

Oral Questions

We are also trying to undertake other changes with respect to the functioning of the bank that will cause it to be more acceptable to and more reflective of concerns in the country. Those are changes that are long overdue. We hope that we will have the support of the hon. member and his party in achieving them, and if they have other suggestions for improvement, we will certainly welcome them.

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SKILLED LABOUR

Mr. Maurizio Bevilacqua (York North): Mr. Speaker, one of the most important elements of global competitiveness is the availability of a skilled labour force. At a time when a company like Siemens Electric is questioning Canada's ability to supply skilled workers to meet its future labour demand of 9,000 new jobs, I would like to ask the Prime Minister what measures this government has taken to guarantee that Siemens Electric Limited will have the skilled labour it requires.

• (1440)

Hon. William C. Winegard (Minister for Science): Mr. Speaker, you can see the amount of skilled labour we have on this side of the House. We have any number of people prepared to answer that question.

One of the things we are doing, of course, in the whole competitiveness agenda is to look at ways in which the educational system might be more amenable to having the kind of programs that will provide the people needed for that company.

As well, in terms of some of the engineering groups and the science groups and the technician groups, we have already taken steps to benefit those groups. We have more on the board and we will take them.

Mr. Maurizio Bevilacqua (York North): A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

Clearly, the minister does not understand the gravity of the issue. If this government's training strategy is so effective, I ask the minister why a company such as Siemens Electric, which is a world leader in the field of

electronics, would express major concerns and doubts about Canada's ability to supply skilled workers.

Hon. William C. Winegard (Minister for Science): Mr. Speaker, that doubt is being expressed in every one of the industrialized nations because we all face the same problem. We do not have enough people going into the technical streams either in our technical colleges or in our universities. That is why many of the government programs are designed to encourage students to move into those sectors.

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MEME BREAST IMPLANTS

Ms. Joy Langan (Mission—Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, last night 200 angry women met in Montreal to share their experiences with breast implants. We heard new anecdotal evidence of the debilitating secondary effects many women face from implants.

Now that Surgitek, the manufacturer of the Meme implant has taken all of its breast products off the market, will the Minister of National Health and Welfare finally undertake a judicial inquiry into why his department has not even now put a stop to this medical experimentation on Canadian women?

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I met this summer with the member for Mission—Coquitlam and other women and I think it was clear at that time, and is still clear that as far as the health of women is concerned, we have done what was possible to do in light of the information which was provided to the department and myself.

In terms of the regulation itself, she knows very well that I asked the department to report to me in terms of the way the Meme breast implant was grandfathered in 1982.

The situation now is that I am waiting for the report in terms of regulation, but it is very delicate, Mr. Speaker, to refer in terms of health if there is no more information than my colleague had this summer.

I repeat, if there is any information that we do not have in the department which we can consider for review at another time, we will do that, but in light of the information we have, I repeat what I said: everything is