

Canagrex Act

companies as well are saving money because the farmers are absorbing the full cost of travelling those distances. So the only ones that are paying are the farmers, those people in these times who can least afford it.

Those costs become extremely important, Mr. Speaker. I received a letter recently from someone in my riding which, I think, demonstrates very clearly what I have been saying. One of my constituents wrote to me and talked about the cost of producing his crops. His input costs per acre included fertilizer at around \$26, herbicides were about \$12, certified seed was around \$9, fuel and oil was about \$12. Added to that are machinery repairs, utilities, taxes and so on. His total costs came to \$102 per acre.

That became very significant lately when there were crop failures in the area because of drought conditions. I wrote to the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan) and asked for some assistance, but he suggested that they buy crop insurance.

Crop insurance, Mr. Speaker, would have come to about \$50 an acre less than half the direct expenses those farmers face in producing those crops.

The other thing affecting the farmers badly is, of course, interest rates. As we look at these problems we can see that if we want to consider exporting our products we have to take a very close look at the domestic problems we experience in order to get our crops out.

Mr. Speaker, may I call it six o'clock?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): I take it that the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Cooper) is simply recognizing that it is six o'clock; he is not terminating his remarks?

Mr. Cooper: Yes, Mr. Speaker, that is right.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): It being six o'clock, and pursuant to Standing Order 2(1), I do now leave the chair until two o'clock tomorrow afternoon.

At 6 p.m. the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.
