

Ontario Federation of Agriculture,
Leeds Co., cont'd.

- Feed grains -- demand is up. The price of soy has risen considerably and is expected to rise another \$20. a hundredweight. Concentrates such as urea will also rise, but the experts wouldn't predict by how much.
- Petroleum prices are going up -- within three years prices of petroleum products will be up by as much as fifty percent.
- Spare parts for farm machinery made in the United States will increase by at least fifteen percent, due to the falling Canadian dollar and the absence of price control in the United States.
- Baling twine from Brazil and Mexico will be in good supply and cost about the same as last year. Brazilian twine will cost about one dollar more than Mexican. The Mexican twine is not recommended for bale throwers.

Recent communications between OFA and the federal government have been less than encouraging. A letter from Tony Abbott, Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, states the government's view that import controls are not necessary or desirable on food products and that the Canadian industry will have to adapt to cheaper foods coming in from other countries.

In southwestern Ontario the border has been closed to farmers importing their own chemicals for herbicide purposes. Agriculture Minister Eugene Whelan has set up a new advisory committee with two members each from agriculture, the federal ministry and the chemical industry, to advise the minister on cost differentials and supposedly to help in policing the situation. It is expected that the Canadian chemical industry will be allowed about a five percent spread over U.S. prices. To quote Director Richmond: "Our farm lobby is too

5
weak and hasn't the political clout to compete with a couple of chemical companies crying the blues." "The government is prepared to protect others but not agriculture." "Government is using agriculture as the lever in dealing with other countries -- we'll take food products from

any country in order to sell other Canadian goods" -- and to quote Tony Abbot, "farmers must be prepared to adapt, that is, prepared to go out of business. A country which loses the power to feed itself will be at the mercy of foreign pressures and policies."

The County of Frontenac Exhibit Committee in connection with the 1977 International Plowing Match announces the following program of events April 2nd to 6th at St. Lawrence College:

April 2nd at 2:00 p.m. - Opening of the Arts & Crafts Exhibits.

Presentation of Trophies.

at 8:00 p.m. - A Country Hoedown Night featuring: The Carlton Show Band (from Pig & Whistle); International Fiddle Champion - Graham Townsend; International Step Dancing Champion - Gilles Roy; Leahy Family from Lakefield; The Gray Sisters from Perth; and Robert Boal as Master of Ceremonies.

April 3rd at 2:00 p.m. - Exhibits open 2 p.m. - 6 p.m.

at 2:30 p.m. - A Multicultural Showcase presented by the Kingston & District Folk Arts Council.

April 4th to 6th - Demonstrations and Exhibits.

Tickets for the Country Hoedown will be available from St. Lawrence College (reception desk); County Clerk's Office in the Court House; and the Chamber of Commerce. Tickets will be \$5.00 and there will be no reserve seats.