

**Senator Perrault:** I did not criticize the government for its stand. I support the policy of the government, and I said that very clearly. When those economic sanctions are lifted, however, there will be opportunities for Canadian trade with South Africa; opportunities which should be exploited.

The Chinese government has recently established a trade office in Johannesburg. We are really not in the play at all down there, as the Leader of the Government in the Senate knows.

In any case, South African wage rates are substantially higher than wage rates in Mexico. That is no defence of South Africa, however. Vast changes would have to be made in that country before they can move ahead economically.

### EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

#### DEPARTMENTAL TRANSFERS OF FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS— GOVERNMENT POLICY

**Hon. Lorna Marsden:** Honourable senators, not so very long ago the government decided to transfer to the Department of Employment and Immigration those professional foreign service officers who, until now, have comprised the Social Affairs stream of the Department of External Affairs and International Trade. The Social Affairs stream officers are those people who help you if you have lost your passport or are in difficulty, and they also advise on other matters. This has had a severe impact on the department, on services provided to Canadians abroad and, above all, on the individuals whose careers have been quite affected.

I have two questions for the Leader of the Government in the Senate. The first concerns the lack of consultation. This announcement was made, apparently, without any consultation with the most senior members of the Department of External Affairs, and certainly not with the Professional Association of Foreign Service Officers, and yet it was the Prime Minister who was the force behind the PS 2000 project and document which implies a whole new era of consultation. Can the Leader of the Government tell us why the normal and the new consultative processes were not followed in this case?

• (1440)

**Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, I am not in a position to reply to that question in detail. I shall have to ask my colleagues, Mrs. McDougall and Mr. Valcourt, for a reply, and I shall bring it in in due course.

**Hon. Lorna Marsden:** Honourable senators, it would be a pleasure to have that reply brought in. However, I might add that the Association of Foreign Service Officers, having written to the minister twice, is still awaiting a reply or consultation.

#### EMPLOYMENT EQUITY—GENDER IMPACT OF DEPARTMENTAL TRANSFERS

**Hon. Lorna Marsden:** May I ask the Leader of the Government another question in this matter that is equally serious. There are three streams in External Affairs: Political-Econom-

ic, Trade, and Social Affairs. There are 1,367 officers in those streams. I am interested in the gender equity impact.

Social Affairs has the largest proportion of women. Some 30.23 per cent of the officers in Social Affairs are women. In the other two streams no more than approximately 16 per cent are women. By removing the Social Affairs stream from this segment of External Affairs, the Department of External Affairs will see its proportion of women drop to 16.22 per cent, which I believe will make it the lowest in the federal government.

Has the government considered the gender impact of this move?

**Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, I will be happy to draw the attention of my colleagues to that question as well.

### THE SENATE

#### REPRESENTATION OF WESTERN CANADA

**Hon. Efsthios William Barootes:** Honourable senators, my question is for the Leader of the Government in the Senate. It relates also to the *Debates of the Senate* of Thursday, March 19, 1992.

My question has to do with the under-representation of Western Canada in this chamber. I wish to draw to the attention of honourable senators the fact that—

**Senator Frith:** There is always section 26.

**Senator Barootes:** There is a lot of jaspering going on. If honourable senators would listen, they would hear that it is a rather well-thought-out question, and I would like Senator Frith to hear it.

**Senator Frith:** We will be the judge of that.

**Senator Barootes:** I would like you to hear it. It is very difficult to hear when your mouth is open.

**Senator Frith:** The truth is that you can hear better with your mouth open.

**Senator Barootes:** I bring to the attention of this place the fact that Saskatchewan has officially only three sitting members in the Senate, although we are entitled to six. God knows that six is extremely low for our province.

**Senator Frith:** He does?

**Senator Barootes:** We are at the present time devoid of three of our sitting members.

**Senator Haidasz:** How about coming up with the names of three farmers?

**Senator Barootes:** I knew that we should not have been quiet when Senator Frith was asking his series of questions of the Leader of the Government. I thought he might give us the same respect and dignity.

There are, however, eight members of the Senate who are designated as divisional senators. Two of them are from the western division. Senator Johnson could fill the vacancy that