

*Oral Questions**[English]*

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg South Centre): Madam Speaker, I would like to ask a question of the same minister.

The minister has stated now in the House two reasons to explain the negligence of this government. The first is that we should forget the past and the second is that there were budget constraints. That is very poor solace for all the women who have been affected for over the past three years by the Meme implant.

I want to ask the minister very clearly: Is there not a clear ministerial responsibility to take action for the negligence of the past three and a half years? When is the government going to act on that negligence and ask the minister responsible at that time to resign?

[Translation]

Hon. Monique Vézina (Minister of State (Employment and Immigration) and Minister of State (Seniors)): Madam Speaker, I have just been given a list of the steps taken to ensure that this government made the right decisions for women's health. We did the required research. We had to obtain information from outside. I maintain that this government in the past eight years has done all it could to ensure the health and safety of women in Canada.

[English]

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg South Centre): Madam Speaker, the minister has said that she has just received news about government actions, about what it is doing.

Three and a half years ago the government had a report from its own officials which said the consensus of the meeting was that the net result of this review was significantly negative. We did not have to wait till today. The government had the information three and a half years ago.

We on this side of the House want to know when this government will take responsibility for the negligence that took place. What actions is it going to take now to ensure that all women who were affected during that period of negligence will get proper treatment, proper compensation and proper care from this government?

[Translation]

Hon. Monique Vézina (Minister of State (Employment and Immigration) and Minister of State (Seniors)): Madam Speaker, I asked the people opposite to show some common sense. With his political experience, the hon. member knows very well that a minister who is replacing another does not know in detail all the information that has been reported.

• (1430)

It was a briefing note to remind me of all the measures and steps taken in the past five years on this breast implant issue. It shows our concern to find the right solutions. I maintain that women's safety is a priority for this department.

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CANADIAN AIRLINE INDUSTRY

Mr. John Manley (Ottawa South): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. Yesterday, 500 Air Canada employees gathered in front of Parliament to protest the government's inaction on the unstable Canadian aviation industry.

The only way to save this important industry is solid leadership from the government. What does the government intend to do to ensure the survival of an aviation industry that is controlled by Canadians and maintains good jobs in Canada?

Hon. Jean Corbeil (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, the government intends to maintain the present legislation limiting foreign ownership of Canadian airlines to 25 per cent and requiring that effective control remain in Canadian hands.

[English]

Mr. John Manley (Ottawa South): Madam Speaker, despite widespread turmoil in this industry, the government has had nothing specific to say about the future of the Canadian airline industry.

Today the open skies negotiations have been resumed and given the many public indications, which surely the minister cannot have failed to notice, both Canadian air carriers are looking to establish strong links with U.S. carriers.

How is the government proposing to ensure that Canadian air carriers will not become mere regional feeders for U.S. megacarriers?