

Oral Questions

The interests and peace of mind of our farmers are at stake, Mr. Speaker.

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[English]

BIRTH CONTROL

RESPONSIBILITY FOR ISSUE

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, an article in today's *Globe and Mail* contains the following indictment of birth control: The most effective means of preventing pregnancy—the pill—is dangerous. Women who take the pill face a four times higher risk of dying from arterial disease.

The next most effective method, intrauterine devices, causes infections, haemorrhaging, and can result in infertility.

Women have turned to sterilization as a method of birth control. The need to terminate unwanted pregnancies arises directly out of the abysmal lack of safe, effective choices.

The responsibility for the development of birth control lies with large profit-making pharmaceutical companies.

Birth control is considered to be the responsibility of women when the repercussions of unsafe and ineffective methods hurt us all.

Fertility is not just a women's issue. It has profound and far-reaching implications for our whole society. I challenge the Government to lay aside its prudish and romanticized notions from the past and to take up the challenge of today's society. Provide research dollars for safe, effective birth control choices. Provide support for responsible educative agencies like Planned Parenthood. Ensure coverage through medicare for reproductive services at the provincial level. Decriminalize abortion.

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POLITICAL PARTIES

CANADA-UNITED STATES TRADE AGREEMENT—POSITION OF OPPOSITION PARTIES

Mr. Albert Cooper (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, last week I had a guest with me here in Parliament and I took advantage of the occasion to sit for a few moments in the gallery and watch the House proceed with its business. First, my hat goes off to the people in the gallery who are able to keep silent after listening to some of the questions that are asked and statements that are made in the House of Commons.

The second thing I observed that I want to bring to the attention of this House was that for several months now we have been given the line that the Liberals and the NDP

represent western Canada and that they are standing up for the rights of western Canadians.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

● (1415)

Mr. Cooper: I appreciate their applause. Any Member from western Canada who took the time to sit in the galleries for just a few minutes and watch what has been going on would have been treated to a litany of complaints about freer trade and the kinds of things western Canadians have been seeking.

We are now going to be dealing with the elimination of tariffs, those very tariffs which have hurt western Canadians for generation after generation. Those Members across the way do not speak for western Canadians. It is the people pushing for the free trade agreement who do.

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[Translation]

REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

QUEBEC FILE—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal—Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, my colleague from Shefford (Mr. Lapierre) has clearly shown how the Tory government is dragging its feet about the Quebec issue. It is dragging its feet about the Matane paper mill and the development of Montreal Island which the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion (Mr. de Cotret) was supposed to announce following the recommendations made by Mr. Picard. It is also dragging its feet on the East Montreal file.

Mr. Speaker, this morning the citizens of Montreal have stated their position with respect to job creation in East Montreal and an employee of the Angus plant was right when he said: The government does not drag its feet; it has both feet in the same shoe and is helpless.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY

CANADA-UNITED STATES TRADE AGREEMENT—AMENDMENT OF PATENT ACT

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, last Friday I asked the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs why he and other Ministers had been saying that Bill C-22 was not part of the free trade discussions when there was evidence that on October 3 a document had been signed by Canada and the U.S. in which Canada pledged to see through the passage and adoption of Bill C-22. In answer to that question the Minister once again said that "Bill C-22 was not part of the trade