

REPORT on MEETING between
S.P.T.A. and the NATIONAL
FARMERS' UNION OF SCOTLAND
HELD AT 25 SOUTH METHVEN
STREET, PERTH at 2.00p.m. on
WEDNESDAY, 14th DECEMBER, 1994.

PRESENT: S.P.T.A.: D. Stewart, D.H. Lindsay, R. McArthur and
R.D. Hunter.

N.F.U.S.: W. Reid, J. Grant and Ms C. Lang.

Mr.Reid occupied the Chair.

P.M.B. SUCCESSOR BODY: Mr.Reid reported that all sections of the Trade were now anxious to move forward but it appeared very unlikely that it will be possible to introduce the Successor Body to the P.M.B. before 1997. Mr.Reid added that a European Regime may come back on to the table bearing in mind that France will hold the Presidency of the European Union during the six months commencing 1st January, 1995. Mr.Reid stated that his Union was in general agreement with the contents of the Paper entitled "Framework for Definition of a P.M.B. Successor Body" prepared by Jim Godfrey and Jim Cruickshank. Mr.Reid reported that the English Farmers' Union was still determined that the Successor Body should comprise an elected Board similar to the existing P.M.B. The meeting considered that this was an extremely unlikely alternative for the reason that it would require new legislation. Mr. Reid also reported that he understood that the P.M.B. were proposing to arrange a two day discussion meeting of interested parties in June, 1995.

Following discussion it became clear that S.P.T.A. and N.F.U.S. had very similar views with regard to the setting up of the Successor Body. During discussion, Mr.Reid expressed the opinion that it would be quite unacceptable to the Industry as a whole to have 90% of the new Council appointed from Growers and only 10% from the rest of the Industry notwithstanding that 90% of the funding of the new Body may be provided by Growers.

It was agreed that the Seed Sector Group should have its office based in Scotland (preferably Perth). Mr.Grant said that he understood that the Board were hoping to set up an "Interim" Seed Sector Group in advance of the handover to the Successor Body. It was pointed out that the Board would not have power to conduct an election of the members of such an Interim Group. Mr.Stewart stated that he understood that the Board may be considering adapting the Seed Potato Advisory Committee to form such an Interim Group in advance of elections being carried out once the Successor Body was up and running.

S.S.P.D.C.: Mr.Reid reported that his Union was in favour of a Poll of Producers being conducted in 1995 in connection with the review of S.S.P.D.C. Caroline Lang stated that the Union were not yet pressing The Scottish Office for a Poll for the reason that they felt that it would be more prudent to do so when

further progress had been made with regard to the setting up of a Successor Body to the P.M.B. Mr. Grant stated that the final draft of the Scottish Enterprise Survey of S.S.P.D.C. would be tabled at the next Council Meeting on 20th December, 1994. Mr. Hunter reported that S.P.T.A. had written to Mr. Whitelaw requesting details of The Scottish Office's time-table for the S.S.P.D.C. Review in 1995. Mr. Stewart stated that it was likely that S.P.T.A. would be seeking an "off the record" meeting to discuss the matter with Mr. Gordon Brown of The Scottish Office in the near future.

CONTROLLED VARIETIES: Mr. Reid stated that Scottish Ware Growers were concerned at the prospect of a lack of seed of controlled varieties being available for planting next year. He added that his Union were to write to all the Controllers in the near future expressing their concern.

SMALL WARE: Mr. Reid reported that his Union had not yet had its meeting with the British Society of Plant Breeders Ltd. He confirmed, however, that his Union condemned the illegal trading in Small Ware for planting.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: It was agreed that the next meeting between S.P.T.A. and the Scottish Union would be held at Ingliston at 2.15p.m. on 8th February, 1995.

This terminated the business of the meeting.