

This year, as never before, we are seeing freedom and democracy and hope lit in the politics of many countries where there was none before.

Unfortunately, this spirit has not made much of an impression on the Government of Canada. Unreformed politics remain part of our own political system, particularly in our Upper House. Senator Murray, on behalf of the government, travels from provincial capital to provincial capital, a living insult to Senate reformers, urging premiers to ignore the Canadian public's rejection of Meech Lake.

And what of the Senate? When the Senate uses its constitutional power, the Conservatives cry that it is undemocratic. When an attempt is made to democratize the Senate, the Conservatives then say that it is unconstitutional. Now the Minister of Justice has openly mused that maybe the Senate should be abolished, saying in the *Vancouver Sun*, "I have to be convinced of the need for (any) Senate".

The P.C. government has still not tabled its position on the Senate, as it said it would. But Canadians are certainly beginning to see what the agenda really is.

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### PAY EQUITY

**Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor):** Mr. Speaker, for another year in a row Statistics Canada reports that the pay gap between women and men is as wide as it was a decade ago.

The government says it wants full equality for Canadian women. But what does this government mean by "equality"? Equality means earnings which are only 65 per cent as much as men but paying 100 per cent of the grocery bills, 100 per cent of the rent, and 100 per cent of the cost of child care.

Equality means watching the government talk about pay equity and fair employment practices, but legislating its own female hospital workers back to work because they asked for pay equity with men doing similar work. When will this government realize that equality means paying your own women employees at 100 per cent of the rate that male employees receive? When will this government realize that equality for women has to be real, direct and complete?

### S. O. 31

### ROMANIA

**Mr. Tom Wappel (Scarborough West):** Mr. Speaker, I rise today to denounce the recent actions of the dictator of Romania, Nicolae Ceausescu and his henchmen.

As a Canadian of Hungarian ancestry, I have a special interest in Hungary, and in particular the brutal repression of the Hungarian minority of Romania, the largest ethnic minority in all of Europe. Ceausescu's terrorist police have persecuted Reverend Laszlo Tokes, about whom we have already heard in this House, and have now massacred people who have been caught up in the euphoria of freedom flowering in eastern Europe. Romania's actions are an affront to human rights, *glasnost*, and the very real thaw in the cold war. We must do more than protest on paper. I call on the government to immediately review our economic relations with the butcher of Bucharest. Let us do the right thing and back our words of protest with appropriate actions. Further, I call on the House to unanimously condemn the heinous actions of this political dinosaur.

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### FAMINE

**Ms. Lynn Hunter (Saanich—Gulf Islands):** Mr. Speaker, famine looms again for millions of people in Ethiopia, Eritrea and Tigré. The United Nations has announced a 100 per cent crop failure in the region where food production has long been disrupted by war.

The majority of those affected by the famine live in areas beyond Ethiopian government control, areas I visited in 1986. Ethiopia has been thwarting the international response to this situation. In November, diplomatic negotiations for safe passage agreements broke down.

This is no time for diplomatic niceties. Canada is moving too slowly to meet this challenge. Quiet diplomacy has become silent complicity as millions of people face death in the region today. CIDA has approved only half the food aid committed last year, which was a non-crisis year.

The worst fears of those of us who spoke out against the government cuts to development assistance are being realized. The result of Tory deficit reduction is indeed people dying in Africa. Canadians opened their