

*Oral Questions*

year as to their plans for improving opportunities for women in the public service. We believe that through the monitoring of these plans, which is conducted by Treasury Board, it will be possible to speed up progress.

**Mr. MacDonald (Egmont):** Mr. Speaker, as the minister well knows, more than a year ago he promised that annual reports would be submitted to Treasury Board as well as projections of the goals of these five-year plans of action. They have not yet been produced.

Since the principle of equal opportunity was announced more than three years ago, I wonder if the minister can tell us why only 20 departments have full-time equal opportunities co-ordinators while 31 have part-time co-ordinators. With respect to Treasury Board obligations, there are only two staff people, with no budget, while the official languages program has 45 staff people and a budget of \$1,340,000. Why this disparity if the government is committed to equal opportunities for women as well as the official languages program?

**Mr. Lalonde:** Mr. Speaker, never at any time was there a decision to the effect that there should be full-time co-ordinators in every department. Some departments are very small and do not require full-time co-ordinators. All departments were asked to assign to a senior official a specific responsibility concerning the promotion of equal opportunities for women in the public service and we have made sure that in the larger departments full-time people would be assigned for that purpose.

As far as smaller departments are concerned, this function can be fulfilled by senior officers who have other responsibilities. It is a question of using in the best possible way the human resources available to perform the job.

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**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS****PROPOSED MOVE OF AIR CANADA OPERATIONS FROM HEATHROW TO GATWICK AIRPORT—BRITISH RESPONSE TO CANADIAN PROTEST**

**Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs whether he has received any reaction or formal response from the British government arising out of the representations made to the British government by the Canadian High Commissioner with respect to the proposition of forcing Air Canada to move from Heathrow airport to Gatwick airport.

**Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, we have received what might properly be described as an interim reply from the Foreign Secretary, Dr. Owen, to High Commissioner Martin. The contents of it are obviously confidential, but I think the gist of it is that the British government has not made a final decision. Dr. Owen has undertaken personally to look into the matter.

On a less formal basis, I also received communications from Dr. Owen indicating that he is personally seized of this

[Mr. Lalonde.]

problem and will be discussing it with me at, I hope, some fairly early date.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Mr. Speaker, what other action, if any, is being contemplated by the Government of Canada? Could the Secretary of State for External Affairs also indicate the status of the bilaterals which are to take place some time in the course of the next six to 12 months?

**Mr. Jamieson:** Mr. Speaker, on the first part of the question, I took note of the proposal by the right hon. member for Prince Albert when he asked me and was good enough to defer consideration of whether a Standing Order 43 motion unani- mously supported would be advisable. Given his long associa- tion with the High Commissioner in London, I think he will appreciate that I got in touch with him directly. I telephoned him and asked him about it, and he said at this time he did not feel this would be appropriate, although the mere fact that it had been raised in the House would in itself be useful.

**Mr. Woolliams:** Sounds like Paul Martin.

**Mr. Jamieson:** Not only does it sound like Paul, but I think it makes as much good sense as most of the things Paul used to say.

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

**Mr. Fraser:** Usefully inappropriate.

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**PUBLIC SERVICE****ALLEGED FAILURE OF GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR WOMEN—STEPS TO IMPROVE PROGRAM**

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speak- er, my question is in the same area touched on by the hon. member for Egmont, except that I would like to put my question to the President of the Treasury Board. My question is based on the report of the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women entitled "Women in the Public Service— Barriers to Equal Opportunity", the key line of which is to the effect that the government's efforts to achieve positive results since 1971 have been a consistent failure.

In view of the fact that there are so few departments which are carrying out the intent, despite what was said a moment ago by the minister responsible for the status of women, will the President of the Treasury Board use his authority to demand that all departments hire full-time equal opportunities officers immediately, and discipline managers who fail to achieve positive results in this area?

**Hon. Judd Buchanan (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, as my colleague indicated, we are not sure that in all departments—because some are relatively small—it is necessary to have such officers. On the other hand, I share the concern which is at the base of the hon. member's question, that we have not made the good progress we would have liked