

A comparison of the 1977-78 closed border period with the preceding three years does not indicate any increased price trends due to the border closing. In fact, pesticide price increases still lag behind the cost of living index increases. The general picture this year seems to be similar to that of last year.

As was the case in 1977, some pesticides are being offered at some United States locations more cheaply than directly across the border in Canada. Some products are lower priced in Canada than in the United States and others are offered at comparable prices in both countries.

While there is no common price for any given pesticide because of the nature of the pesticide market, the committee finds that prices reflect in the usual way the quantities sold, different profit margins and local costs that depend on location, cost of credit, package size and other factors. Casual comparisons of United States and Canadian prices can be misleading if all factors, including currency exchange rates and the difference in units of measure between the two countries, are not taken into account.

● (2217)

The pesticide price and supply committee have come up with some very interesting findings. For example, based on equivalent measure and Canadian dollars, we have compared the highest Canadian price versus the highest United States price. Let us look at some of these. A corn herbicide, atrazine

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80W, was found to be 11 per cent less in Canada; semcor 50W, a bean herbicide, 17 per cent less; zolone 30W, a fruit and vegetable herbicide, 27 per cent less.

What about the phenoxy herbicides and wild oat killers. Such as 2,4-D amine 80; MCPA amine 80; MCPA ester 80; treflan; carbyne; avadex BW and avadex 10G? Using the highest price comparisons, Canadian prices range from 1 per cent to 18 per cent less than United States prices. One must remember this is on a corrected measurement and Canadian dollar basis.

For these last items I have just mentioned, I also have a comparison of the lowest Canadian price found and the lowest U.S. price. Looking at 2,4-D amine 80 on this comparison, Canadian prices were 41 per cent less than the lowest U.S. prices. Of course, some products for the same uses are more expensive to varying degrees in Canada than in the United States, depending on the retailers and geographic areas compared. For instance, eptam, which the hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Murta) mentioned this afternoon, is sometimes more expensive in Canada than in the United States. But we must remember atrazine and 2,4-D, two of the most important weed killers in Canada, are cheaper than in the U.S.A.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The motion to adjourn the House is now deemed to have been adopted. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 11 a.m.

Motion agreed to and the House adjourned at 10.19 p.m.