

### Oral Questions

Yesterday the first ministers agreed to further consider the idea. I ask: Have the premiers and the Prime Minister forgotten recent history?

User fees in many disguises have been tried before but never worked. They are too expensive to administer and they entangle doctors, nurses and hospital staff in billings. They will shut hospital doors to the poor.

The World Health Organization in its 1990 report finds these fees damaging to over-all efficiency and equity, inefficient as revenue raising devices and do not decrease hospital costs.

The provinces are desperate for money after cuts in transfer payments. User fees are straws to be grasped.

The next step belongs to the federal government: protect the Canada Health Act, rescind Bills C-69 and C-20, renegotiate transfer payments, institute meaningful reform and once and for all end the federal-provincial showdown over medicare, a Canadian right of citizenship.

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### CANADA GAMES

**Mr. John E. Cole (York—Simcoe):** Mr. Speaker, today is the 25th anniversary of the Canada Games. The Canada Games have encouraged sport development and provided over 150,000 young athletes with valuable, competitive experience in Canada since the Games' inception in Quebec City in 1967.

Through participation in sport, young people learn many valuable life skills such as overcoming obstacles, remaining humble in victory and resolved in defeat.

Amateur sport is also important for character development requiring discipline, effort and energy to produce pride and a positive self-image. The most valuable lesson learned from participating in a sport is how to be a team player, how to be part of a group who are assembled or organized for a common purpose, and how to contribute your unique and distinct talents for the collective benefit of the team.

It is fitting that the memory of a very distinguished Canadian will be remembered and passed on to future generations of young Canadian athletes. Roland Michener's name will continue to be synonymous with a

vibrant fitness and sport enthusiastic Canada through the Roland Michener Canada Games Award.

As we wish the Canada Games a happy birthday, may we all as Canadians remember you have to be a team player to overcome obstacles and to become victorious.

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## ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

### BREAST IMPLANTS

**Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the minister of health. The minister will know that more than one million Canadian women can expect to fall victim to breast cancer. At the moment 150,000 Canadian women have had breast implants that they thought were safe and on occasion after occasion after occasion this minister and his predecessor have stood here in the House and said the Meme implant was safe. We now know that for at least five years that information was known to be false.

I want to ask the minister of health why he failed in his duty to protect Canadian women.

**Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, what the Minister of National Health and Welfare and the department do is advise people of the assessments we make on any kind of medical device based on scientific research by experts in the department or elsewhere.

I worry when the member says today that the evidence is that the breast implant, particularly silicone breast implants, are not safe. I would like to ask the member if she has any scientific evidence to support what she said and to provide the evidence.

We are dealing with the health of women, yes, but we need evidence when we make that kind of statement.

**Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East):** Mr. Speaker, in and of itself that statement merits the minister's resignation. The fact is when there is any shred of doubt, surely the balance of the responsibility of the government should fall on protecting Canadian women and not selling implants.