

*Oral Questions*

Let us look at another aspect of this problem. The European Community is now debating whether by the end of this century Japanese automobiles will be either 15 per cent or 17 per cent of that market. Today in Canada, Japanese automobiles account for 36 per cent of our market. What concrete action is this minister prepared to announce today to ensure a fair level of Canadian content and Canadian jobs in our auto parts sector?

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, I would say to my hon. friend that we on this side of the House do not like to see those auto parts manufacturers disappear at all because that costs people jobs.

**Mr. Peterson:** Well, then act.

**Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre):** My hon. friend should contain himself and wait for the rest of the answer.

In the negotiations that we are having with the United States, as I said yesterday in the press conference in Washington, one of the key considerations is the status of the auto pact. We are committed to ensuring the maintenance of the auto pact unless there is a better arrangement that we can put in its place that will improve the position of the Canadian automotive workers, whether they are in the parts companies or in the assembly companies. That is the objective we have set out. It is one of the things we held to firmly in our negotiations this weekend.

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**BREAST IMPLANTS**

**Ms. Dawn Black (New Westminster—Burnaby):** I would like to follow up on an issue with the minister of health that has been raised many times in this House by my colleague for Mission—Coquitlam and by myself.

Yesterday Dow Corning was forced to release information on the safety of a silicone breast implant, information that it kept secret for over 20 years.

The minister refused today to ban these implants, saying that he wanted solid evidence that they were unsafe. He has received evidence from Dr. Blais of his own department who was dismissed from his own department for raising these concerns.

Dow Corning's own scientists have said that their actions were inexcusable and they made comparisons to the Pinto gas tank disaster and the cover-up around that.

Will the minister today stand up, give assurances to Canadian women, and ban the use of silicone breast implants in this country? Will he do that?

**Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, I repeat once again that there is no silicone gel breast implant sold in Canada today. It is very clear.

Second, the member talked about Dr. Blais. Dr. Blais was invited twice by his peers to make his point in front of experts to prove that what he said was right, and it was dismissed twice. If there is any evidence that Dr. Blais has which would be acceptable to other scientists in Canada, I would be delighted to agree with that.

The information released by Dow Corning yesterday was considered by our department. If there is any possibility that we were misinformed, I will act immediately. In the meantime, I repeat that breast implants are not available in Canada now.

**Ms. Dawn Black (New Westminster—Burnaby):** Mr. Speaker, although there is a moratorium, silicone breast implants are in stock in doctors' offices. The minister does not know that they are not being used.

Will the minister now call for a full and independent inquiry into the approval process that was used by his own health protection branch for silicone breast implants in Canada?

He spoke earlier of an internal audit. That is not good enough. Canadian women deserve to know the process on how these implants were approved for use in Canada.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member has put her question.

**Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, the Department of National Health and Welfare monitors all questions dealing with medical devices.

The hon. member should speak to her colleague from Mission—Coquitlam whom I met with last summer, along with other women. I informed them that the Department of National Health and Welfare would undertake a broad review of the system as it applies to medical devices. She and the others agreed at the time.