

Oral Questions

Ms. Mary Clancy (Halifax): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the minister's comments and I know her efforts are sincere, but we are in the position of this being an hour late and a dollar short.

Within the last month a woman in Sydney, N.S. applied for a peace bond and was told to return three weeks later for her hearing. Less than 48 hours later this woman was dead, allegedly at the hands of her estranged husband. We cannot wait until October. We cannot wait another few weeks.

When can the minister give us a response that will protect Canadian women in their homes as soon as possible?

Hon. Kim Campbell (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, if I thought there was a legislative initiative or a policy initiative that I could sponsor, I would do so immediately with, I know, the support of all members of this House.

A similar situation was brought to my attention some months ago by the Attorney General of Manitoba. What we are attempting to do is to raise the level of awareness and co-operation with all levels of government that have responsibility in this area through policing, through the prosecutorial function and through our efforts in judicial education, to try to make more widely known what that article or what the recent study has reflected, that is that the pathology of spousal assault is unique and must be dealt with on its own terms in the courts.

The bail laws are strong. They give the tools to the courts, but judges have to know what they are dealing with when they have certain kinds of applications brought before them. They must know the likelihood of reoffence and make their decisions with respect to restraining orders on that basis. We are working with our provincial colleagues and with those who have responsibility in the policing area to—

Mr. Speaker: We must move on.

[*Translation*]

MEDAL AWARD CEREMONY

Mr. Jean-Pierre Hogue (Outremont): As you know, Mr. Speaker, I was in Cyprus last week where I experienced some exceptional moments with our Canadian soldiers.

My question is directed to the Minister of National Defence. How could a special medal award ceremony for soldiers of the Royal Van Doos, a truly impressive occasion, be completely overlooked in this country? Why do the media choose to ignore these colourful ceremonies which would make us even prouder to be what we are?

Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Outremont was right to draw our attention to the important job being done by Canadians as peacekeepers, in Cyprus in this case. I understand he attended a medal award ceremony, a way to recognize the professionalism and dedication of our soldiers, and I think such ceremonies should be brought to the attention of all Canadians.

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• (1500)

AIR TRANSPORTATION INDUSTRY

Mr. John Manley (Ottawa South): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Acting Minister of Transport.

Recently, Air Canada released a study on the air transportation industry in Canada. The study identified two basic options for the industry: first, the acquisition of Canadian Airlines International by foreign interests, and second, a merger of Canada's two airlines with foreign partners.

Which option does the government prefer, and what does it intend to do to promote that option?

[*English*]

Hon. Shirley Martin (Minister of State (Transport)): Mr. Speaker, indeed a report has been prepared and has been presented.

As the hon. member knows there are discussions being held with Canadian Airlines, with a partner. We have yet