has really never been reduced to the form of a report, and I think in that respect it is regrettable that something more concrete has not emerged from those rather lengthy, and I think important, deliberations.

The difficulties in the farming industry today have, of course, been partly overcome. The farmer is approaching the solution to his problems through more efficient operation, and in doing so requires newer and more efficient machines. It is a matter of interest, Mr. Speaker, that machinery investment on farms in Canada today amounts to $2.5 billion. We can compare this with 15 years ago when investment was $1.5 billion. I mention this to show the rapid increase both in size and cost of farm machinery in the post-war period.

However, we all know that the cost of other farm expenses is also going up, for example labour, machinery, operating expenses, and so on. I think it is interesting to look at the rate of these increases. I have before me some information supplied by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics indicating the relative rate of increase of these other operating expenses as compared with machinery costs. It is an index of prices of commodities and services used by farmers, and I introduce these figures by saying, so as to make them more intelligible, that the index I refer to is a measure of the change in prices of things farmers buy for use in their farming operations. The composite index reflects changes in the average prices for large groups of production goods and services.

While the prices of most goods and services have moved up since the 1940's the prices of some have moved more rapidly than others. The sub-indexes have been calculated for the major components of the composite index.

During the 1950's, the price of farm machinery rose more rapidly than the average of all prices of goods and services used by farmers. From 1949 to 1959, the index of farm machinery prices rose 90.0 points while the composite index rose 65.4 points. The index of prices of building materials rose 88.5 points. Since 1959 however, the rise in the index of farm machinery prices had been at a slower rate than the index of prices of many other goods and services by farmers. During the past five years, during 1960 to 1964, the index of farm machinery prices advanced 25.4 points. The composite index in the same period advanced 31.9 points and the building materials price index advanced by 30.1 points. Farm wage rates advanced even more rapidly. From 1949 to 1959 the index of farm wage rates rose 164.9 points as compared to the 65.4 point rise for the composite index and 90.1 point rise for the machinery price index. During the past five years farm wage rates have continued this trend, their index rising 72.2 points as against 31.9 for the composite index and 25.4 points for the index of farm machinery prices.

As I mentioned in my opening remarks, I do think—I say this with respect because I know the hon. Member, like all hon. Members in this House, is very concerned about the problems facing the agricultural industry—that we have to approach the question, as the Government is doing, from the over-all, broad approach; and this is the reason I read into the record the relative increase in prices in the farming industry, because it indicates that while the price of machinery is a serious and important factor, relatively speaking, in the cost of farming, it is no more important, or in late years as important, as the increase in the cost of labour and other services and requirements for which the farmer must pay.

I mentioned earlier that one of the solutions to our problems—all of us in agriculture refer to the cost-price squeeze—is greater efficiency. This has resulted in bigger and better and more expensive machines, and this in itself is a very important approach which we must take to our agricultural problems. The farmer has done an exceedingly fine job of increasing his efficiency, but that is not the whole answer; and certainly we cannot find the answer to the broad, over-all problems entirely within the scope of increased efficiency. The problem, of course, is that the price the farmer is receiving for his produce is not keeping pace with the cost of his operations, the various facets of which I have already described.

Another problem, one which this Government is moving and has moved very rapidly to assist, although it is not the entire solution—and I do not think anyone on this side has ever suggested it is—is the question of better credit facilities. The amendments to the Farm Credit Corporation legislation, which doubled the amount of credit available to farmers, and the amendments to farm improvement loans legislation, which increased the amount available from $7,500 to $15,000, in fact doubling it, have put the Canadian farmer in the position where there is more credit available to help him consolidate his land, purchase equipment and so on, thus making his operation an economical or more