

Disposition of Resolutions

Mrs. Diamond, Convener reported the seven resolutions (including one emergency) sustained at the FWIO Annual Board Meeting were mailed with accompanying material to the appropriate destinations.

EASTERN AREA

MILK DETERIORATION WHEN STORED IN PLASTIC POUCHES. The Hon. Monique Begin stated that the scientists in her Department are aware of reports on this subject from Guelph University and other centres and that they have also done research. Quote – “the destruction of vitamins in milk exposed to strong light has been clearly demonstrated in laboratory tests, but it is unlikely that milk will be similarly exposed on the supermarket shelves. Most consumers would not accept milk that has been affected by strong light because of its unpleasant flavor. The Dairy Industry report few complaints concerning flavor, so it appears most milk in plastic containers is not exposed to strong light for long periods.

Most of the important nutrients in milk are not affected by exposure to light. However, Vitamin A, either natural or added, is very sensitive to light, but the Health Protection Branch reports have not indicated any serious loss of “A”.

On the basis of information available, it would be difficult to justify the prohibition of plastic pouches. However, this Department will continue investigation and encourage dairies and retailers to protect milk from unnecessary exposure to light.”

ACID RAIN. Hon. John Roberts, Federal Environment Minister replied by thanking FWIO for their concern and “sharing their views.”

Hon. Keith Norton, then Provincial Minister of Environment had G. Raymond reply thanking FWIO and “encouragement for the efforts of our members.” Four books were enclosed – (1) describing the extent to which Ontario is affected by acid rain. (2) the programs which are underway to meet the challenge. (3) a brief which was presented to the US Environmental Protection Agency. (4) material presented by Ontario to the Air Pollution Control Board of the State of Indiana in opposition to the Indiana-Kentucky generating stations petition to operate with an increase in its emissions.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS CONTINUE TO HOLD THE TRAINING AND EDUCATION OF DISABLED PERSONS IN HIGHEST PRIORITY.

Federal Minister of Employment and Immigration, Hon. Lloyd Axworthy replied “a key principle underlying the Federal Government intentions is that we must ensure that women, native people, the handicapped and other disadvantaged in the labor market can acquire or upgrade the skills they need for effective access to the good jobs for the future.” Assurance was given that they would continue to hold their training in the highest priority.

Provincial Minister of Education, Hon. Bette Stephenson, explained that the training programs to meet the needs of the disabled adults are funded by the Federal Government but that it was her understanding that “opportunities for the training of employment-disadvantaged adults, including disabled persons, are to be increased.”

NORTHWESTERN AREA

DRAINAGE, asking specifically that “local council must notify in writing all landowners in affected or foreseeably affected areas and the meeting be held between Council and Owners.”

Hon. Lorne Henderson, then Provincial Minister of Agriculture replied, that in consultation with his staff, he advised it would be almost impossible to implement. He further suggested that the Executive study Section 10 of the Act.

GREY BRUCE AREA

HIGH INTEREST RATES, asking the Ministries concerned to assist home owners, farmers, and small business to refinance their debts by making loans available at lower interest rates.

Four Provincial and Five National replies were received.

Provincial Minister of Revenue congratulated WI members for the fine work they are doing. The letter was forwarded to the Minister of Treasury.

Treasury sent a copy of “Blueprint for Economic Recovery” presented at the First Ministers’ Conference in Ottawa last February by Premier Davis. Mr. Miller continued, “we are concerned about effects of interest rates . . . we have implemented policies to assist farming and small business communities . . . and we will continue to monitor the situation closely.”

Hon. Claude Bennett referred to the concern and interest demonstrated by FWIO and reiterated his being in touch with Federal counterparts.

Hon. Lorne Henderson, stated his requests to the Federal Government and Provincial efforts to “help the red meat industry” and felt the programs would give the stability needed to those persons in rural areas in difficult financial situations.”

Hon. Allan McEachen, enclosed a copy of his “Budget in Brief” and said, “the key to achieving a major reduction in interest rates is to obtain a major reduction in inflation.” He reaffirmed the Government’s determination to ensure that the policy of restraint is borne equitably. Reference was made to his announcement re measures of assistance under the Provisions of New Mortgage Renewal Plan, small business Bond Tax Initiatives and the Farm Credit Corporation Act.

Hon. Paul Cosgrove dealt in similar manner with the above topics.

Hon. Eugene Whelan expanded on the Small Business Development Bond, which includes farmers and the Farm Credit Corporation of Canada. “After 2 years under normal conditions, there should be sufficient income to meet their financial commitments.”

A further update on two Resolutions passed in 1981, one concerning **FOOD ADDITIVES** from Eastern Area and from Hamilton Area on **IMPROVED NUTRITION LABELLING,** the Hon. Monique Begin replied, “Officers of her Department and the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs are working together on preparation of proposals for improved nutrition labelling” and she hopes it will be available sometime this summer. “When proposals are completed they will be sent out in the form of an Information Letter for comment. The FWIO will certainly receive a copy of these proposals.”