

prepared to accept the services of dredging companies now charged, subject to safeguards. Is the minister in a position now to elaborate on that statement? What are the safeguards he has in mind at this particular time?

Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, I would like to be in a position to say what the appropriate safeguards are, but discussions are currently taking place with the Ministry of Transport, the National Harbours Board, the Department of Justice as well as Public Works to try to determine what is both practicable and adequate.

Mr. Alexander: Can the minister advise whether he is having any discussions, with respect to the safeguards, with the companies which are now charged, and is it the intention of the government to advise the House and the public what these safeguards will be and whether in fact he will seek the approval of the House regarding these safeguards and the contracts before entering into them? I ask these questions because of the very serious nature of the matter and because of the peculiarity of the entire situation.

Mr. Drury: I think that I would probably be very glad to inform the House of the safeguards, but perhaps seeking approval of the techniques to be adopted, which I am sure will commend themselves to the House, would be a time-consuming procedure which would hold up effective work in this area.

● (1440)

Mr. Alexander: Mr. Speaker, a final supplementary. I can understand the predicament in which the minister finds himself, but I wonder if he could advise the House and the Canadian people what the safeguards are before entering into any contracts with the dredging companies, particularly those which are presently charged? Could the minister do that?

Mr. Drury: Mr. Speaker, there is really no great difficulty about that because the period between calling for tenders and entering into contracts is necessarily quite long.

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[Translation]

AGRICULTURE

FEED GRAIN SUPPLIES IN THE EAST—GOVERNMENT ACTION TO ASSURE

Mr. Yves Caron (Beauce): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the Minister of Agriculture.

Following the great number of questions some hon. members have asked in the House last week from the Minister of Agriculture, and since the problem of grain supplies for eastern farmers has not yet been settled as far as the elevators are concerned, does the Minister of Agriculture intend to take special steps to settle this very urgent problem as soon as possible and, if so, what are they?

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): An excellent question.

Oral Questions

[English]

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the people who are on strike do not come under the jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture. The grain is still moving. There are still ships moving in the St. Lawrence. Grain is moving out of Prescott and some out of Montreal. We know that feed mills are still being supplied at the present time but we do not know how long that will last.

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HEALTH

IMPRESSION GIVEN TO STUDENTS CONCERNING SEX—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Peter Elzinga (Pembina): Mr. Speaker, my question was for the right hon. Prime Minister, but in his absence I will direct it to the Acting Prime Minister. An official of the Department of National Health and Welfare stated recently in a discussion, and I will quote this as it is in writing. I hope you will bear with me—

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the hon. member would just put his question.

Mr. Elzinga: I have no question without the quote, Mr. Speaker.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: Go ahead.

Mr. Elzinga: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The quotation is:

Publications were put into what is called "Generation", a package of information distributed to high school and university students giving them full information on what the problems are... At present we have an advisory committee, a working group that is doing a special study on how to go into new ways of trying to convince people, such as, you know "Sex is okay, but V.D. is out".

This is my concern and my question to the Acting Prime Minister is—

Mr. Alexander: What does Mitch know about sex?

Mr. Elzinga: —is it this government's policy to convey to high school students the impression that sex is okay but venereal disease is out?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I must say that I find some support in the House for the first part of that statement.

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ENERGY

DECISION OF INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY TO ESTABLISH FLOOR PRICES—CANADIAN POSITION

Mr. James Gillies (Don Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.