

**Hon. Joyce Fairbairn (Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, I will look at the statements of both our honourable colleagues and the Prime Minister, as well as the statements of the Minister of Human Resources Development, so that I can bring a solid answer to this chamber.

**Senator Lynch-Staunton:** I will send you the transcript of the radio program, if you wish.

• (1440)

## STATUS OF WOMEN

### REQUEST FOR BREAKDOWN OF PROGRAM SPENDING FOR CURRENT AND NEXT FISCAL YEARS

**Hon. Erminie J. Cohen:** Honourable senators, as a Progressive Conservative, I can appreciate the need to cut back on administrative costs within the government. However, as a former member of the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women — which, by the way, is being abolished as of April 1 — I should like confirmation of the claim made by the Secretary of State for the Status of Women in Monday's edition of *The Toronto Star* that:

The Advisory Council's important research and public education functions are not being cut, but simply rolled into the federal department of Status of Women Canada to avoid duplication and improve efficiency.

Will the Leader of the Government in the Senate use her resources as leader to provide me with a breakdown of program spending by the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women, Status of Women Canada, and the Women's Program of Human Resources Development Canada for the current fiscal year? I should also like to have a projected breakdown of program spending for Status of Women Canada for the fiscal year 1995-96. I believe that this chamber would welcome the information as an assurance that the priority which the government claims for women's issues is being reflected in real program spending.

May I please have the minister's commitment to provide this information?

**Hon. Joyce Fairbairn (Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, I will do my very best.

## HUMAN RIGHTS

### ARMS TRADING WITH TRANSGRESSOR NATIONS— GOVERNMENT POLICY

**Hon. Noël A. Kinsella:** Honourable senators, the oft-quoted Red Book, the promises of which are, at best, in a state of flux, undertook that if the party which produced that book took power — which it did — the Government of Canada would, as a matter of human rights policy, never trade arms with a country whose human rights record was in question.

Is that Canadian government policy today, or is that a promise which, like so many others, is in a state of flux?

**Senator Lynch-Staunton:** We are too small to be involved in human rights. Don't you remember what Chrétien said?

**Hon. Joyce Fairbairn (Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, my honourable friend will know that there are very strong guidelines which the Canadian government observes in all of its trading relations, and those guidelines are consistent with the views which have been expressed by the Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs on a number of occasions.

### DISCUSSIONS WITH TURKEY ON SALE OF AIRCRAFT—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Hon. Noël A. Kinsella:** Honourable senators, Amnesty International issued a special report last July on Turkey, claiming that the human rights situation there is very serious.

Is it the view of the Government of Canada that the human rights situation in Turkey is in order, and that is why the government is negotiating with that country for the sale of our CF-5 aircraft?

**Hon. Joyce Fairbairn (Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, in response to the first part of my honourable friend's question, Canada has been and continues to be concerned about the human rights situation of the Kurds in Turkey. This concern has been expressed very directly by the Minister of Foreign Affairs to his Turkish counterpart.

With regard to the CF-5 aircraft, it would be premature to talk about negotiations, as the media have done. There have been some preliminary discussions about those aircraft between officials of the two countries. Any conclusions that would result from those discussions will certainly be dealt with within the guidelines which I suggested in my first response to my honourable friend.

**Hon. John Lynch-Staunton (Leader of the Opposition):** Honourable senators, if the Turkish record on human rights is as appalling as we read, particularly as it relates to their treatment of the Kurds, surely the officials should be told immediately to break off negotiations.

**Senator Fairbairn:** Honourable senators, we are not in a state of negotiation with the Turkish government.

**Senator Lynch-Staunton:** You are just discussing.

**Senator Fairbairn:** Yes, we are discussing. It is not possible at this time to know what the results of those discussions will be.

**Senator Lynch-Staunton:** Then why have discussions?

**Senator Fairbairn:** Again, if those negotiations ever reach an official stage, they will be carried out under the umbrella of the regulations, guidelines and safeguards which have been Canadian policy in the past 18 months and previously.

**Senator Lynch-Staunton:** Are we to understand that the Government of Canada believes that, in return for the sale of a few aircraft for a few dollars, it can elicit guarantees from the Government of Turkey that it will stop the genocide it is now committing against the Kurds in its territory and in Iraq?

**Senator Fairbairn:** Honourable senators, that is not at all what I am suggesting to my honourable friend. I am suggesting, as I did to his colleague, that we as a government have concerns about the situation in Turkey. We have conveyed those concerns to our NATO ally and will continue to do so.