

The reality of world poverty make programs such as micro-lending imperative. James Wolfensohn, the new president of the World Bank, spoke on the last day of the conference as one who needed no convincing of the economic impact of improving the lives of women. He said:

Transformation ... will require not just the liberation of women, but also the liberation of men — in their thinking, attitudes and willingness to take a fair share of the responsibilities and workloads that women carry on their shoulders. To bring about real improvement in the quality of women's lives, men must change, and action must begin at home. For each of us, change lies in the kind of household we live in, the society we help to build, and the institutions we work for.

This, honourable senator, by the President of the World Bank.

A coalition of NGOs was established in Beijing called Women's Eyes on the World Bank, to ensure that such words are followed up with concrete action. The World Bank is now lending an average of about \$5 billion a year for projects which include some specific measures to strengthen the role of women in development. The bank has recognized the need to match economic with social considerations in the programs they support, and Mr. Wolfensohn committed the World Bank to further action.

Prior to the conference, we were told in our briefing that Canada had adopted a plan for gender equality. One of the key elements of the plan is that all future policies and legislation will include an analysis of their impact on women. It was an important breakthrough and a prestigious achievement for Canada, but looked at through the eyes of women from countries where girl children are denied a basic education, it is impossible to be smug about such achievements. The Beijing conference was an achievement for many reasons. That it actually took place after so many obstacles were put in its way is an achievement in itself.

• (1500)

As Gertrude Mangella, the secretary general of the conference, said:

Women are not guests of the planet. This planet belongs to them too...The decree of solidarity that was achieved...is reflected in one principle, which is not to be compromised. This is the equality between human beings, equality between men and women. The message of Beijing is not further analysis but meaningful action for which we all are accountable.

That a strong and united message of human rights emerged from within a country famous for its disregard of such rights is a remarkable achievement. It is encouraging that the conference got so much media coverage in the West, at a time when the story of women's quest for equality had already been told so often.

Now that the conference is over, the challenge is to fulfil our commitment to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. My hope is that Canada will continue to act as a leader in promoting women's equality rights and build on the work of our delegation.

Those of us who have the opportunity to be heard have the responsibility to speak for those who cannot, and I thank you, honourable senators, for the opportunity to do so in this chamber today.

The Hon. the Speaker: If no other senator wishes to speak, this inquiry is considered debated.

ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES READJUSTMENT BILL, 1995

NOTICE OF MOTION TO INSTRUCT COMMITTEE ON LEGAL
AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS TO TABLE FINAL REPORT—
POINT OF ORDER—SPEAKER'S RULING

On the Order:

That it be an instruction of this House to the Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs that no later than Monday, December 11, 1995, it present its final report to the Senate on the Message from the House of Commons, dated June 20, 1995, and on the motion of the Honourable Senator Graham dated June 28, 1995, regarding Bill C-69, An Act to provide for the establishment of electoral boundaries commissions and the readjustment of electoral boundaries.

That in its report, the Committee recommend to the Senate that it not insist on its amendments to which the House of Commons disagreed on June 20, 1995. —
(*Speaker's Ruling*)

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, I have received my copy of the ruling. Unfortunately, copies have not been made for the use of the Senate. Is it your wish that I proceed to make the ruling?

Hon. Alasdair B. Graham (Deputy Leader of the Government): Proceed.

Hon. John Lynch-Staunton (Leader of the Opposition): Next week.

Hon. Eric Arthur Berntson (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Tuesday.

The Hon. the Speaker: What is the wish of the Senate?

Senator Graham: Proceed.

Senator Lynch-Staunton: Next sitting.