1929 to 1940 show that out-of-pocket costs of production vary according to the size of the farm and the yield per acre. It is quite apparent from these studies that the absolute minimum required for such out-of-pocket expenses - exclusive of any provision for depreciation or replacement of buildings and equipment — by a relatively small wheat farmer (one-half to three-quarter section unit) in a year of complete crop failure would be at least $500.

Cash living costs for farm families were also studied by the Farm Management Department over the same period. These studies indicate that even in the depths of the depression, few farmers in the wheat-growing areas could manage with less than $400 to $500 for cash living expenses and undoubtedly very large numbers were not spending enough to maintain health adequately. It must be emphasized that these figures represent actual expenditures rather than scientific estimates of the amount needed for proper maintenance of health and welfare.

From the Farm Management studies, therefore, it seems abundantly clear that $500 for living expenses and another $500 for farm expenses is a rock-bottom minimum for the average prairie farmer. We submit, accordingly, that in view of the total amount of assistance required by the average farmer in a year of crop failure, an increase in the maximum payment under P.F.A.A. to $1,000 for farmers with a complete crop failure would not be unreasonable. Corresponding increases in the schedule of payments for farmers with a partial crop failure and adjustment of the minimum payable to the small farmer would involve no special problems.