

*Oral Questions***BREAST IMPLANTS**

**Ms. Joy Langan (Mission—Coquitlam):** Madam Speaker, the Minister of National Health and Welfare stood in this House today and told us that breast implants had been withdrawn from the market and that they will not be put back on the market.

It is true that some manufacturers have ceased production of implants but there are thousands of previously distributed implants in hospitals and doctors' offices. Only three weeks ago Quebec plastic surgeons held a press conference to announce that they believe implants to be safe.

My question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare is, what is the minister doing to ensure that implants are not being used? Second, what will the penalty be if a doctor were to violate the voluntary removal of the implants?

**Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Madam Speaker, I cannot prevent the Plastic Surgeons Association of Quebec from asking for what they want. The question is that I did not say yes. That is what the member wanted me to do and I did it.

Second, when she is referring to the manufacturers, she should certainly look at the press release I gave out when we created the advisory board. I said explicitly that I asked the department to trace the manufacturers to be sure that no silicone gel breast implant would be given to any surgeon here in Canada from now on.

She knows very well that we did what should be done. The fact of the matter is that the silicone gel filled implants are not available on the market and they will not be in the future. That is exactly what the member wanted.

\* \* \*

[Translation]

**MORDECAI RICHLER**

**Mrs. Pierrette Venne (Saint-Hubert):** Madam Speaker, for a week Quebecers have been the victims of hate propaganda. They have been called a mean-spirited racist tribe in public. Quebecers' symbols are mocked in order to publicize a book by Mordecai Richler.

Does the government intend to ban this book as hate propaganda? Does the government intend to use the Criminal Code to ban this book, as the Code allows it to do?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (President of the Privy Council and Minister responsible for Constitutional Affairs):** Madam Speaker, there are two points. First, if the Criminal Code is violated, there will of course be a response.

Second, I think that it would be informative for Canadians to know the Bloc Québécois' position on the freedom to publish; they want to know the Bloc's position on fundamental rights in Canada.

**Mrs. Pierrette Venne (Saint-Hubert):** Madam Speaker, that is no way to answer Quebecers about hate propaganda. Certainly not. The Criminal Code clearly says in section—

**Madam Deputy Speaker:** Would the hon. member please put her question?

**Mrs. Venne:** Yes. Madam Speaker, I would like to know whether the government intends to use section 319 of the Criminal Code, which clearly mentions public incitement to hate and fomenting hatred.

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (President of the Privy Council and Minister responsible for Constitutional Affairs):** Madam Speaker, I believe that I just answered that question. The law is there. If there is a reason to invoke the law, the government is ready to do so. I hope that is the answer sought by the hon. member, except that she may have some other motivation.

\* \* \*

[English]

**CHILD POVERTY**

**Mr. David Walker (Winnipeg North Centre):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the minister of health.

The federal government announced three weeks ago in its budget that it was cutting back on advertising, yet last week the minister of health found \$500,000 for advertising across the country of a so-called child benefit package.

How did the minister find this money when he was unable to find any extra money for Canada's poorest of poor children?