

more independent with the chance to pay Canada Pension Plan premiums in their own right, not through their husbands?

**Miss Bégin:** Madam Speaker, I am not sure I have fully understood the question. If the hon. member is asking about what is called the "salary for housewives" paid through a state program, my answer would be that it is not for the state to judge whether women wish to be full-time housewives or have paid employment as well. We decided on that a long time ago.

As the hon. member knows, the income tax structure provides tax privileges to housewives and others in a similar position. I believe that is the proper route. It is for women to choose whether they want to work full or part-time outside the home, or full-time at home. That is not for us to decide.

As to the problem of pensions, which the hon. member mentioned at the beginning of her question, I think it is valid, and far more pragmatic than trying to attack all the problems at the same time, to tackle that—*au fur et à mesure*—when we can make progress on one front. We can begin by opening up the Canada Pension Plan to permit many housewives, average Canadians throughout this country, to build a pension in their own name. I believe this proposition is valid.

\* \* \*

#### AIR TRANSPORT

##### PROMOTION OF TRAVEL WITHIN CANADA

**Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova):** Madam Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Transport. Since we are faced with conditions which appear to discourage Canadians from embarking upon air travel in Canada, such as more stringent ticket practices, more strict reservation requirements and cancellation penalties, I wonder if the Minister of Transport, who I believe is aware of these problems, is prepared to contact the air transport committee of the Canadian Transport Commission and request them to address themselves to these anomalies, to see what can be done to promote Canadian air travel within our own country.

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport):** I am quite prepared to do that, Madam Speaker.

\* \* \*

#### HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

##### UREA FORMALDEHYDE FOAM INSULATION—INQUIRY WHEN REPORT OF COMMITTEE WILL BE PRESENTED

**Mr. Doug Lewis (Simcoe North):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In a press release from her department, it was indicated that a report into the health hazards of urea formaldehyde foam insulation would be completed by the end of November. Today we have two statements. On the one hand, we have an official of her department saying that the study will be complete by December 10; on the other hand, a member of the study group

#### Oral Questions

has stated that he has no way of knowing when it will be completed. In view of the seriousness of this matter, can the minister tell the House when we can expect that report?

**Hon. Monique Bégin (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Madam Speaker, the report and recommendations of the committee on the study of urea formaldehyde foam insulation will be ready around December 10. This is a small delay of about ten days compared to the original target date, which I find valid. By the way, the committee did meet with officials in Washington and added to their review the recent United States findings.

**Mr. Lewis:** The American group recommended to the U.S. consumer products safety commission that they ban it completely in all of the United States, not just Massachusetts. However, one of the members of the study group in Canada has stated that he sees no reason why we should be guided by a U.S. study. Is it the policy of this government to risk the health and safety of Canadians for the sake of scientific nationalism?

**Miss Bégin:** The answer is obvious, Madam Speaker—of course not. I am sure the hon. member will agree we should not prejudge the report. We will read it when it is received. I am sure the advisers outside of government will give the best advice to Canadians.

\* \* \*

[Translation]

#### EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

##### DAKAR CONFERENCE—FEDERAL JURISDICTION OVER REPRESENTATIVES

**Mr. Rémi Bujold (Bonaventure-Îles-de-la-Madeleine):** Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. I would appreciate if he could elaborate somewhat on the conclusion of his response to the hon. member for Kingston and the Islands concerning the French-speaking nations summit in Dakar, and also today's press reports that France would support Quebec behind the scenes. Could the Prime Minister indicate whether he had an opportunity last weekend, when he met the Prime Minister and the President of France, to discuss the matter and impress upon the French that this is a purely domestic problem?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Well, Madam Speaker, I have been made aware of that news item, apparently by Agence France-Presse, in which there are contradictory indications as to France's position. For instance the following quote:

—President Giscard d'Estaing emphasized that it is not for France to comment on the issue of Quebec's representation, which... should be settled between Ottawa and Quebec.

It seems to me this is the right position, and I look no further. There is something else in the news item that appar-