

*Private Members' Business*

Madam:

It is with amazement that I read the stupid allegations you have made concerning breast implants.

I challenge you to repeat them outside the House of Commons, if you are brave enough to do so, which I doubt.

Before making such stupid statements, you should first check the Kerrigan Report, which was commissioned by Health and Welfare Canada.

It is a good thing—

and that is the most important part, Mr. Speaker.

—that ridicule has never killed anyone, you would be long gone.

This letter was sent to a member who is responsible in this House for women's health. And this letter refers to the report by the Minister of National Health and Welfare, this phoney report produced in spite of all the evidence heard even from within his own department.

I think it is obvious from this letter and from all the evidence heard and the proofs provided to this House that now is not the time to back down and shrink away from this problem. Now is the time to recognize that it is the Minister of National Health and Welfare's direct responsibility to protect women's health, especially considering that the manufacturers of this product are still distributing it on the market and that even a "voluntary recall" will not stop them.

[English]

These distributors, the people who are out making a buck on the bodies of women, are not going to be stopped by a voluntary recall. They need a very specific message. That message should come from the minister of health and should say to the likes of Réal Lapierre, who frankly is a disgrace to the profession of medical distribution, that we do not take threats lightly in this House of Commons.

[Translation]

The person receiving those threats in Montreal does not take them lightly. It is a very serious matter. And it is incumbent upon the Minister of National Health and Welfare to make sure once and for all that he is going to put the health of women before the interest of manufacturers. What is more important, our health or a manufacturing process that results in such a disaster?

• (1150)

One million Canadian women will be faced with cancer this year. It could hit me or another female

member in this House, who knows? We at least want to be sure that our government is going to protect us. At present, the minister of health is not protecting us, quite the contrary. If it were testicular cancer or another form of cancer affecting the male members of this House that we were dealing with, I am convinced we would not have had to wait two or three years after Dr. Blais' resignation to at least do something about it.

Therefore, I urge all of you to support this bill as presented by my hon. colleague.

[English]

**Ms. Mary Clancy (Halifax):** Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to stand in this House today and support the private member's bill of my colleague, the hon. member for Nepean, but I am very sad that it is necessary to do so.

Ever since I first became involved in this issue several years ago one sentence has been running through my head, and that sentence is: Show me the studies that show Canadian women that these implants are safe. It is a very simple phrase.

I have listened in committee. I have asked questions of experts on all sides of the issue, and the question I have posed over and over again is: Where are the studies that reassure Canadian women that these implants are safe? Is this a difficult concept? Is this something that is impossible to do?

Since this controversy arose we have discovered that Canadian women, and American women too, have been used in a political battle that is frightening in its ramifications. Last week some of us visited the United States and spoke with both legislators and staffers in Washington about this issue. We have heard that women who had breast implants, particularly those who had them in a post-mastectomy situation, have been particularly used by special interest groups, including their own doctors.

As my colleague from British Columbia said or my colleague from Nepean, or possibly both, "the silicone implant is particularly popular with doctors because it is easy to implant". Certainly we have no difficulty with that. But is "easy to implant" enough when we know that there are 6,000 women in this country alone who are having severe difficulties with this prosthesis? Is 6,000