

Gary Hanman Comments on Antitrust Investigation vs. DFA

The following quotes are excerpted from a speech given by Gary Hanman, President/CEO of Dairy Farmers of America (DFA), at the Dairylea Cooperative annual meeting in Syracuse, New York in mid-October.

Hanman discussed the federal/state Antitrust investigation that is probing DFA's alleged misdeeds:

“What are some of our challenges? What about tomorrow? You all know the Department of Justice is (unintelligible) a full investigation of us at DFA. And what we think they are trying to decide is whether or not we have lost our Capper-Volstead immunity, by reason of things we have done through force, intimidation, or causing dairy farmers to become members of DFA who didn't want to become members of DFA.

“And so they are now involved in a full-scale investigation of DFA. And I guess you could say, first off, we will cooperate with them 100%. And many of your cooperative friends around the country have probably received requests from the Justice Department for information in trying to get a feel from other cooperatives how they feel relative to DFA and

whether we have strong-armed them, intimidated them ... used coercion to cause them to do certain things.

“But you could say that we are being looked at because we are active. We have no qualms but what when they get through they won't find any strong-arm tactics or any coercion or anybody being asked, required or commanded to do something they did not want to do.

“They are also asking some of our board members of how involved they are in the operations of DFA, as if somehow I think they believe that the 196 DFA area council board members that serve on our seven area councils are not involved in the operations of DFA. That's what we think is involved. But we are involved and will vigorously defend ourselves against this full-scale DOJ investigation.”

(Hanman then commented at length upon DFA's recent legal victory against DOJ involving alleged lack of competition for school milk contracts in Kentucky. He is crowing about a small win.)