

if so, what steps is the government taking at the federal level to redress this imbalance in research and to develop programs designed to combat health hazards specifically related to jobs held by women?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I am afraid I cannot help the hon. member on this. I regret that the minister responsible for the status of women is not present in the House today. If he had had notice, I am sure he would have attempted to be here because we have taken a great deal of action on the recommendations of the advisory council and in other areas, and we have made considerable progress. For instance, of the order in council appointments since the beginning of the year, almost one in three were women. This is a percentage which is much higher than percentages in preceding years. There are many other areas in which we have acted, but I cannot give the hon. member an answer in this particular case.

**Miss MacDonald:** Mr. Speaker, I did not realize that the minister had to have notice to come into the House.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Miss MacDonald:** My supplementary question refers to an unpublished federal study of 1976 entitled "Occupational Health in Canada" in which only one short section dealt with women and occupational health hazards. Since research into occupational health concentrates on such industries as mining, lumbering, pulp and paper and chemicals while neglecting many areas of manufacturing which normally employ large numbers of women, I wonder if the Prime Minister can say if his government is undertaking any initiatives with the provincial governments in order to re-orient research of health hazards to reflect the reality of women in the work force.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, I will be glad to take notice of the question. The hon. member for Kingston and the Islands must understand that ministers sometimes have duties which occupy them across the country, and they cannot be in the House every day. However, assuming that the hon. member really wants to get this information, I will take her question as notice, and I am sure the minister will be happy to answer when he is in the House.

\* \* \*

**CP AIR**

REDUCTION IN OPERATIONS—POSSIBILITY OF ABSORPTION BY AIR CANADA—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Ron Huntington (Capilano):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. Given the fact that Canadian Pacific Airlines has had to lay off some 200 employees, which seriously affects the community of greater Vancouver, can the minister assure us that it is not the intention of the government to peel the orange from Canadian

*Oral Questions*

Pacific Airlines and render it to a condition where its only future is absorption by Air Canada, which would be a national disaster?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, most certainly the government has no intention of taking any action to interfere with that or other private airlines. Indeed, our action has consistently been to try to improve the atmosphere in which the airlines function, and I wish the hon. member would appreciate that fact.

**Mr. Huntington:** Mr. Speaker, can the minister advise why profitable CPA flights are bracketed by Air Canada, thereby causing both airlines to lose money on what could be profitable flights?

**Mr. Lang:** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is now raising a question of the extent of competition which exists and the nature of that competition in the ordinary case. It was not because of the nature of one or other of the organizations that there is this competition, but because as a matter of practice over time it has been allowed to develop.

\* \* \*

**AIR TRANSPORT**

REASON CHICAGO ROUTE GIVEN TO BRITISH AIRWAYS RATHER THAN CP AIR

**Mr. Ron Huntington (Capilano):** With reference to the bilateral agreement can the minister please advise why the Chicago-Canada route was given to British Airways, a foreign airline, instead of to Canadian Pacific Airlines, a Canadian corporation?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport):** If the hon. member wants detailed information of that sort, which goes back to long before I was minister, he should give me notice. I will take his question as notice and look into the matter.

\* \* \*

**FINANCE**

PROPOSED MORTGAGE EXCHANGE CORPORATION—DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION—POSSIBILITY OF OPERATION BY PRIVATE SECTOR

**Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. Tomorrow it will be one year since the Minister of Finance told the House that activation of the proposed federal Mortgage Exchange Corporation had been delayed pending consultation with experts in the secondary mortgage market. Would the minister now indicate what has been the result of this round of talks? Are they still going on, and does the government still intend to proceed with this mortgage exchange vehicle?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, as a result of the consultations to which the hon.