

1980-81 was \$722,887. The estimated cost of the program for the current fiscal year (1981-82) is \$550,000.

NIAGARA PENINSULA—FRUIT CROP DAMAGE

Question No. 2,525—**Mr. Cossitt:**

1. Is there serious damage to this year's fruit crop in the Niagara Peninsula as a result of frost and, if so (a) how many farmers or growers are affected (b) what is an estimate of the damage as a percentage of the entire crop (c) what is an estimate of the damage in dollars?

2. Does the government intend to assist those suffering considerable loss in the area and, if so, what are the details?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): 1. In late December temperatures fell to -25° throughout much of southern Ontario. The severe temperatures froze fruit buds and damaged peach trees.

- (a) Initial crop estimates show that approximately 25 per cent of the 800 peach growers received moderate to severe damage. Producers in the western half of the Niagara Peninsula (Vineland to Stoney Creek) received the brunt of the damage. Damage to fruit trees varied by crop with peaches and cherries being hardest hit. Some losses also occurred in the vinifera type grapes. The extent of permanent damage will depend largely on the severity of next winter.
- (b) Preliminary indications are the peach crop will be 75 per cent to 85 per cent of the 1980 crop. The cherries crop is anticipated to be 50 per cent to 60 per cent of the 1980 crop. However there was a bumper crop in 1980 for peaches and cherries. Over-all peach yields will be almost average and sour cherries are expected to be about 70 per cent of the normal yield of the last five years.
- (c) The extent of loss in dollars cannot be determined at this time as provincial officials have not completed their annual fruit crop survey and they are therefore unsure of both this year's production and prices.

2. The policy of the federal government in providing assistance to farmers suffering serious and unavoidable crop loss is one of financial contributions to the federal-provincial crop insurance program. In Ontario, this contribution is 50 per cent of the premium cost which in 1980 amounted to some \$100 million in Canada, including \$13.4 million for the province of Ontario. The crop insurance program, administered in Ontario by the Ontario Crop Insurance Commission, has insurance plans covering virtually all fruit crops grown in the Niagara Peninsula. This is a well advertised program that guarantees a return of at least the out of pocket costs of growing a crop. Since crop insurance was available in the Niagara Peninsula, no additional assistance programs are considered necessary.

Order Paper Questions

EMPLOYMENT AND IMMIGRATION—CONTRACTS WITH BRONSTEIN BROS. AND GATEHOUSE LASALLE LTÉE

Question No. 2,550—**Mr. Stewart:**

Did the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission pay Bronstein Bros., Lasalle, \$19,326 for bakery and cereal products and Gatehouse LaSalle Ltée, Lachine, \$10,011 for miscellaneous groceries and, if so, for what purpose were they purchased and to whom were they distributed?

Hon. J.-J. Blais (Minister of Supply and Services): No. However, the Department of Supply and Services did awarded a contract on behalf of the Department of National Defence, to Bronstein Bros., Lasalle, for the amount of \$27,794.75 and to Gatehouse LaSalle Ltée., Lachine, for the amount of \$10,011.00. Both contracts were for purchase of miscellaneous groceries required by the DND Base at Alert. N.W.T.

MONTREAL NEUROLOGICAL INSTITUTE

Question No. 2,572—**Mr. Halliday:**

Were federal funds used in the establishment of the Montreal Neurological Institute and, if so, in what amount?

Mr. Doug Frith (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Health and Welfare): Under the Health Resources Fund Program, federal contributions were approved for the expansion and renovation of the Montreal Neurological Institute in 1978, totalling \$7,262,983. To date, payments amounting to \$5,040,637.72 have been made.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT—ALBERTA U-DRIVE LEASE

Question No. 2,605—**Mr. Stewart:**

Did the Department of the Environment lease cars and trucks from Alberta U-Drive valued at \$58,629 and, if so (a) how many vehicles (b) for how many days (c) for what purpose?

Hon. J.-J. Blais (Minister of Supply and Services): On behalf of the Department of Environment, DSS awarded a contract to Alberta U-Drive for an amount of \$58,718.75.

(a) 30 vehicles.

(b) 4479 days.

(c) To be used in the national parks during the tourist season.

EDC—CESKOSLOVENSKA OBCHODNI BANKA FINANCING

Question No. 2,629—**Mr. Jelinek:**

Was financing made available in 1978 to Ceskoslovenska Obchodni Banka, Czechoslovakia (H.A. Simons International Limited) through the Export Development Corporation for the purpose of constructing a sulphate pulp mill at Czechoslovakia's Ruzomberok and, if so, what was the full amount of the loan and what were the terms of repayment?

Hon. Ed Lumley (Minister of State (Trade)): Export Development Corporation states that: it did make financing available in 1978 to Ceskoslovenska Obchodni Banka A.S. by signing a loan agreement to finance sales of goods and services