

Weather conditions to determine close of Seaway grain movement

ST. LOUIS, Mo - No decision can be made on extending the December 15 deadline for closing the St. Lawrence Seaway until an assessment of weather conditions can be made in mid-December, according to Canadian Minister of Transport, Don Mazankowski.

Mazankowski's response was in reply to a request by the American Soybean Association that the St. Lawrence Seaway be kept open for 10 days past the December 15 deadline to enable the movement of

additional grain shipments from ports of Duluth/Superior.

The extension would help ease the backlog of grain that built up during a 12-week strike of grain handlers that was finally settled in September.

In a letter to ASA President Allan Aves, Mazankowski explained that a determining factor in the decision to leave the Seaway open would be the weather and prospects of ice formation on the section of the Seaway between Montreal and Lake Ontario.

"There are two large hydro-electric generating plants on that section of the St. Lawrence River which can be adversely affected by passage of ships when the ice cover is forming," he said. "In addition to the potential risk of damage to the turbines, there is also the real danger that energy production might be reduced considerably during several weeks after the close of navigation. Such a loss would amount to several million dollars, but more importantly, it might lead to brown-outs in the upper New

York state and certainly parts of the provinces of Ontario and Quebec, which would be unacceptable during the cold season.

"Weather conditions will dictate if vessels will be able to transit the Seaway later than December," said Mazankowski, "but we will not know this until the second week in December. I

can only suggest that, under the circumstances, you do all you possibly can to make the best use of the time still available and hope for favorable weather conditions, which would enable us to clear the Seaway."

Mazankowski noted that the U.S. St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation and the

Canadian St. Lawrence Seaway Authority have extended the navigation season over the last several years by three to four weeks and they are working at extending it further. He pointed out, however, that the technology has not yet been developed to delay the closing of the system for a given number of days.

Consumers to speak out on product standards

PHILADELPHIA - The voices of consumers across the country have become increasingly more audible to industry and government during the last decade. What do consumers expect from the products they will purchase in the 1980s?

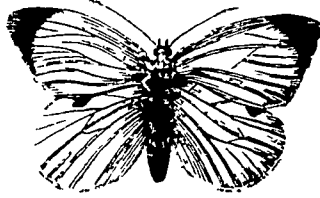
Organized consumer groups and individuals will join with federal representatives, manufacturers, and standards writers to discuss their ideas and offer direction during the first National Conference on Consumer Product Standards scheduled for November 7-8. The first

conference of its kind, this two-day program will be held at the Quality Inn/Central, Arlington Blvd. and North Courthouse Road, in the Rosslyn section of Arlington, Va., a convenient distance from the metro stop.

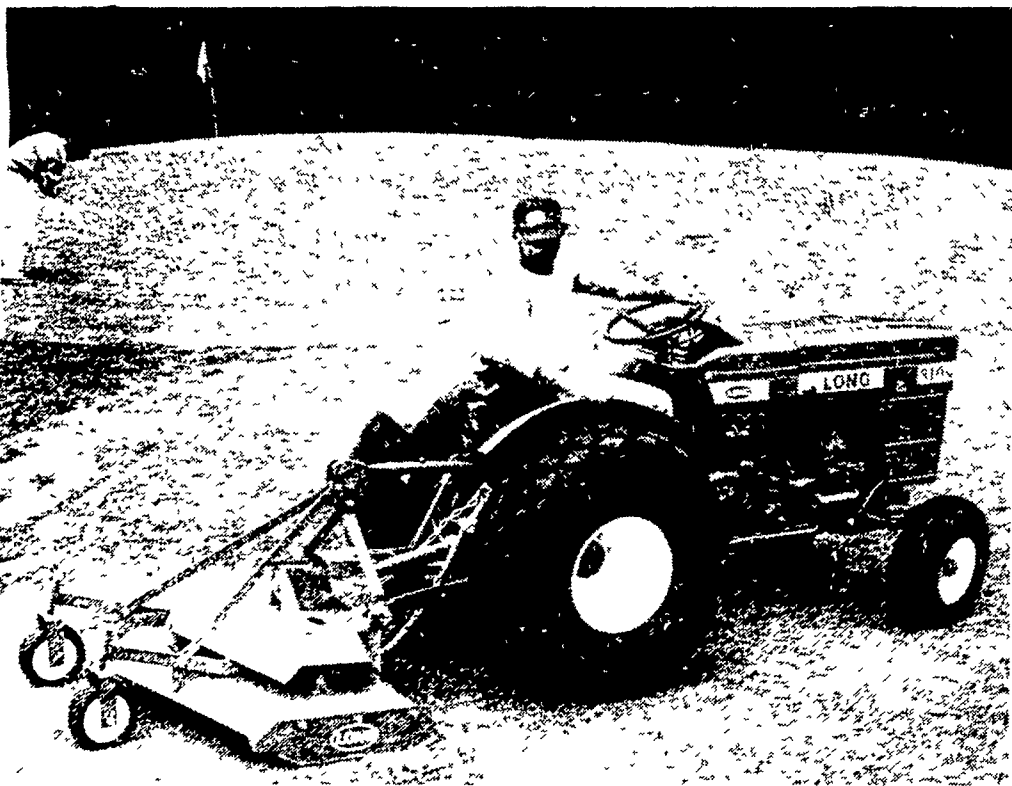
Open to the public, this free consumer conference is sponsored by Committee F-15 on Consumer Products of the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM). A nonprofit organization, ASTM is a world leader in the development of voluntary consensus standards, in-

cluding standards for consumer products.

For information and a final program on the National Conference on Consumer Product Standards contact ASTM, 1916 Race St., Philadelphia, PA 19103 (215/299-5507). Hotel reservations are the responsibility of the attendee.



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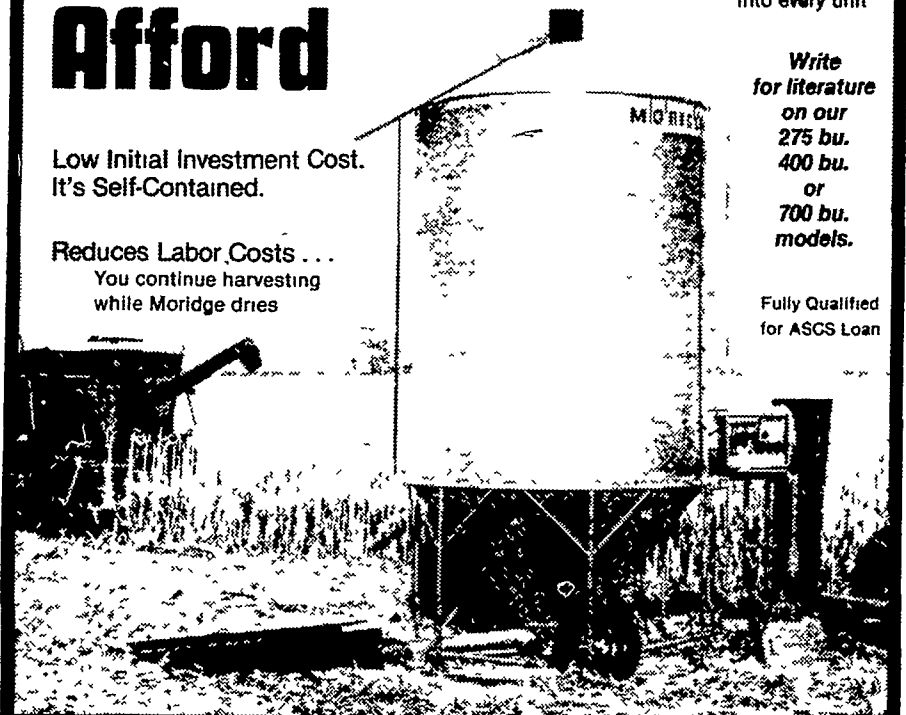
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