

## THE SENATE

Tuesday, March 19, 1985

The Senate met at 2 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.  
Prayers.

[Translation]

### UNEMPLOYMENT

#### NOTICE OF INQUIRY

**Hon. Philippe Deane Gigantès:** Honourable senators, I give notice that on Thursday next, March 21, 1985, I will call the attention of the Senate to one way of fighting unemployment.

## QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

### CANADA-UNITED STATES RELATIONS

#### SUMMIT MEETING IN QUEBEC CITY—ABSENCE OF GOVERNOR GENERAL

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Leader of the Opposition):** Honourable senators, I should like to draw to the attention of the Leader of the Government in the Senate a report in the *Ottawa Citizen* of today which is headed "Governor General left out of summit". That article states, in part:

Government House sources confirmed Monday that [Her Excellency] Jeanne Sauv  was not invited to Quebec City to meet President Ronald Reagan at the "Shamrock Summit," nor invited to the gala concert held Sunday night.

The article goes on to state:

Insiders say the reaction at Rideau Hall is one of "stunned disappointment."

In light of the fact that in the absence of Her Majesty the Queen Her Excellency is the head of state of Canada, and that the President of the United States is the head of state of that country, as well as the head of government, can the Leader of the Government in the Senate explain why in this case the status of Her Excellency was not recognized so that she could participate in those important bilateral exchanges between the two countries?

**Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government):** I am afraid that I have no information on this topic. I will have to take the question as notice.

**Hon. George van Roggen:** Honourable senators, I have a supplementary question for the Leader of the Government. Is he aware of the excuse reported in the press yesterday on this very matter, that the government was treating this not as a "state visit", but only as a "working visit"? That was the

government's lame excuse for the Governor General not being present.

**Senator Roblin:** I think the degree of lameness resides in the eye of the beholder.

**Some Hon. Senators:** Oh, oh.

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean Le Moyne:** Honourable senators, my question is directed to the Leader of the Government in the Senate.

Considering that Madame Sauv  is Canada's First Lady, of French extraction, our highest ranking dignitary, and a woman, would it not be appropriate for the government to offer apologies?

[English]

**Senator Roblin:** I think that I inadvertently made a reference a moment ago that was the furthest from my mind. I apologize humbly if my honourable friend took that remark as a personal reference, because I had no intention it should be so.

**Senator van Roggen:** No, no.

**Senator Roblin:** I appreciate that.

With reference to Senator Le Moyne's question, I will take it as notice.

[Translation]

**Senator Le Moyne:** Honourable senators, would it not be appropriate as well—I am asking this of the Leader of the Government in the Senate—that apologies be extended to Her Majesty after the insult suffered by the Governor General yesterday?

[English]

**Senator Roblin:** I am afraid I cannot accept the premise to the question, but I shall endeavour to find out the answer to the interrogative part.

**Hon. Philippe Deane Gigantès:** Honourable senators, there was another insult. The most highly-placed westerner in this land happens to be Her Excellency the Governor General, Madam Sauv . So, the west itself should receive apologies.

**Senator Balfour:** What nonsense!

**Hon. Charles McElman:** Honourable senators, while the Leader of the Government is making inquiries on this subject, would he also have the government delineate what are the appropriate uses of the Great Seal and by whom it should be used?

**Senator Roblin:** Honourable senators, I will take that question as notice, too.