

Oral Questions

They must use the legislation in place. How long will it take to have these applications heard and how long will it take to have the 25,000 jobs in the softwood lumber industry in Canada protected?

Hon. Frank Oberle (Minister of Forestry): The question is a bit confusing. In 1971 when this act was used we did not have the same protection under GATT. Nor did we have a free trade agreement with an independent judicial tribunal made up of Canadian and American adjudicators who will be dealing with this issue.

I also want to point out to my friend that what we have is a preliminary hearing or a preliminary determination and that there are two more steps in the current round of assessing the legitimacy of the countervail duty actions, after which we will have access to article 19 of the free trade agreement. This is the best protection that we could possibly have in the situation.

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[Translation]

BREAST IMPLANTS

Ms. Mary Clancy (Halifax): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Yesterday, the minister gave contradictory answers on the subject of breast implants, saying on the one hand that the documents were available but on the other that some were secret. Can the minister assure Canadian women that if the documents are available, he will make them public today?

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Madam Speaker, I much appreciate the question raised by the hon. member for Halifax, since I am asking for permission to table in the House a letter that I sent today to the chair of the House committee on the Status of Women, in which I tell her that we will make available to the committee 10,000 pages of documents on past or present studies done by the department or other bodies that we are asking the committee to consider and to be able to use all the required information, as I said yesterday, since neither I nor the department has anything to hide. This again should reassure women about breast implants.

[English]

Ms. Mary Clancy (Halifax): Madam Speaker, I thank the minister for his response.

I would ask if he would also provide to this House a compendium of all the studies on breast implants in the possession of his department so that those could be looked at as well to ensure, as he has said today, that the women of Canada who wish to have breast implants can then make an informed consent.

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Madam Speaker, all those documents that I released or pointed out to the committee exist today are documents which I can produce.

Of course, we have documents which are under what we call commercial confidentiality. If the member wants through the Department of National Health and Welfare to address any kind of request to the companies and they agree to release the documents, of course it will be a pleasure to do that.

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CANADA 125 CORPORATION

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance.

Canadians will be shocked to learn that this government has found another \$30 million, which makes a total of \$50 million, for the Canada 125 Corporation, none of which is allocated for community groups to celebrate Canada's 125th birthday.

In view of the minister's and the government's promised fiscal restraint, will the minister explain why this inefficient private corporation is accountable to no one, received an extra \$30 million, a 150 per cent increase, when the same moneys would have paid for 10 years of the Court Challenges Program or five years of co-op housing?

[Translation]

Hon. Robert de Cotret (Secretary of State of Canada): Madam Speaker, it has always been agreed with the Canada 125 Corporation, a private corporation subsidized by the federal government, that it would have a budget of \$50 million: \$12 million this year, \$18 million for the next fiscal year and the rest for the third year.