

*Oral Questions*

demand over a two-year period and says its projections are all out of whack. This is causing problems for both egg producers and consumers.

I want to ask the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs if he has satisfied himself that his colleague, the Minister of Agriculture, who is responsible for CEMA, is serving the best interests of both egg producers and consumers at a time when farm incomes are declining and egg prices are on the rise?

[Translation]

**Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Postmaster General):** Yes, Madam Speaker.

[English]

## PASSAGE OF CANAGREX LEGISLATION

**Mr. Geoff Scott (Hamilton-Wentworth):** Madam Speaker, I am sure everyone will be satisfied to learn that the minister is satisfied with his colleagues. I will ask the minister on a supplementary question if he is pressing his colleague to get Canagrex through cabinet and into legislation so that it can do the job both for producers and consumers, as promised in the Speech from the Throne.

[Translation]

**Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Postmaster General):** Madam Speaker, the competence of my colleague, the Minister of Agriculture, is well known and I do not think he needs help from anyone whatsoever to carry out his projects properly.

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[English]

## INDUSTRY

## MASSEY-FERGUSON FINANCING AGREEMENT

**Hon. Sinclair Stevens (York-Peel):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. As representatives from some 280 banks are in Toronto today expecting to have a deal confirmed with respect to the refinancing of Massey-Ferguson, is the minister prepared to sign the final agreement guaranteeing the financing for Massey-Ferguson? On February 6 he indicated that was the decision of the government when he chose to make an announcement outside this House, concerning the guaranteeing of equity on behalf of Massey-Ferguson.

**Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Madam Speaker, we have indicated to Massey-Ferguson the terms on which we are prepared to guarantee the new equity portion of the refinancing, and I understand they are satisfactory to Massey-Ferguson. The formal coming into effect of the government's guarantee will, of course, depend on the drafting and signing of appropriate agreements between the various lenders, Massey-Ferguson and ourselves, and I

understand that further drafting and discussions in that regard have to be completed.

## POSSIBILITY OF BREAKDOWN IN AGREEMENT

**Hon. Sinclair Stevens (York-Peel):** Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is also directed to "Dr. Doolittle," the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Is it not true that ten weeks ago it was represented that what the minister is now referring to as an agreement still to be finalized would be finalized by now, that in fact the financing faces a deadline of this Friday, and that if the minister does not finally move and if he cannot get an agreement out of his cabinet, there is a danger that the entire financing for Massey-Ferguson will break down and there may be as many as 6,000 Canadian jobs at stake?

**Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Madam Speaker, our efforts have been very much along the line of bearing in mind the concerns with respect to the 6,000 jobs and the role of the company in the Canadian economy. It is certainly through those efforts, and not through the empty words of the hon. member, that these concerns will be acted upon in an appropriate way for the Canadian economy.

**Mr. Stevens:** Are you ready to sign?

**Mr. Gray:** We are making progress in a satisfactory way as far as the Massey-Ferguson company is concerned. We need to have agreements in place which reflect the positions of some 250 banks as well as our own position and that of Massey-Ferguson. As far as I am aware, the timing is proceeding in a way which meets the requirements in question.

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## NATIONAL DEFENCE

## F-18 FIGHTER AIRCRAFT—TEST FLIGHTS IN COLD WEATHER

**Mr. Terry Sargeant (Selkirk-Interlake):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Defence, and it is with regard to our fair weather fighter. A week ago the minister met with his American counterpart and sought assurances with respect to the F-18 program. I would like to ask the minister if, during his meeting with Secretary Weinberger, or at any other time, he was informed of the most recent and very serious problems concerning the inability of the F-18 to function in what can only be described as normal Canadian winter conditions. I remind the minister that any aircraft which has unsatisfactory performance at -17.8 degrees and takes 66 minutes to activate its controls at -28.9 degrees could never function in the real world of the Canadian north.

**Hon. J. Gilles Lamontagne (Minister of National Defence):** Madam Speaker, it would be untrue to say that I did not expect this question from the hon. member. I expected the