

Oral Questions

women who do not have protection. Dow Corning will give some recompense to those women for the cost of explantation.

I believe that Dow Corning should repay the Canadian medicare system for any costs associated with explantation or difficulties as a result of the implants. Will the minister discuss with the provincial ministers the requirement of Dow Corning and Surgitek to reimburse Canada's medicare system for any costs incurred because of failed implants or for explantation?

• (1430)

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, the member knows that unlike what is going on in the United States, we have a medical system in Canada which pays for all costs relating to an operation requested by a doctor. It is what we will do for those who believe that with the agreement of the doctor the breast implant operation has to take place.

In the future, any negotiations with Dow Corning will have to be made with the provinces. It cannot be at the federal level because we do not provide the money.

Ms. Copps: Sue them. Who put it on the market?

Ms. Langan: But you will not initiate it.

Mr. Bouchard (Roberval): If the provinces want co-operation and terms from the federal level for discussions with the companies, of course we will be there. But we will wait, if she wants, for this reality. It is not here yet but we will follow the case. The provinces have already said to me that in many cases they want to collaborate. This is exactly what we will do.

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[Translation]

TRADE

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister for International Trade.

For months we have been asking the government about developments in the free trade talks between Canada, the United States and Mexico, and we have yet

to get an answer. We do not know the government's objectives. We do not know whether the government has done any impact studies and we do not yet know what the Canadian or North American content for cars will be.

I wish the minister would tell me what he has to hide from Canadians. Don't Canadians have a right to know about developments in a process that will have a tremendous impact on their economic well-being?

[English]

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, I know my hon. friend is not able to get to committee meetings. I discussed the objectives of the Government of Canada at a committee meeting on international trade two or three weeks ago.

This afternoon we have offered to his trade critic the opportunity to come to a briefing by the chief negotiator of the North American free trade negotiations, to provide access to the text, as well as a two to three hour briefing on the specific elements of the text.

My hon. friend is very well aware that we have provided briefings on an ongoing basis to members of the advisory groups involved. They have provided us as well as the provinces, with advice on the trade negotiations.

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, we know that the Prime Minister is talking this afternoon with the *Wall Street Journal*.

I know the press will ask him about this, because it is a very important topic in the United States at this moment. What will be the treaty with Mexico and Canada on free trade? I would like to know from the minister if Canadians will be obliged to read in the *Wall Street Journal* what will be going on tomorrow rather than knowing from this government. We want to get the facts to the Canadian people.

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, we have been as open with Canadians as the United States government is with Americans.

Mr. Barrett: Nonsense and you know it. Read Bosley's report.