

We recognize the discrepancy in the amounts paid by Canada Post for space, the lease for which was cancelled. Can the leader supply to us similar quotations respecting the new space in the building?

Would she also determine whether the new price, which I hear is somewhat lower, includes the cost of certain work to turn what used to be an IGA grocery store into a functional post office? Who will pay those costs?

**Senator Fairbairn:** I would be pleased to seek that detailed information. I should also say to Senator Forrestall that, as far as I am aware, the Price Waterhouse review should be done by next Monday.

**Senator Forrestall:** This is rather short notice, but could the leader make available to us by tomorrow the terms of reference of that review?

**Senator Fairbairn:** I will make no promises, honourable senators. I will do my best.

## HUMAN RIGHTS

### ARREST OF ACTIVIST IN CHINA—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Hon. Noël A. Kinsella:** Honourable senators, over the past few months we have been advised of the government's new approach to expressing our concerns for human rights in various countries through a process of quiet diplomacy.

My question to the Leader of the Government in the Senate is: Does the Government of Canada, using this new system, have any concern over the arrest in China of Harry Wu, a well-known human rights activist? If so, has it expressed that concern?

**Hon. Joyce Fairbairn (Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, I will seek information on that matter.

## CANADA POST CORPORATION

### EXTENSION OF CONTRACT ON LEASES—REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON MEMBERS OF CONSORTIUM

**Hon. Gerald J. Comeau:** Honourable senators, I have just learned that the Minister of Public Works has apparently intervened in another issue related to the Canada Post Corporation. Sources tell me that the minister has instructed the properties and leases division of Canada Post Corporation, to extend the contract of the consortium which handles the properties from three to seven years, and that this will increase the contract price from \$150 million to \$350 million.

Would the leader provide us with the identity of the newest member of the consortium and his ties to the Minister of Public Works?

**Hon. Joyce Fairbairn (Leader of the Government):** I will take my friend's question as notice and try to obtain that information.

**Senator Comeau:** While she is attempting to find that information, would the leader also look into the allegation that the fourth member will receive 7 per cent of the contract which has now been increased to \$350 million?

**Senator Fairbairn:** I will make enquiries in that regard.

• (2040)

## FOREIGN AFFAIRS

### REQUEST FOR NEWLY APPOINTED AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL AND CYPRUS TO APPEAR BEFORE COMMITTEE

**Hon. Marcel Prud'homme:** Honourable senators, my question is addressed to the very able Chairman of our Foreign Affairs Committee, Senator John B. Stewart.

I have reserved comment tonight on the appointment of an ex-colleague of ours from the House of Commons as ambassador to Israel. As the honourable senator knows, from time to time, the House of Commons can call before one of its committees any appointee. Would it not be advisable to call the new ambassador as a witness before the Foreign Affairs Committee in order to entertain an interesting exchange with him as to his views on the Middle East in general and, in particular, the very sensitive area to which he has been appointed? The ambassador to Israel is also ambassador to Cyprus, something which seems to have gone unnoticed by the press.

Would the Honourable Senator Stewart consider the possibility of calling him as a witness so that we can talk to him about his views and see if his views have changed over the years? In this way we can find out how he intends to fulfil his very difficult assignment for Canada.

**Hon. John B. Stewart:** Honourable senators, the Foreign Affairs Committee has two references from the Senate before it. One relates to trade, particularly in the Western Hemisphere. The other relates to Canada's relations with European countries. Without making a detailed analysis of the reference, at first glance it would appear that the committee is not under instruction from the Senate to take up the matter to which the honourable senator has referred.

**Senator Prud'homme:** Honourable senators, we know that Israel is not considered to be part of Europe, even though the world may develop that way some day. We now hear that they would like to be an associate member of NATO. However, Cyprus has made strong representations to be admitted to the concept of the European nations. Perhaps by using that request as an angle we could call the new ambassador to Israel before the committee.