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(Commission Secretary)

I would like to add to the comments in my note of Jan. 13/07.

Two issues were only lightly addressed in "Finding Common Ground," 2007.

First, to the extent that the ordinary concerned Manitoban can readily understand from "An Examination of the Environmental Sustainability of the Hog Industry in Manitoba," 2006, little has been ~~added~~ added to our knowledge of human resistance to antibiotics which results from heavy use in the industry. Second, plans to deal with major outbreaks of disease, if plans exist, are not in the public eye. Since some of these diseases cross from animals to humans, increasingly the public seeks reassurance that containment is being vigorously addressed, and that an outbreak in Manitoba is not inevitable.

The public gets its information on

these matters from many sources, the ⁽²⁾ least of which is government. The media loves a story which is alarming, and currently pays much attention to avian flu*. We may not live in fear in Manitoba, but knowing of the chaos in Britain in tackling foot and mouth disease in 2001, we wonder how well we are prepared in this province to meet an epidemic of any kind which spreads rapidly.

I suggest an approach which takes an independent look at security and safety in the industry, and which engages all the relevant participants. They are the producers, the transporters, feed suppliers, disposers of mortalities, workers in all these fields etc., as well as federal, provincial and municipal officials responsible for policy, legislation, inspection etc. The question of applying the most ~~recent~~ ^{recent} research

as careful review of how well existing controls are implemented. We need the "up-front" presence and plainly exhibited interest of our Dept. of Health joined with "toughness" from the Dept. of Agriculture and from Rural Development, to say nothing about Canada Health and Safety. There should be much less promotion - Heaven knows the industry itself is very good at it! - and accommodation, and much more regulatory control. Lastly, should the industry be struck by an epidemic, the local response to its containment is critical. The ultimate aim of an examination, therefore, is to recommend the content and commitments necessary in contingency plans in which municipalities, local residents and local producers play the main roles.

* Two Canadian authors (Andrew Nikiforuk, "Pandemonium", and the novelist Daniel Kalla, "Resistance") have taken up the

theme "You can't liberalise trade
without liberalising biology" written with
the ordinary reader in mind. (4)

R. H. Carter

April 30/07.