's Centre 1 should be the first remedy.

During the following discussions Mr. Smillie pressed for a clear-cut definition of a casual worker, which definition should apply for both PAYE and NHIC purposes, Mr. McDougall felt the issue of general information to Members should not be delayed and in reply, felt that undertaking a test case would prove counter-productive. It was agreed that proper operation of current instructions could not be achieved without employee co-operation: that without that co-operation, all employers should stick to the proper practices, but the possibility of this happening was extremely remote.

In conclusion it was arranged that Mr. McDougall would prepare and submit guidance notes, from which (and NFUS notes) the Secretariat would draft a circular letter to all Association Members. In turn, this draft letter would be vetted by Mr. McDougall and NFUS before being despatched to Members.

The meeting was thereupon concluded.