

pute. I am hopeful they will make use of this mediation service and that some significant progress will be made quickly.

Mr. Alexander: Will the minister tell us whether the proposal submitted by him has been accepted by both parties, or is this still up in the air?

Mr. O'Connell: Mr. Speaker, I am not making proposals to the parties. I am not acting as a mediator in this dispute. The officers of the department are available as mediators. Both parties know that the federal government is prepared to make a mediator available over a longer period of time after a settlement has been reached. We stand by that offer.

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• (1500)

GRAIN

WHEAT—INQUIRY AS TO MEASURES TO PRESERVE UNITED KINGDOM MARKET

Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the minister in charge of the Wheat Board. Having regard to the widespread concern which has been expressed that Canada will find increasing difficulty in selling wheat to the United Kingdom, has the minister instituted any new measures to preserve our market in that country.

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): I can assure the hon. member that the Wheat Board is in constant touch with our buyers and takes all logical steps to assure that market as well as markets in all other countries.

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POLLUTION

DATE OF PUBLICATION OF REGULATIONS UNDER NORTHERN INLAND WATERS ACT

Mr. Doug Rowland (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. On May 1 I asked him a question on a matter of some urgency in light of recent oil finds in the Arctic, namely, when the regulations under the Northern Inland Waters Act would be completed and published. The hon. gentleman took the question as notice and undertook to look into the matter. I wonder whether he is now in a position to reply?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, the act has been proclaimed and I understand that the regulations are being considered by the two councils which have been established in order to implement them. I think that a meeting has been held last week and as soon as the report is submitted, we shall be able to proclaim these regulations. Meanwhile, officials of my department have advised the companies that they should abide by the regulations as if they were actually in force.

Inquiries of the Ministry

[English]

INTENTION RESPECTING PROCLAMATION OF ARCTIC WATERS POLLUTION PREVENTION ACT

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): I have a supplementary question for the minister. Is it the intention of the government to proclaim the Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Act? If not, why not; and if so, when?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I have advised this House that we could not proclaim it right now because if we did we would have, in the present context, to delay the activities in the port of Churchill. But we think that we have found a solution to the legal problem which had developed following the passing of this new legislation, and we should be able to proclaim the act for the next navigation season in the north.

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[English]

DRUGS

VOTE AT UNITED NATIONS ON LEGALIZING POSSESSION AND USE OF MARIJUANA—REASON FOR CANADIAN ABSTENTION

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, may I have permission to answer a question which was put to me by the hon. member for Calgary North?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We have gone beyond the end of the question period, but with unanimous consent the minister might be allowed to reply. Is it agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Sharp: The hon. member asked me whether a vote had been taken in the United Nations with respect to the legalization of marijuana. Then he asked if I was able to inform the House whether all other nations had voted against the proposition while Canada abstained.

On May 17 a vote was taken in the social committee of the Economic and Social Council on a resolution entitled "Abuse of Cannabis and Multiple Drug Abuse." This resolution was adopted by the social committee with 41 members in favour, none opposed, and three abstentions, namely, Canada, the Netherlands and Trinidad-Tobago. The Canadian delegation explained, as it did when a similar vote was taken earlier on the narcotics convention at Geneva, that it abstained from voting because the subject matter of the resolution formed part of the mandate of the commission of inquiry into the non-medical use of drugs whose report had not yet been given governmental consideration.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, as I indicated earlier in reply to a question, I would be happy to make a statement on Rhodesia if there is agreement to revert to motions for that purpose, but if there is not disposition to grant this permission perhaps I might at least have the privilege of