

S. O. 31

[Translation]

### ENERGY

**Mr. Gilles Duceppe (Laurier—Sainte-Marie):** Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources told us that the price of gas would go up by 10 cents a litre. It was also said during this press conference that the Maritime provinces and Quebec did not have a guaranteed supply of oil.

However, under the Canada—Newfoundland Agreement, the Maritimes will have a guaranteed supply as a result of Hibernia, and only Quebec will be left without any guarantees at all.

English Canada refuses to recognize the distinct society, but it always treats Quebec in a way that is very distinct indeed.

**Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East):** There are Francophones outside Quebec as well!

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[English]

### THE SENATE

**Mr. Felix Holtmann (Portage—Interlake):** Mr. Speaker, reformed arrogance is the worst arrogance of all.

Yesterday we heard the unelected leader of the Liberal Party ordering the unelected Liberals in the unelected Senate to subvert the will of the legitimate elected government.

In the crowd of unelected Liberal senators is one virtually indistinguishable elected senator. This Reform senator also dances to the tune of his unelected leader, Preston Manning. This Reform senator collects four government pensions, collects his senator's salary, plus \$153 per day for showing up in the upper house.

This Reform senator has not cut his salary by 15 per cent as he was told to do by Mr. Manning. Instead, he collects it all and donates 10 per cent of his salary only to charity, thus avoiding taxes to the Government of Canada.

“Reformed charlatan”, I call it. The worst arrogance of all is reformed arrogance. Elected senators have proven to be the most arrogant senators of all.

### CANADIAN NATIONAL

**Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg Transcona):** Mr. Speaker, many will recall that during the election of 1988 I released a confidential internal CN document which predicted that CN was planning to get rid of 17,000 of its employees. Just last week we had an announcement of a lay-off of 1,500, an announcement which follows upon many other similar announcements, and CN is well on its way to doing what unfortunately I had the opportunity to reveal it was planning to do as far back as 1988.

I think what we need to recognize here is that these are lay-offs driven by policies of this government. Deregulation in transportation, which is the equivalent of free trade in transportation, has led to a wrong emphasis on trucking, on highways, and on further consumption of fossil fuels instead of having a structure, a tax system and other things which favour the use of railways, the most environmentally sound way of moving goods and people, but precisely the opposite of this is what the government is doing while it claims to be a friend of the environment.

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### PERSONS DAY

**Ms. Audrey McLaughlin (Yukon):** Mr. Speaker, today we celebrate Persons Day and remember the courageous women who made it possible.

Sixty-nine years ago Agnes MacPhail became the first woman to sit in the Canadian Parliament. Eight years later, on October 18, 1929, women were finally recognized legally as persons.

Even Canada Post has recognized the contribution made by Agnes MacPhail and recently released a stamp in her honour.

Unfortunately on this Persons Day we are reminded that the federal government does not recognize the full equality of women, having cut back on women's programs and brought in the proposed abortion bill, a challenge to the very personhood and right to choices which we won 61 years ago.

I ask the government on Persons Day to make the commitment to real equality for women in this country.