

coast involve such questions as: Would you like an early election? Would you like a change in government? Would you like the GST? Will we get into these areas?

Another question relates to the first Citizens' Forum safari of Mr. Spicer. When Canadians heard the first reports of this expedition to the Arctic and the sub-Arctic, they had visions of another Amundsen and a modern-day expedition of discovery to the north. As honorable senators know, Amundsen took a crew of people along to determine where the North Pole was located. Perhaps the Spicer expedition is designed to find out where the real Canada is located.

But the startling fact is that Mr. Spicer is apparently donning a parka and snowshoes this week and he is heading for the frozen shores of the Beaufort Sea, well above the Arctic Circle, all by himself.

**Senator Steuart:** No! He will get lost!

**Senator Perrault:** Is it safe, honourable senators, to send this national treasure to our Arctic climate by himself without any protection of any kind? Surely the RCMP will be there to stand by in case of need.

**Senator Bonnell:** He is going to university!

**Senator Perrault:** Can we actually imagine Mr. Spicer on snow-shoes, equipped only with a tape recorder under his arm to solicit opinions from the people, for example, in Tuktoyaktuk?

While it is important that the north be given significant attention by the Citizens' Forum, the idea of sending Mr. Spicer on a one-man expedition boggles the mind.

**Senator Lucier:** We can hardly wait!

**Senator Perrault:** Surely there should be more committee members than Mr. Spicer along on this almost twenty-first century Arctic exploration. That is my first question.

#### COMPOSITION OF COMMISSION—ADDITION OF MINORITIES

**Hon. Raymond J. Perrault:** My second question concerns this. On the weekend the Prime Minister, at his ingratiating best, told a group of avid television watchers in Ontario, "Of course this government will consider adding minorities to the panel." He said, "We are certainly going to consider adding representatives of ethnic communities." Now it is disturbing to note that in response, Mr. Spicer, in effect, says that the Prime Minister does not know what he is talking about. He said that adding more visible minorities to the forum is "A tempting but resistible trap". He went on to say:

I am very pleased with the group we already have, (thank you,) and I am convinced that we can do a fine job just as we are.

"Apparently, just as we are" means that only a one-man expedition is heading north this week. Will Mr. Spicer return? That is the question that should be asked. Will he survive the experience of this solo safari?

He has an advisory group of 11 members. Does he really think that Jack Webster of B.C. will accept his role on a

[Senator Perrault.]

"standby basis" with Spicer calling him from time to time saying, "How are things going out there, Jack;" and Jack replying, "Just fine, sir. Contact me any time, sir, as I await your further instructions."

**Senator Fairbairn:** That is not the Webster I know!

**Senator Perrault:** That is not the Webster any one of us knows. Yet Mr. Spicer states that "I am assisted by an advisory group of 11 people who work part-time."

When these appointments were first announced by the Prime Minister one would have thought that they were tantamount to appointments to the College of Cardinals, or to some other prestigious body. We now understand that the committee members are only to be employed on a part-time basis. Apparently, they are to do "piece work," perhaps to bring peace to the country at some point. The question was asked earlier, how much they will be paid, and I think that too, is a relevant question.

We should like the Leader of the Government in the Senate to tell us this afternoon—

**Senator Bonnell:** Be honest!

**Senator Perrault:** —is Mr. Spicer right or is the Prime Minister correct in his assessment? First, the Prime Minister said, "Yes. We are to consider adding other people to the panel." But Mr. Spicer said that he did not think the Prime Minister knew what he was talking about.

**Senator Haidasz:** Spicer says that to a lot of people!

**Senator Perrault:** The Prime Minister said that more members might be added to the advisory group, but Mr. Spicer said that it would create a lot of problems. Apparently, the committee chairman believes that we can have too much democracy. Mr. Spicer said that the advisors were not there as specific representatives of the community. He said, "What we want are good listeners and good communicators."

**Senator Fairbairn:** Good listeners?

**Senator Perrault:** Yes, good listeners. We need to know more about this committee.

**Senator Haidasz:** Are they good looking, too?

**Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government and Minister of State for Federal-Provincial Relations):** Honourable senators, I hope my friend does not attend the Citizens' Forum and inflict on them the kind of bombast he inflicts on us. If he does, Jack Webster will make quick work of him.

**Senator Perrault:** That is no answer.

**Senator Haidasz:** How many blacks were appointed to that committee? Tell me how many blacks were appointed.

**Senator Perrault:** The Leader of the Government can trade insults all he wants across this chamber. The matter of this committee and those appointed to the committee could be of extreme importance. Will we have representatives of other ethnic communities on that committee or not? Is the Prime Minister correct when he told the people of Ontario that he will consider appointing new members while Mr. Spicer is