

● (1600)

In summary, Mr. Speaker, Canada is viewed as a great, fair and open country. People of all backgrounds, languages, colour and religion want to come here because we are viewed as being as fair and open as a country possibly can be. We have that quality, Mr. Speaker, because we are made up of many parts. We are diversified but we are still Canadians. We want to retain the best of our own culture and language, but we also want to be Canadian. We have achieved that. We can do much more by starting not to pay only political lip-service to the question of multiculturalism, but rather by dealing with it in a way in which we would deal with most other aspects of life, that is, dealing with it on a rational, objective and fair basis and bringing people of various backgrounds with various ideas into the centre of the decision-making process. That would not only be good for our organizations, boards and Parliament, but it would be good for Canada and every community in this country.

**Mr. Hudecki:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a statement first and then ask a question. I know the Hon. Member for Lisgar (Mr. Murta) well enough to know that he would not want to leave the impression, which he is leaving, as to the contribution the policy of multiculturalism is making. In my own riding many of the suggestions he has put forward have materialized. In my riding there is a central office in which there is a very adequate library staffed by a person knowledgeable in a number of cultures. It focuses on people of various ethnic origins. There are satellite offices in which counselling is carried out to help people with income tax and immigration problems. There are a number of courses at the local schools which are subsidized under the multicultural plan which reinforce various language studies. Annually there is a festival in which various multicultural groups are able to manifest the products of their hard work and cultural achievements. Until recently there was a very adequate newspaper published which was quite widely distributed. It contained pertinent information concerning various groups. That included the Afro-Caribbean group, the various Eastern European groups and so on. One of the problems is that there is not necessarily great growth because so many of these people later become integrated into the society as a whole.

What areas did the Member cover in his investigation? If a riding is not adequately represented, multi-culturalism is not properly expressed and the policy not properly utilized, it is a reflection of a shortcoming in the Member representing that riding.

**Mr. Murta:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to respond to the Hon. Member, who is a very good personal friend of mine, by saying that many of the things to which he has alluded, of course, take place throughout various parts of the country. In Manitoba we have Folklorama, which is a large multicultural festival which takes place during the summer. In Manitoba we also have the International Centre, which is doing a fabulous job in terms of education and help for new immigrants to the country. We as Canadians have found that the question of

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multi-cultural functions, such as songs and dances, are really not now an issue at all. It happens every year and is good for Canada and the people who are involved.

As I speak with various ethno-cultural groups across the country I am finding that they want more than the songs and dances which we have traditionally been talking about. There is necessity for more than language training for new Canadians arriving in this country. The multicultural community in this country wants a greater say in the operations of Canada. In total they make up about 30 to 35 per cent of our total population. They are telling me that, provided they are qualified and have the ability and mobility, they want to assume a rightful place in the management of this country. In effect they are saying they have grown up, matured and want to be like everyone else. Mr. Speaker, on boards and agencies in this country, which the Government sets up, people of visible minorities are not present. It is the sensitization that we lack. My contention is that if a full ministry were introduced and funded properly it would be able to do that and would have a very positive impact in this country.

**Mr. John Evans (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, I have spoken in the House on many occasions about economic matters because I had some responsibility in the past in that area and also because it is an area of great interest to me. I have tried to make some contribution to my constituents and the people of Canada in that area. Today I would like to follow up on the Prime Minister's (Mr. Trudeau) speech. I have been very impressed with the initiatives which the Prime Minister has taken, as all Members of the House have been, as was expressed today by the Leader of the Official Opposition (Mr. Mulroney) and the Leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Broadbent). It is a matter of non-partisan concern of the highest order that we look at the current world situation and, as a country, encourage our Leaders to do as much as possible.

I would like to address the question of what we as Canadians can do to prevent the increasing threat of nuclear war. I believe that the Prime Minister's peace initiative has demonstrated to citizens of this country, and indeed to world leaders abroad, the seriousness of the present situation and has put forward some concrete steps which must be taken to reduce the uncertainty of the present political climate. We must think in terms other than personal security and human survival. We must think in terms of the quality of life in the world and what it would mean to that quality of life if we could eliminate the arms race and reduce the threat of nuclear and other arms. It is clear that we could alleviate many of the world's economic and social problems if we could divert the vast wealth that is being spent annually on the arms race, and nuclear armaments in particular, to other more productive purposes.

The amount spent on nuclear and conventional arms this and last year is somewhere in the range of \$700 billion. Obviously this money could be used more productively and certainly less destructively, both in the developed and undeveloped world. In nations like Canada, the money could be used for industrial restructuring that we all know is needed,