

*Oral Questions***HEALTH**

Mrs. Beryl Gaffney (Nepean): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for the Status of Women. I have repeatedly asked her colleague, the minister of health, to remove the Meme breast implant from the market until proven safe.

The minister continues to hide behind mysterious studies which his department supposedly has. Yet, there is ample evidence that links the Meme implant with cancer. This is cancer month, I might add.

If the Minister of National Health and Welfare will not act, what steps will the Minister responsible for the Status of Women take to protect Canadian women from this dangerous product?

Hon. Mary Collins (Associate Minister of National Defence and Minister responsible for Status of Women): Madam Speaker, as the hon. member knows, the Minister of National Health and Welfare has responded to this question over the past two days. He has indicated that he has recently had one of his officials looking at the results of the most recent federal drug administration studies on this issue. He has also indicated that if there is any information that would factually lead to any link between the Meme breast implant and an increased incidence of cancer of course he will take the appropriate action.

I have asked the minister personally to ensure that I am kept informed, that the review is thorough and that it will take into consideration all possibilities, and I will be monitoring the situation very closely.

Mrs. Beryl Gaffney (Nepean): Madam Speaker, I guess I am somewhat disappointed, but I would have hoped that more concrete action would be taken.

The government is clearly hiding behind the questionable Kerrigan report. Why is this government relying on a study authorized by Dr. Kerrigan, a doctor who has used the Meme implant in her own medical practice and was therefore clearly involved in an obvious conflict of interest?

How can the Minister responsible for the Status of Women allow this placing at risk of Canadian women in this country today? I ask the minister please to respond. Why?

Hon. Mary Collins (Associate Minister of National Defence and Minister responsible for Status of Women): Madam Speaker, as the hon. member knows, there has been a number of different studies undertaken both in Canada and in the United States.

From the health and welfare perspective, there is no factual link from the evidence they have received at this point.

• (1200)

If factual evidence should come forward that would show that link, of course we would take any appropriate action that is required.

* * *

LABOUR CANADA

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan): Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. Earlier today I gave him a background briefing on a matter regarding a verbal decision by Labour Canada that a Canadian Airlines flight attendant had no reason to invoke her right to refuse to work in an unsafe condition.

Given that the city the flight attendant was scheduled to fly into and stay in for 13 hours was not only suffering a cholera epidemic, but saw terrorist bombings of 30 buildings, including the Canadian embassy on the very day that she was scheduled to be there and that 10 of her colleagues actually stayed there, in spite of Labour Canada saying it was safe, I want to ask the Minister if he will do what Labour Canada has refused to do and ensure that flight attendants are able to invoke their right to refuse, especially in foreign countries where they continue to be employees under the control, pay and direction of their employer.

Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, I want to thank my hon. friend for providing me with the information. I have requested that my officials look into this matter on an urgent basis and as soon as I have some answers I will get back to my friend.

I appreciate that this is not a very good situation. We have a task force studying the flight crew duty time and we will take this into account too.