

*Oral Questions**[Translation]*

My second question is for the same minister. We know that 150,000 women in Canada are wondering today whether they are in danger of cancer. For car owners, a federal government system informs them of mechanical problems. Why does a similar system not apply to women about their own breasts?

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I would first of all like to tell the hon. member that the government does not sell or fit breast implants, despite what she said at the beginning.

Moreover, Mr. Speaker, I think that any medical act, particularly implantation of a mammary prosthesis, is done by a physician, who is a responsible professional. The message we have always given is that if women have problems with a breast implant, they should see their doctor. We give the same message today. I must remind the hon. member for Hamilton East that she should know that the Meme implant was taken off the market in April and that silicone implants have not been available on the market since November.

[English]

Mrs. Beryl Gaffney (Nepean): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the same minister. This government might not be selling but they are certainly supposed to regulate.

I have spoken on many occasions in this House of Commons on the dangers of implants and silicone gel.

What in the world is going on here? I am not interested in what the minister might do. I am interested in what he and the previous minister have failed to do in this House. Will the minister investigate the product review process within the health and welfare research branch immediately? Will the minister take immediate steps to ensure an effective safety process, even secure reprimands where necessary?

• (1420)

[Translation]

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, the Department of National Health and Welfare now has a review process not only for breast implants but for all medical devices. I repeat

again that all medical devices, in particular those which are implanted in the human body for more than 30 days, are subject to an extremely serious process by the department, in co-operation with the companies, to ensure that the device can be used in a satisfactory manner. That is what we did and that is what we do. I repeat what I said: No silicone mammary implants are available on the market now to anyone.

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[English]

UNEMPLOYMENT

Mr. John Nunziata (York South—Weston): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Employment and Immigration a question on behalf of a constituent.

Mrs. Gina Pacciarotti is a 44-year old single mother with three children. Her husband passed away six years ago. After working for Cooper Canada for 23 years she was laid off over a year ago. Her UI benefits have run out and she is in a desperate situation.

What advice does the minister have for Gina Pacciarotti and the hundreds of thousands of other Canadians who are as desperate as she is?

Hon. Bernard Valcourt (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for raising an individual case in the House. I will be pleased right after Question Period to sit down with him and see how my department can be helpful.

Mr. Joe Comuzzi (Thunder Bay—Nipigon): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the Minister of Employment and Immigration. Domtar Paper Mills at Red Rock in Nipigon announced yesterday it will close its paper machine in May. Over 400 workers will be laid off indefinitely. This government has done nothing to save jobs in this vital industry of Canada, the forestry industry.

What specific actions will the minister take to ensure that those 400 jobs will be maintained at Red Rock?

Hon. Bernard Valcourt (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the department's industrial adjustment service consultants have already met with the company and the union to discuss the establishment of a comprehensive assistance program for these workers. An IAS agreement and committee are already in place.