

**THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
HAS THE HONOUR TO PRESENT ITS**

FOURTH REPORT

In accordance with its mandate under Standing Order 96(2), your Committee has examined the question of farm input costs and has agreed to report the following.

In the last session of Parliament the Standing Committee held hearings on the various difficulties farmers were experiencing with the various input costs. The Committee thought to strengthen the stabilization contract entered through the Western Grain Stabilization Program to protect grain farmers, who have been amongst those worst hit by low prices.

Since then the situation has deteriorated. Commodity prices remain low, while production costs are high. This naturally exerts great pressure on farm incomes. The Committee considers that the maintenance of the major inputs which contribute to high production costs might reveal ways in which these could be reduced.

With this objective in mind, the Committee held a series of public hearings to explore into matters affecting the costs of such inputs as farm machinery, pesticides, fertilizers, fuel, and other necessities.

Although the transportation cost of agricultural products on their way to markets are not strictly input costs, many of the witnesses related their views on the costs of these products and so they have been included in this report.

Between November 20, 1964 and May 25, 1965, the Committee held 25 meetings to listen to the comments of Government and industry representatives which form the basis of this report. The Committee wishes to thank the Federal government, which has agreed to help meet the cost of the report, and the many individuals and organizations who have assisted it in its task.