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21.10.10.

Hi Tony Windsor.

I have been intending to send you some papers on New Zealand's housing Scheme but now that you are involved in the Murray-Darling debate I'll give you some of my ideas about the problem.

Lake Klescaudrina & Cleambally Irrigation are about the same size and I've read of estimates of evaporation of the Lake that vary from 6 feet per year to 10 feet per year.

My suggestion is that a weir should be built at the mouth of the Murray where it enters the Lake and a pipe line be built each side of the Lake to supply fresh water to farmers and others.

The pipes should be back from the shore so as to allow public access so that caravan parks or picnic areas can be established. Farmers should be allowed portion of their lake frontage but some of it should be exchanged for access to the pipe line supply.

As an ex-rice grower of the 1950's I deplore any suggestion of selling off the Rice Co-op to any overseas interest. That would take rice-growers back to the days before 1950 when the Co-op. Mill was established at Linton.

Paddy rice was at £20 (pounds) per ton pre 1950. After the mill was established growers received ~~£20~~ fifty pounds per ton.

Each of my two brothers served for a period on the Board of the Rice Marketing Board. I left the rice industry after years of share

farming (rice, wheat, sheep & cattle) when I drew
the last of the Soldier's settlement blocks in
a ballot at Scone & I stayed there for 2 1/2 yrs
then I bought a farm at Galore (also a
closes settlement lease) with a water
entitlement to Old Man Creek. (Murrumbidgee River)

I transferred that farm in 1995 to my
son (I was then 75) and he carried on farming
there and at Walla Walla till 6 months ago.

Regarding N.Z. housing scheme.

I did a bit of building after the war in
the Lorton & Griffith areas with concrete blocks.
I believe that people on unemployment benefits
should be required to make such blocks
as part of their benefits and, to encourage their
co-operation, give them half the bricks they
make.

Skills required to make such blocks and
to ~~build~~ build them into walls are easily learned.
Local government could organise suppliers of materials,
as well as mixers, moulds, hammers etc & then
they could sell off the other half to help
defray costs.

It would stimulate employment in country
areas, provide storm and fire proof homes and
at ~~an~~ an affordable price so a financial deal
like the N.Z. scheme might be necessary.

You'll be a busy man so I'll not take
up more of your time.

Yours etc. Don McBlery

At 91 my writing is failing.