

serious farm debt crisis facing some 40,000 Canadian farmers today. Is the Minister aware of the criticisms of his commodity based mortgage program which was in the Budget, as being misleading, deceptive, and so seriously flawed that responsible farm organizations are advising their members not to take out those mortgages and are planning to take the unprecedented action of obtaining a court injunction to stop the program from going ahead? Is the Minister aware of that, and what will he do about it?

Hon. Charles Mayer (Minister of State (Canadian Wheat Board)): Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of any groups suggesting that they should take court action. I am aware that the Government committed up to \$700 million to assist farmers in financial difficulty. That loan money is to be matched with interest reductions in the amount of almost \$200 million over two years. It seems to me that is a substantial amount of money to help at least some of the Farm Credit Corporation clients who are having financial difficulty. I am aware of the help we have provided.

REQUEST FOR ALTERATION OF PROGRAM

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the same Minister. Clearly the program is not acceptable to Canadian farmers. Is he prepared to alter the program drastically to make it acceptable and effective in assisting farmers who are facing this serious, unprecedented farm debt crisis?

Hon. Charles Mayer (Minister of State (Canadian Wheat Board)): Mr. Speaker, this is a new approach for the Farm Credit Corporation. There is some money there to back it up. If there are some concerns and the program is not working, certainly we are willing to look at making it work. We all realize the serious financial difficulties which farmers face. We have put up money to ensure that it is there for assistance. Certainly we are interested in seeing that it works and, if the Hon. Member has some suggestions, we would be happy to hear them.

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[Translation]

HEALTH

DEPO-PROVERA CONTRACEPTIVE—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Gilbert Chartrand (Verdun-Saint-Paul): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Women in my constituency advised me not long ago of their concern about an injectable contraceptive called Depo-Provera. Despite its negative effects, the manufacturer is now trying to get the drug approved by the Minister for marketing in Canada, although permission has been denied in the United States.

Could the Minister give this group from the Verdun Women's Centre the assurance that the contraceptive will not

be approved if it represents the slightest risk for the health of Canadian women?

[English]

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I thank the Hon. Member for his question which has been asked previously. I have not received a recommendation for acceptance or rejection from the Health Protection branch. As the Hon. Member knows, it is a regulatory process and one in which I do not interfere. However, I have said to health groups and to women's groups that, before any approval would be given, if in fact a recommendation were made along that line, I would want to be satisfied totally on the safety side of the issue.

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INDUSTRY

FLEET INDUSTRIES—INSPECTION PROCEDURES

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay-Atikokan): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Associate Minister of National Defence and concerns Fleet Industries. Will the Minister confirm that his Department's investigation substantiated the allegations made by the former quality assurance supervisor that there were serious problems in Fleet's inspection procedures and records, and that personnel performing critical work were not adequately qualified? Will he also confirm that the result of this is that no product from the company is currently being allowed to leave the plant?

Hon. Harvie Andre (Associate Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, as the Hon. Member may know, this question could be subject to litigation between the parties. I do not know whether I want to affirm the accusations made by the Hon. Member, but let me say that my Department is working closely with Fleet Industries. We have found that procedures were improper, and they are being improved. We have not found any faulty materials, yet.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR PRODUCT INSPECTION

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay-Atikokan): Mr. Speaker, could the Minister tell us whether his Department's investigation has examined the products being supplied to other customers such as Spar Aerospace, de Havilland, and Sikorsky? If not, could he tell us whose responsibility it is to ensure that that material is not defective and does not jeopardize public safety?

Hon. Harvie Andre (Associate Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, each customer supplies its own inspector in this regard. I am informed that faulty materials have not been discovered to our knowledge by any of the inspectors. It is a question of the procedures and paperwork, which were not up to snuff, and it is being remedied through co-operation between the customers and the company.