

Oral Questions

being dealt with in the way it should be by the department, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Phillip Edmonston (Chambly): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the same minister. These women cannot afford to wait. This is a serious problem. The minister's response is contrary to past precedents of this government. It is contrary to logic and it is cruel.

The question which I wish to pose to this minister is the following. How can he reconcile his response that we have just heard, knowing full well that this government spent millions of dollars to help thousands of homeowners take urea formaldehyde out of their homes, but will not spend one red cent to have women take these implants out of their bodies? How does he reconcile that?

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, the member for Chambly knows very well that if there is anything against the company and if there is any fault at the moment where there was a breast implant and the product was not what it should be—it has been done by a woman from Vancouver. She went to court and asked for a decision.

The member asks me why we do not put up the money. We are talking about the health of women with breast implants. The information we have so far is that the health question has been considered by the department in buying, and withdrawing the product from the market. It has been done in the way that it should be.

If those two members have any information in terms of health, they can provide it to the department or any scientist, which could change the decision already made, then for God's sake they should give the information to the department.

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[*Translation*]

AGRICULTURE

Mr. Mark Assad (Gatineau—La Lièvre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture, but in his absence, perhaps his Minister of State or the Prime Minister himself can answer.

Given that the survival of agriculture, especially for joint plans in Quebec such as the one for the dairy industry, is based on the principle that production costs will be taken into account and farmers will have a

reasonable income, can the Minister or the Prime Minister assure farmers that this essential criterion will always be maintained for our farmers?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, if my hon. friend wants to know whether there is anything in the proposals tabled this morning to—If the question is whether we will maintain our previous programs in spite of the document tabled this morning, the answer is yes.

My hon. friend from Papineau, who is also an expert on agriculture, tells me that this issue is mainly up to GATT. That being so, I would be pleased to answer a supplementary.

Mr. Mark Assad (Gatineau—La Lièvre): Mr. Speaker, the Quebec farmers' union, the UPA, is very concerned about their future because the Minister of Agriculture is always talking about productivity without considering production costs. That concerns them and they would like to have an answer about it.

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, productivity applies to everyone.

But mentioning productivity in no way undermines the ability of the UPA or its members to meet the competition that they face now. Nothing was said or done to keep farmers in Quebec or elsewhere from maintaining their production. The Canadian government will try to find new markets for them.

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[*English*]

FISHERIES

Hon. William Rompkey (Labrador): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Employment and Immigration. The worst ice conditions in history have completely wiped out the fishery in Labrador.

The minister's own industrial adjustment committee, which wrote the minister this month says two things: first of all, that Labrador has been worse hit than any other area; second, that there is a very small window of opportunity to help those people as they never needed help before.

Will the minister agree to the recommendation of his industrial adjustment committee and set up an aid program so that work programs can begin by October 1? Will he give that undertaking today?