

# HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, January 22, 1986

The House met at 2 p.m.

## STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 22

[Translation]

### FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS

#### GOVERNMENT ATTITUDE TOWARDS ATLANTIC PROVINCES

**Mr. Fernand Robichaud (Westmorland-Kent):** In 1985, Mr. Speaker, the Conservative Government left the Atlantic Provinces to fend for themselves. This region was not a priority, and the economic policies of this Government did not include the development of the eastern provinces.

Quite recently the Minister of State for Forestry (Mr. Merri-thew) bragged about a \$30 million New Brunswick development agreement. In 1975, under the previous federal-provincial agreement with New Brunswick, the province received a \$30.2 million grant. Not only did New Brunswick not rate an increase in ten years, it even incurred a loss. A comparison with another Canadian province reveals that it received \$350 million under a 1985 federal-provincial agreement, or 200 per cent more than it did as a result of the 1975 agreement.

Mr. Speaker, how is it that certain Canadian provinces get 200 per cent more while New Brunswick has to make do with less money? In my opinion, New Brunswick deserved and still deserves a comparable increase. It goes to show that the Government is not overly concerned about the Atlantic Provinces, Mr. Speaker, a sure sign of the fact that New Brunswick's Cabinet representation is very weak and definitely insufficient.

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[English]

### ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

#### ALLEGATIONS OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT OF WOMEN MEMBERS

**Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East):** Last weekend six policewomen anonymously told a Vancouver newspaper about sexual harassment they face within the RCMP. Their stories of propositions and crude jokes shed light on the shocking resignation rate of women officers, which is five times higher than that of their male counterparts. If this reflects macho attitudes within the RCMP, does it also reflect macho attitudes in the day-to-day performance of police duties?

● (1405)

Our 1982 report to Parliament on wife battering recommended special training of police officers to deal more effectively with wife battering and it called for affirmative action to hire more female officers. RCMP officers must be non-sexist and sensitive to women if they are to intervene effectively in situations involving domestic violence and sexual abuse of children.

If women are being driven out of the force by intimidation and macho attitudes of senior officers, that is intolerable. It is not enough that the Solicitor General (Mr. Beatty) has asked for an internal investigation into these complaints. He should ensure that this investigation is objective and that former women officers are interviewed about their reasons for leaving the force. Experienced officers as well as new recruits should receive sensitivity training, with emphasis on women's rights as recommended by the 1982 report. Women should be encouraged to lodge complaints and have fair grievance procedures with no fear of recrimination.

**Mr. Speaker:** I regret to advise the Hon. Member that her time has expired.

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### HISTORIC EVENTS

#### ANNIVERSARY OF UKRAINE INDEPENDENCE

**Mr. Andrew Witer (Parkdale-High Park):** Mr. Speaker, on January 22, 1918, Ukraine became a sovereign and independent democratic nation. Two days after the proclamation of independence, the Central Rada in Kiev passed a law establishing national and personal autonomy for minority groups—it was a first in modern history.

On January 22, 1919, Ukraine proclaimed the reunification of western and eastern territories into one Ukrainian state. After hundreds of years of injustice under foreign rule, Ukraine, at long last, entered the Commonwealth of Nations and took her rightful place as an equal.

Ukraine's freedom was short-lived, however. After four short years, her people were once again subjugated under the dominant Russian state led by a repressive Communist regime. When at times we take for granted the liberties we enjoy in Canada, we need only recall the adversity and strife suffered by Ukraine to appreciate our good fortune as Canadians.

It was the promise of freedom and justice that brought Ukrainians to Canada. It is the fulfillment of this promise that makes them proud to be Canadians. Let us join with them in