

*Oral Questions*

**Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Madam Speaker, I already answered that question many, many times.

**Ms. Copps:** You never answered.

**Mr. Bouchard (Roberval):** Yes, I did. I repeat what I said. I will share something with my colleague, that the health of women is the paramount issue we have to keep in mind here. At the same time all those operations were done over many years. The decisions made by her own government before 1984 and those made since 1984 were made in light of the information we have on the question of the breast implant. As soon as I had information which led me to believe that we have to be prudent with that operation, we did what should be done. The Meme breast implant was withdrawn from the market in June and in January we decided to remove all breast implants from the market. Even if the preliminary report from the United States, which she knows very well, was such that in the United States they considered re-installing the silicone gel breast implants back on to the market, I said, and I repeat what I said at the time: I do not have the evidence now that it should be returned on the market. As far as the department and myself are concerned, we do not intend for now to put those breast implants on the market.

• (1430)

I think it is what my hon. friend is looking for and it is what we are looking for also. I understand and I agree with her that all has to be done to protect the health of women. I believe, with all honesty, that that is what I did since I have been Minister of National Health and Welfare.

**Mrs. Beryl Gaffney (Nepean):** Madam Speaker, one minister after another has consistently told this House about information received, investigations done, reports that failed to prove implants are hazardous to the health of Canadian women. We have heard this consistently. If there are so many reports and so much information is available out there, will the minister table those reports in this House today so I can see them, too?

[*Translation*]

**Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Madam Speaker, information on breast implants, both in Canada and the United States, has in general always been available to everyone. Recently, at Food and Drug Administration hearings in the United States, to which we sent a multi-person committee that attended the presentation of briefs, everything was available. There is no question of the minister hiding any information whatever. The only issue here is whether or not certain medical devices can be used. For the time being, they are not available and I just said in English that I do not intend to allow them to be sold in the coming weeks.

So I think that I have answered the hon. member's first question to me.

[*English*]

**Mrs. Gaffney:** Table them in the House.

**Ms. Clancy:** Show us.

\* \* \*

**RETRAINING**

**Mr. Steve Butland (Sault Ste. Marie):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Employment and Immigration and it concerns retraining.

I was pleased to hear from the minister in a letter dated March 6 that UI recipients could now qualify for two or three consecutive years of retraining rather than one year. Legislation has allowed the two or three year option, but different policies and a lack of guidelines for employment counsellors across the country left applicants in limbo.

Will the minister now assure all eligible Canadians that two or three year retraining is a national government policy and will be applied right across the country?

**Hon. Bernard Valcourt (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** What I can assure the member of is that developmental use of UI, which I know the opposition strenuously opposed when we brought this forth, will go on and will take place. The Labour Force Development Board has made recommendations to the government to increase the training under UI by \$300 million in this