

**Hon. Senators:** Agreed.  
(The table follows)

	ACRES	%
Newfoundland—		
1966.....	49,513	plus 26.6
1971.....	62,704	
Prince Edward Island—		
1966.....	926,978	minus 16.4
1971.....	774,630	
Nova Scotia		
1966.....	1,851,895	
1971.....	1,328,875	minus 28.2
New Brunswick—		
1966.....	1,811,695	
1971.....	1,339,133	minus 26.1
Quebec—		
1966.....	12,886,069	
1971.....	10,801,116	minus 16.2
Ontario—		
1966.....	17,826,045	
1971.....	15,963,056	minus 10.5
Manitoba—		
1966.....	19,083,817	
1971.....	19,008,259	minus .4
Saskatchewan—		
1966.....	65,409,363	
1971.....	65,056,875	minus 5
Alberta—		
1966.....	48,981,875	
1971.....	49,506,287	plus 1.1
British Columbia—		
1966.....	5,292,310	
1971.....	5,823,231	plus 10.0
Yukon and N.W.T.—		
1966.....	4,268	
1971.....	4,448	plus 4.2

1966 census— 174.1 million acres in farms  
1971 census—169.7 million acres in farms—first drop since 1940  
Decrease in Canada: 2.6%

NOTE: Figures include pasture and rangeland in the west.

**Hon. Mr. Carter:** The table shows a 26 per cent increase in acreage in Newfoundland, but since our total acreage in 1971 was still only 62,704 acres, that figure has little significance.

As Senator Norrie pointed out, many changes have taken place in our attitudes and thinking with respect to land use since the last Senate committee submitted its final report in 1963. Now we are more conscious of the value of our resources, and the millions who die every year of hunger and starvation have impressed upon us the fact that soil is one of the most precious of all our

resources. The same is true of water, which is becoming a very scarce resource. In fact, we are becoming more conscious of the growing scarcity of our resources and of the need for conservation.

Speaking of starving millions, I should like to give three brief quotations from eminent authorities on the world food situation. The first is from Dr. A. H. Boerma, Director General of the FAO, who says:

There is little if any margin against the possibility of another widespread harvest failure and the world has become dangerously dependent on current production and hence on weather conditions.

The second is from Dr. Norman Borlaug, the Nobel Prize winning wheat expert, who says:

Only a handful of people are aware of just how close we were to having 50 to 60 million people die this year.

The third is from Lester Brown, who is a food production specialist, who says:

With less fertilizer and two per cent regular increase in population this is the first year in which one can say positively: There will be a reduction of food production in Asia, regardless of the weather. Never before in my memory was it possible to say that.

Later Mr. Brown goes on to say that in 1961 the grain reserves of the grain-exporting countries were enough to feed the world for 95 days. In 1971 the figure was 51 days. Now he says the reserves are sufficient for only 29 days. This decline in reserves, the increase in population, which grows by some 70 million to 75 million people a year, and the shortage in fertilizer, mean that the world is much more susceptible to the vagaries of changing weather conditions.

We have become not only more conservation-minded but more ecology-minded as well. We have become more conscious and appreciative of our environment generally and of the interdependence of land, air, water, vegetation, wildlife and man himself.

Ten or twelve years ago nobody bothered much about pollution. Now we recognize it as one of our greatest problems. During the last decade our values have changed somewhat and we are now beginning to place more value on the quality of life rather than on more affluence. This, in turn, has placed more emphasis on the use of land for recreational purposes, and has raised concern about the ownership of recreational land by non-Canadians and absentee owners. All of this has brought home to us the moral issue of stewardship of the land we possess and of our duties and obligations to future generations.

A decade ago we were far less sensitive to urban sprawl, and only now are we beginning to recognize what a menace it is, and what it will lead to if allowed to go unchecked. Maurice Strong, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Program, writing in the *Financial Post* on May 26, 1973, stated:

Within thirty years the human race will have crossed a fateful and astonishing historical watershed. Man will be living for the first time in a predominantly urban planet... We must set to work now before sheer scale and sheer speed have carried us into settle-