

REPORT on a MEETING between the
SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE ASSOCIATION
and the POTATO MARKETING BOARD
at SUTTON BRIDGE on Tuesday,
13th MARCH, 1986

PRESENT:

P.M.B. - A.Q. Hitchcock (Board Chairman)
R. Pooley (Chief Executive)
R.C. Dobbs (Board Member)
F.C. Newbold (-do-)
J.A. Clayton (Chairman, Sutton Bridge Management Committee)
J.H. Heading (Deputy Chairman, -do-)
N.H. Twell (Station Manager)
J.A.H. Taylor (Agricultural Exonomist)

S.P.T.A. - K.A. McKenzie (President)
G.S. Brass (Vice-President)
P. Moffat (Deputy Vice President)
R. Doig (Council Member)

DISCUSSION: Commercial activities and Accounts at Sutton Bridge -

S.P.T.A. firmly believes the former are heavily subsidised and the latter present a confused and misleading picture. P.M.B. agreed that 1.2 million is interest free from Oxford, but that in any business branches would not pay interest on capital borrowed and all profits over the years have gone back to Oxford. S.P.T.A. found it extremely difficult to separate R & D and commercial items in accounts. However, the Board were emphatic that everything was beyond question and that S.P.T.A. appeared to be the only body questioning it.

S.P.T.A. begged to differ, in the view that if any commercial business was over the years given interest free money then making a profit was not difficult, and we thought the accounts could have shown a greater degree of facts and perhaps figures.

Board 100% certain that if Sutton Bridge were put up for sale, Board Members would buy it and that it was impossible to do R & D without the commercial side.

S.P.T.A. were treated extremely well and courteously, it was very noticeable that the P.M.B. could not understand the objections from the trade in Scotland.