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In 1973 a repair job on his combine required 92 bushels of grain. Incidentally, at that time in dollar terms the job cost him \$155. He had the same repair job done last fall at a cost of \$1,176. In terms of corn, it required 434 bushels.

A tonne of ammonium nitrate in 1973 required 43 bushels of corn. It now requires 94 bushels. In 1973 a bushel of corn purchased six gallons of diesel fuel. This fall it required 2.7 bushels of corn.

In 1973 he paid his property taxes by marketing 293 bushels of corn. This fall he required 405 bushels of corn to pay those same property taxes. In 1973 he required 818 bushels to pay those expenses for a cost of \$1,300. This fall, 1981, he required twice as many bushels, 1,595 bushels, with a dollar value of \$4,709.

Simply to get parity with 1973 costs, corn would have to sell at \$5.75 a bushel. That would require an increase of \$2.80. The difference is exactly what corn is selling for now. To break even and get back to where he was in 1973, corn would have to double in price.

I mentioned earlier that the situation was more severe for the red meat industry. I am sure the hon. member for Medicine Hat (Mr. Hargrave), who is very concerned about this, will speak on this subject in the days ahead. I would like to cite a survey of some 93 beef farmers in three Ontario counties, Bruce, Grey and Wellington, which showed that 42 of the 93 had debts worth more than 75 per cent of what they owned and 23 had debts that exceeded their assets. It would appear that most of these producers whose debts exceeded 75 per cent of their assets are in serious financial difficulty at the present time. Most of those farmers will not likely be able to finance their cattle operation in 1982. The average debt of those 93 farmers was \$405,000. Nine of them had liabilities of more than \$1 million and one had a debt of \$2.2 million. Most of the debt is at floating interest rates which have doubled in the past year while beef prices have remained low.

The survey also showed that only seven of the farmers answering the questionnaire showed a profit of more than \$5,000, while 22 of them said they lost more than \$75,000 in 1981. To cope with interest rates of more than 20 per cent, 12 farmers sold off land or machinery, four of them liquidated their assets, six got an off-farm job and 23 of them, for whatever good it might do, took out another mortgage. That survey looked at only three Ontario counties. It is interesting to note that Senator Harry Hays, a former minister of agriculture, now in the other place, reportedly said that this problem is general across Canada.

Let us look at the stress, strain, frustration and depression that financial situations like these cause in a rural county. I want to refer to Mrs. Giselle Ireland, a spokesperson for the 250-member Concerned Farm Wives. She said her group studied 100 farm families in Bruce and Grey counties and found them constantly worried about bank payments, with high interest rates and beef prices that have led to huge losses and leaves many farmers merely working for the bank. She

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said that farmers are traditionally peace-loving people and that they would rather stay on the farm and do what they do best instead of going out and raising hell; but the feeling of being choked over a period of time leaves a sense of hostility and the urge to fight back.

Problems show up in the doctor's office as well. Alan Abelson, a doctor at the Chesley Medical Clinic, said an increasing number of patients are complaining of domestic and financial problems when they come for what he described as routine physical examinations. Dr. W. Knox, a medical doctor from Kincardine, Ontario has stated publicly that, as a result of the economic stress on the rural community, there is a growing awareness among the physicians of his area that there are indeed stresses in many forms appearing in the family unit. He further stated it was the over-all impression that if the current economic stress continues, more serious medical problems will follow.

It is obvious that floating interest rates are sinking many Canadian farmers. The red flags are up. Many farmers and business people have already thrown in the towel. Farm bankruptcies do not tell the whole story. They are only the tip of the iceberg. Farm bankruptcies do, however, indicate the trend.

By the use of the government's own statistical information, we see that farm bankruptcies have increased by 147 per cent when we compare the first half of 1979 to the same half of 1981; 147 per cent against 25 per cent over the same period compared to manufacturing, construction, transportation, trade and service industries. If we look at the number of bankruptcies from January 1 to September of this year, we find that there were 191. If we extend that period by one month from January 1 to October 1, we see an increase to 230. Only a fool or an idiot would suggest that all is well in the farm community.

Understandably, this financial crisis has not stopped at the farm gate. Rural commercial business centres are reporting 50 per cent declines in sales and service. Farm service industries are reporting not only declines in sales, but alarming increases in accounts receivable and bad debts.

For example, Robert Laning of Norfolk county, and owner and manager of a very large and diversified farm implement agency, indicates that nobody is buying, and he cannot blame them. I have known Mr. Laning for at least 20 years. He is a very progressive and industrious businessman. He operates a farm dealership and services some 500 machinery and equipment dealer outlets throughout Canada, primarily in Ontario, Quebec and the maritimes.

He has indicated that interest costs to service his inventory have increased by 230 per cent over the past 24 months. His accounts receivable over 60 days have increased by 200 per cent in the last 20 months. He predicts that 30 per cent or more of the dealerships will not survive beyond 1982 if present financial conditions continue. This results in the decline of service and repairs for farmers. This in itself is costly, particularly during the planting and harvesting period. We sometimes run into the ridiculous situation where a \$50,000 or \$100,000