

1 Minister of National Health and Welfare and then, two years  
2 later, in 1974, he took on the additional job of being  
3 Minister responsible for the Status of Women.

4 In 1977 -- last Fall -- events being what they  
5 were in Canada -- Mr. Lalonde left his Office as Minister  
6 of National Health and Welfare, and he has been Minister of  
7 State for Federal/Provincial Relations which, as you know,  
8 is a very important issue in Canada today.

9 The origin of his being with us today is that we  
10 ran two pieces in the Winter Issue of Foreign Policy  
11 Magazine about the price of Separatism in Canada; and I  
12 think he may want to talk around that subject -- or would  
13 be glad to be questioned on that subject -- today, as well  
14 as other things that are breaking in the news; although I  
15 think we would like to talk, first, about the matter of  
16 Separatism in Canada. That was the original purpose of  
17 this session, although I am sure that the Minister would  
18 be glad to talk about other subjects later on.

19 I might thank Bob McGavin -- Press Counsel for  
20 the Embassy -- for his help in setting up this breakfast.  
21 I might also introduce Patrice Merrin, who is Mr. Lalonde's  
22 Press Secretary in Ottawa.

23 We have asked Mr. Lalonde to make a few intro-  
24 ductory remarks, briefly, and then welcome questions.  
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