

*Oral Questions*

advance of seeding, by the purchase of fertilizer and registered seed. They are asking when they may expect an interim payment on their wheat and barley delivered to the board.

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, we announced several weeks ago that an adjustment payment would be made subsequent to the raising of initial prices as of March 1. The Canadian Wheat Board informed me on Friday that they expect the cheques for the adjustment payments to go into the mail beginning April 8 and ending April 26. Over that 18-day period the total amount going into the mail by way of adjustment payments is likely to be between \$500 million and \$550 million.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, I am glad to have the minister's answer. Does the fixing of the date as up to April 26 indicate that the payments are to be made just in advance of an election?

**Mr. Lang:** No, Mr. Speaker. Following the announcement and the decision by the government on the initial payment increase, the timing of the adjustment payments is the total time required by the Canadian Wheat Board to accomplish the actual writing, preparation and mailing of the cheques. Even the mailing of these several hundred thousand cheques, with the most effective and efficient methods, takes several weeks. I am also frequently reminded that the right hon. gentleman and others find an occasion almost every two weeks to judge that there is going to be an election.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Red Deer on a supplementary, followed by the hon. member for Northwest Territories and the hon. member for Vaudreuil.

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## AGRICULTURE

## REQUEST FOR SEVERE RESTRICTIONS ON IMPORTATION OF MEAT TREATED WITH DES

**Mr. Gordon Towers (Red Deer):** Mr. Speaker, my question is not a supplementary but is a question for the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the fact the province of Alberta has warned wholesalers that DES-tainted meat will be confiscated within its borders, would the minister consider the immediate implementation of severe restrictions on the importation of such meat?

● (1450)

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, both the Minister of National Health and Welfare and I have, in answers in the House and outside the House, stated that it is illegal to sell meat that has been implanted with DES or where the animal has had an additive added to its feed in a form of DES. To sell that meat in Canada is illegal.

**Mr. Towers:** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Finance. Would the minister be prepared to bring in legislation requiring importers of

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

United States meat to post a \$50,000 bond to be forfeited on conviction for the importation of DES-infected meat?

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I would certainly want to talk that over with my colleague, the Minister of Agriculture.

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## NORTHERN AFFAIRS

## REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF DECISION TO PERMIT SEISMIC EXPLORATION ON BATHURST ISLAND

**Mr. Wally Firth (Northwest Territories):** Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. It concerns the proposed seismic operation on Bathurst Island by Panarctic Oils Limited. In view of the fact the people of Resolute Bay are clearly opposed to this project because of the effects they have observed of oil exploration on the migration of animals on which they depend for their livelihood, will the minister take into account the wishes of the people and reconsider his decision to allow the seismic work to go ahead?

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, when the representatives of the Canadian Eskimo Association met me in this regard, they presented me with three requests. I was able to take two favourable decisions. Unfortunately, in the case of Resolute Bay, the opinion of experts did not support that of the Eskimos and, as the work is very limited, we felt that it was not dangerous to grant the permit to Panarctic Oils Limited authorizing them to proceed with a seismographic project of far lesser importance than those performed last year.

[English]

**Mr. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary for the minister. Can the minister advise whether his decision to allow the winter seismic program by Panarctic Oils on Bathurst Island was made after approval by the Department of the Environment and subject to the environmental impact procedure announced by the Minister of the Environment recently?

[Translation]

**Mr. Chrétien:** Mr. Speaker, there is in fact considerable co-operation between my department and that of the Environment. We consult each other every time we are up against a problem, but decisions were taken, as they should, by my department and the Department of the Environment expressed no opposition.

[English]

**Mr. Fraser:** Can the minister advise whether the decision to allow exploration was made after consultation with and approval of the Minister of the Environment?

[Translation]

**Mr. Chrétien:** Mr. Speaker, as Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, I make the decisions. Naturally, when problems come up, we have consultations with