

the stage at which they will agree to stabilize the present floor prices under the wheat agreement?

Mr. Lang: I have indicated before that since the time in March when we found it necessary to move our prices below the minimum, a good degree of stability has been restored to the pricing of wheat. I have nothing further to add to the statement I made on that subject before.

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Could the minister say whether the National Farmers Union have any reason for the deep pessimism they have expressed about the statement which the minister intends to make in the House shortly with regard to the situation in western Canada?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question as asked is not in order.

POLLUTION

ARCTIC WATERS—COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION RESPECTING HYDROCARBON POLLUTANTS

Mr. Paul St. Pierre (Coast-Chilcotin): I have a question for the Minister of Transport which arises out of his statement to the House earlier today on the Chedabucto Bay spill. In view of the fact that a clean up of the spill in the Arctic will present immeasurably greater problems, can the minister tell the House when we may expect a response to the standing committee's recommendations that there should be scientific studies made of hydrocarbon action in Arctic waters?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Some work in this connection is under way now, but in addition I have asked Dr. McTaggart Cowan and his group to keep full records of what they are doing in this water, the temperature of which is about 35 degrees. It is my hope that perhaps we could carry these studies beyond the initial ones made and perhaps do the kind of studies in the Arctic to which the hon. member referred.

OIL—INQUIRY AS TO INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): May I ask the minister whether it is his intention to put his proposed legislation dealing with oil pollution on high seas and liability in relation thereto before Parliament before the second voyage of the *Manhattan* through Canadian waters?

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): It may be impossible. I am not sure of the actual dates when this voyage is proposed, but if it is not possible to have the actual legislation before the House at that time I can assure hon. members that no ice breaker assistance or any other assistance will be provided unless the ship meets with the qualifications that would, in fact, be in effect if the legislation were implemented.

ARCTIC WATERS—REFUSAL OF OFFSHORE DRILLING RIGHTS PENDING DEVELOPMENT OF SAFEGUARDS

Mr. George Muir (Lisgar): I have a question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In view of the fact that the known quantities of oil on the North American continent would seem to be adequate for the foreseeable future, would the government give consideration to refusing any offshore oil drilling rights among our Arctic islands to protect the ecology of that area until such time as efficient drilling safeguards have been developed?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, this problem comes under the jurisdiction of my department. In fact, we have for a long time delivered leases for drilling of oil fields in the Arctic archipelago, and we have created a tripartite committee made up of industrialists, conservation officials and officials of my department, in order to ascertain that any drilling in the North will be done in such a way as to preserve the animal life whose existence is very precarious in that region of Canada.

[English]

BANNING OF PHOSPHATES IN DETERGENTS

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): I have a question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In view of the fact that, thanks to Professor Philip Jones, we now have available for manufacture Formula N, a completely non-phosphate detergent, has the minister now made up his mind to lose no further time in banning phosphate detergents from the market?

An hon. Member: Let's go, Mr. Greene.

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): I think I have stated in the clearest possible terms that phosphates above a certain acceptable percentage will be banned on August 1. I met the presidents of