

sarily reflect market conditions that would prevail in August, I decided to delay announcing initial payments until July.

Although the initial price for No. 1 CW Red Spring Wheat was 50 cents higher than August 1, 1980, it constituted a reduction from the 1980-81 adjusted initial price by some 60 cents per bushel. Again farmers complained that it was too low, but again it reflected world market conditions.

My annual pre-seeding report, which suggests how many acres should be seeded to various crops, is in the final stages of preparation and should be available for release at an early date.

Farmers and farm organizations have made it clear that they consider initial payments an important guide when making their seeding plans. Therefore, I have decided to accept their advice and I have placed before cabinet recommendations for initial prices for the 1982-83 crop year. I am hopeful that a decision will be reached in time to make the announcement before the end of this month. This announcement will be accompanied by the details of the pre-seeding recommendations.

Hon. G. I. Smith: Honourable senators, why does the minister not have courage enough to make a ministerial statement, instead of arranging to plant a question with a colleague?

Some Hon. Senators: Shame!

Senator Smith: The minister should feel ashamed.

Senator Argue: I believe my courage in this place compares favourably with that of the honourable senator, so I do not consider that that kind of innuendo is necessary. In any event, Senator Guay gave me notice of his question. It is not an announcement of policy because the policy has not yet been formulated. I am not yet able to announce it. It is a statement that I have submitted recommendations to cabinet.

Surely, the purpose of the Senate is to raise questions and to receive answers. I consider the question a good one. I believe that producers in western Canada are interested in the question and answer, and in view of the shenanigans which have gone on during the last half hour or so, I believe the question and my reply compare quite favourably.

Senator Smith: If the minister feels so confident of his courage, then I do not challenge it; but I am asking why he does not make it a ministerial statement so that it can be dealt with as such.

Senator Guay: Order!

Senator Smith: Order? What is the honourable senator talking about? He heard the nonsense that was going on over here a while ago. Why is he calling, "Order"?

Senator Guay: On a point of order, if Senator Smith will look up the record of our proceedings for last year, he will find that I asked a similar question last year. It was my intention to do so again this year, and the record will speak for itself. I don't appreciate the honourable senator's comments.

Senator Smith: That makes two of us.

Hon. Jacques Flynn (Leader of the Opposition): You don't have to get excited about nothing, Senator Guay.

UNITED NATIONS

OUTER SPACE TREATY—CANADIAN INITIATIVE

Hon. Andrew Thompson: Honourable senators, I should like to ask what I believe is an appropriate question dealing with disarmament.

Hon. G. I. Smith: You are right.

Hon. Jacques Flynn (Leader of the Opposition): Détente.

Senator Thompson: As background for my question to the Leader of the Government, Canada was involved in the original move for the 1967 Outer Space Treaty. Honourable senators may recall that Senator Bonnell, on his return from a NATO conference, reported that there was dissatisfaction with the treaty and that it required more teeth.

My first question is: What initiative has the Canadian government taken to give this Outer Space Treaty more teeth?

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, that question will be taken as notice.

INTERNATIONAL SATELLITE MONITORING AGENCY— CANADIAN INITIATIVE

Hon. Andrew Thompson: Honourable senators, I have another question concerning the International Satellite Monitoring Agency. The United Nations issued a report last year about such an agency. What initiative is being taken by Canada with respect to that report?

Senator Perrault: Honourable senators, the question also will be taken as notice. I do not have any information on the specific point this evening.

FISHERIES AND OCEANS

NEWFOUNDLAND—ANNUAL SEAL HUNT—DYE SPRAYING OF SEALS BY PROTESTERS

Hon. Jack Marshall: Honourable senators, I have a question for the Leader of the Government, which he will probably have to take as notice. There is an intent on the part of the Greenpeace organization to interfere with the current seal hunt off the Magdalen Islands, to the extent that the crew of the Greenpeace vessel have threatened to spray the coats of the seals with green dye.

Two years ago the Food and Drug Directorate indicated that the green dye could interfere with the relationship between the mother and baby seal. If the Greenpeace Organization is so humane, why does it intend to use this dye when it knows that it will cause harm to the seals? Indeed, if the green dye is used in increasing proportions, it could do more than damage the coats. It will have a detrimental effect on the baby seals. If the organization is so humane, why is it doing that?