

REPORT on MEETING between  
THE SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE  
ASSOCIATION and THE  
NATIONAL FARMERS' UNION OF  
SCOTLAND held at 25 SOUTH  
METHVEN STREET, PERTH, at  
2.30p.m. on THURSDAY, 1st  
JUNE, 1995.

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

N.F.U.S. Messrs. W. Reid and J. Grant.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of  
Messrs. J. Hollywood and Ms C. Lang.

CHAIRMAN: Mr. D. Stewart occupied the Chair.

- (1) P.M.B. SUCCESSOR BODY: Mr. Reid explained that his Union was putting pressure on The Scottish Office to ensure that the Minister gives a positive constructive response to the J.C.C. Paper which had been submitted by Sir Michael Franklin, the Chairman of J.C.C., to Mr. Waldegrave, the Minister of Agriculture. He added that his Union were now working on the basis that the Successor Body will be a Development Council set up under the 1947 Act. He reported that his Union would be meeting the English Union during the following week to discuss the matter further. Mr. Stewart confirmed that it was the preference of S.P.T.A. that the new Body should be a Development Council.

There was general discussion with regard to the membership, finances and remit of the Seed Sector Committee. It was noted that this matter was on the Agenda for the meeting of the Seed Potato Advisory Committee to be held on 14th June. It was considered that the best way forward would be for the Advisory Committee to constitute a small Working Committee to formulate proposals. It was considered that that Working Committee should, if possible, comprise Messrs. D. Stewart, W. Reid, J.Cruickshank and a representative from The Scottish Office. It was agreed that Mr. Reid would speak to Mr. Cruickshank, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee, in advance of the meeting on 14th June with a view to persuading him to support this proposal.

- (2) S.S.P.D.C. REVIEW: It was observed that the letter of consultation promised by The Scottish Office had not yet been issued. Mr. Reid explained that his Union, in advance of a Potato Committee Meeting, had obtained a copy of the draft of the letter. It had been the decision of his Committee to seek the views of the various Union Area Committees. Although it was Mr. Reid's personal opinion that S.S.P.D.C. should not be given a continuation of more than one year or possibly eighteen months without a Poll, the possibility of a two years extension without a Poll had

been included in the reference to the Union's Area Committees. Mr. Stewart stated that a two years extension without a Poll would be unacceptable to S.P.T.A. and that if this was the only option then S.P.T.A. would be likely to seek a Poll in 1995.

There then followed general discussion regarding whether the Poll, when it is carried out, should be on a "one man one vote" basis or whether it should be weighted in respect of Area/Levy. It was noted that the present proposals were that only Levy payers would be entitled to vote and accordingly that Controllers would get the vote rather than their Producers. It was the general feeling of the meeting that if only those Producers on the Register were to get the vote, the vote should be on a "one man one vote" basis. On the other hand, if all Seed Potato Producers were to get the vote, the voting should be on a weighted basis.

Mr. Stewart stated that S.P.T.A. would not be able to finalise its response to The Scottish Office until after its meeting on 20th June. Mr. Reid stated that his Union would be responding as soon as the views of its areas had been received. It was agreed that S.P.T.A. and N.F.U.S. would liaise before submitting their response to The Scottish Office.

- (2) DRAFT ARBITRATION RULES: Mr. Hunter explained that the draft Arbitration Rules had been drawn up on the assumption that the Arbiters would be appointed from a Panel of experienced competent Arbiters and that the Clerks would be drawn from a Panel of experienced and competent Solicitors. Mr. Hunter pointed out that it was proposed that there should be a Joint Panel of Arbiters appointed by S.P.T.A. and The National Farmers' Union of Scotland.

Mr. Hunter took the Committee through the draft Rules. Mr. Reid stated that his Union had not yet considered the draft Rules but would be doing so as soon as possible.

- (4) DATE OF NEXT MEETING: It was agreed that the next meeting between the respective Organisations will be held at 25 South Methven Street, Perth, on Tuesday, 1st August, 1995.

This terminated the business of the meeting.