

203(b) (5)—see appendix I—of the Interstate Commerce Act; namely, “cooperative associations” as defined in the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1929, as amended—see appendix II—or “Federations of such cooperative associations.”

Hence, the past and present interest of the council in preserving the long-recognized scope of this exemption and definition against the efforts to so restrict it by interpretation or legislation as to render it of no practical value to cooperating farmers is direct and clear.

Four hundred and eighty pages of printed record cover the public hearings for 5 days in 1966 and 1967 on S. 752, the companion measure to H.R. 6530, and its predecessor in the last session of Congress, S. 1729, before the Senate Surface Transportation Subcommittee of the Senate Commerce Committee.

I shall try to be helpful to your subcommittee this morning by dealing directly with basic points on which we believe information will be helpful to you in reaching prompt decision.

We shall state briefly the council's position, summarize the pertinent background to this legislation and outline why we believe prompt action now by your subcommittee is justified and will truly serve the public and no special interests.

Council position

The council opposed in the Senate and is still opposed to S. 752, the companion bill to H.R. 6530, as originally introduced on the recommendation of the Interstate Commerce Commission. The council had a major part in cooperation with other farm organizations and the Department of Agriculture in suggesting most of the changes in S. 752 which were approved by the Senate Commerce Committee and adopted by the Senate.

The council, therefore, supports S. 752 as passed by the Senate on June 4, 1968, and recommends favorable action on that version by your subcommittee and the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee on the end that such bill might be enacted into law before adjournment of this session of the Congress.

Mr. WATSON. May I interrupt the gentleman at this point?

You are in favor of S. 752?

Mr. HARMANSON. As passed by the Senate on June 4, 1968.

Mr. WATSON. Your first statement there says “The Council opposed in the Senate and is still opposed to S. 752.”

Mr. HARMANSON. You read on “as”—maybe the comma is in the wrong place, but “as originally introduced on the recommendation of the Interstate Commerce Commission.”

Mr. WATSON. But you are in favor of it as passed by the Senate?

Mr. HARMANSON. Yes. The council opposed in the Senate and is still opposed to S. 752 as originally introduced. But we are in favor of it as it passed the Senate.

Mr. WATSON. I understand now.

Mr. HARMANSON. To continue with my statement.

Background

When the Motor Carrier Act was passed in 1935 and became Part II of the Interstate Commerce Act, there were two exemptions of particular importance to farmer cooperatives and agriculture generally which were written into that act.