

2.12 Senator S.C. Ferguson of the Minister for Economic Development regarding the role of the abattoir in supporting and encouraging the local farming industry:

I am sorry. I seem to be up to the eyeballs in abattoirs this morning. Although the abattoir is operated by the Transport and Technical Services Department, its advantages are more related to the Economic Development Department. Would the Minister therefore undertake to work with the Minister for Transport and Technical Services to support and encourage the local farming industry, particularly as fortnightly opening is not appropriate for the local pork industry?

Senator L. Norman (Assistant Minister for Economic Development - rapporteur):

The answer is a clear and definite “yes”. We are already working closely with local farmers to encourage the growth of Island meat production but, clearly, as we heard a few moments ago, there are issues regarding the operation of the abattoir. However, through a joint team of Transport and Technical Services and the Economic Development Department, efforts are well under way to establish a short term solution, a medium term solution and a long term solution that will better meet the needs of the local producers.