

Oral Questions

developing that would define inherency in the context of Canadian laws or in the context of Confederation.

I think this is a very helpful development and one that I encourage the commission and would through this House encourage members of our special joint committee to consider. The government has made a proposal that relates to a justiciable right, but we have made it clear that the proposals we put forward are capable of improvement. If there are means by which the proposal we have put forward can be improved in the manner I suggest, we would look at them very carefully.

There are, I think, two criteria that we want to respect. One is to have a proposal that will be acceptable to the aboriginal people and governments in the country. The second is to have something we can have accepted under the formula of 7/50 as a proposal in the Constitution.

Ms. Ethel Blondin (Western Arctic): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is for the same minister.

As the minister knows for aboriginal Canadians, there have been several false starts on the constitutional rounds. It is not fair at this point to keep First Nations guessing nor is fair to keep Canadians guessing on how the government plans to deal with their concerns.

Will the minister clarify whether the government is flexible on the issue of inherency being entrenched in the Constitution without a deadline?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (President of the Privy Council and Minister responsible for Constitutional Affairs): I am not sure that I understand all of the implications of the question. I think everyone in the House knows the importance of precision.

I have just spoken about the kind of discussion I hope will begin with regard to inherency in a context. Obviously, if there is a definition of a right of self-government, we would want to have that agreed and entrenched.

We have proposed in our document that 10 years after the entrenchment that could be interpreted independently by the courts. We have also proposed, however, that once an agreement was negotiated among governments and a particular band or aboriginal organization, that particular agreement could be immediately entrenched and would then have constitutional force.

Obviously the question of 10 years is also a matter that the special joint committee will want to consider to see if that should be lengthened, kept or shortened.

* * *

HEALTH

Ms. Joy Langan (Mission—Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, my question is for whoever is answering for the minister of health.

The Canadian Medical Association report has found the Meme breast implant is unlikely to cause cancer, but notes at least nine potential problems that Meme implantees can face and also notes a lack of study and information on these problems.

The CMA among its recommendations verified what we have been trying to tell the minister all along, a need for biochemistry and toxicology studies and an implant registry to aid research.

Will the minister commission the research and the registry right away?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Monique Vézina (Minister of State (Employment and Immigration) and Minister of State (Seniors)): Mr. Speaker, I must repeat that the first responsibility of the Department of National Health and Welfare is to protect Canadians' health, and that is why we are working closely with all concerned regarding breast implants. The Meme is no longer available on the market. Studies and opinions are divided, even among users of this implant, and I especially call on women to be vigilant and informed before taking any action. We at National Health and Welfare are following all studies very closely in order to protect the health of Canadian women.

[*English*]

Ms. Joy Langan (Mission—Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, perhaps the minister responding will be able to better answer my next question.

The Minister of National Health and Welfare now has his department's internal review of Health and Welfare's handling of the Meme breast implant issue. Will the minister table that report today so that we can all see it? Does that report contain a call for an external audit?