

THE SENATE

Ms. Lynn Hunter (Saanich—Gulf Islands): Mr. Speaker, once again the Senate has brought disrepute upon itself and the Upper House has hit a new low.

Last week Liberal Senator George van Roggen attempted to entertain his fellow senators by telling sexist jokes. It is disgusting that an allegedly respectable individual, a privileged man, could use his privilege to demean all women by reinforcing sexual stereotypes. Once again we have men who should know better contributing to the inequality in our society.

Sexist jokes are part of the control mechanism to keep women in their place, to reinforce the view that women are here for men's use and abuse. We are not. The women of Canada see nothing funny in this locker-room mentality. It is always offensive, but it is inexcusable coming from a Liberal senator in the Parliament of Canada.

For him to make these remarks the day after the memorial services marking the Montreal massacre demonstrates the depth of his insensitivity.

New Democrats have called on the justice minister to have mandatory gender sensitivity training for the judiciary. It is obvious that these sensitivity sessions should also be extended to the Senate. What Senator van Roggen should consider today is an apology.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member has exceeded her time.

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[Translation]

HOUSEHOLD MAILERS

Mr. Guy Saint-Julien (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, on February 26, 1990, after Canada's Minister of Finance brought down his Budget, I decided to do my bit and take the advice given to Canadians: tighten your belts. I believe I have made a contribution towards improving the state of the economy, especially by reducing my household mailers from four to one, and by no longer mailing 2,000 Christmas cards to my constituents.

Oral Questions

Mr. Speaker, the cheapest way to send those greetings today is to speak directly to the people of Abitibi and wish them a Merry Christmas and a Happy and prosperous New Year.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

THE GREEN PLAN

Hon. Herb Gray (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister.

We understand that tomorrow, after months and months of broken promises and more and more delays, the government will finally be announcing its so-called green plan on the environment. I predict and I know that Canadians will be disappointed once again.

Will the Deputy Prime Minister admit today that rather than the \$5 billion comprehensive plan originally promised, the plan will be for billions of dollars less and it will not even begin to be implemented until months and months from Toronto—months and months from tomorrow.

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Gray (Windsor West): I guess politics is something on the minds of all of us, Mr. Speaker.

Isn't this so-called green plan really to improve the political environment for this government and not the real environment for Canadians?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the hon. Leader of the Opposition will have to wait just one more day. I hope that he will be patient, because I am sure the green plan that will be announced by my colleague, the Minister of the Environment, will be very well worth waiting for.

Hon. Herb Gray (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, first this government began dismantling VIA Rail, then the post office, then Air Canada, and last week the CBC. Now it is clear the government is starting to wimp out on its commitments on the environment.

Why won't the Deputy Prime Minister admit that this green plan has nothing in it on the subject of municipal