

*Government Orders*

the Review of the Parliament of Canada Act, presented in the House earlier today, be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

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## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[*English*]

### CANADIAN RACE RELATIONS FOUNDATION

#### MEASURE TO ENACT

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Weiner that Bill C-63, an act to establish the Canadian Race Relations Foundation, be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee.

**Madam Deputy Speaker:** When the House rose at 1 p.m. the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre had the floor.

**Mr. David Walker (Winnipeg North Centre):** Madam Speaker, I rise in the House today to continue debate on the introduction of the Canadian Race Relations Foundation. As members of the House know, this is a piece of legislation for which we in the opposition have been waiting several months. It was first promised two years ago and has finally worked its way to the House.

While I join with the members of the House who support this bill, because I think it is a very important step forward, I would like to take this opportunity to remind the House how much work has to be done in the area of race relations. I speak particularly from a perspective in the west.

As one generation after another have come to the west they have had to deal with incredible problems of racial discrimination. It began with the problems of the Chinese before the turn of the century when they came to work on Canadian railroads and had to deal with very severe immigration laws which worked against the reunification of their families. The fact that they have managed to survive and to flourish into a strong Canadian community is more a testimony to their own strength than to any Canadian legislation.

A second sad chapter, particularly in western Canada, but one which in fact led to the establishment of this Race Relations Foundation, was the treatment of Cana-

dian Japanese on the west coast. It has taken close to 50 years since World War II to rectify one of the blackest moments in our history.

Third, the fact that our native peoples continue to be subject to racial discrimination throughout western Canada, and perhaps throughout the whole country, haunts all politicians and legislators in this country. I note that Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta are all carrying out judicial enquiries to rectify some of the conditions that exist within our legal system.

We hope that as this Race Relations Foundation evolves it will have an eye for what takes place in the different regions in addition to dealing with questions on a national scale.

One of the reasons I took a particular interest in the foundation when it was first suggested is that I thought this was an opportunity for the Government of Canada to show its commitment to regional development. In Winnipeg in the last five years we have lost a disproportionate number of jobs in the federal civil service. Some statistics show that one in five job losses in the federal government has been in the Manitoba region. The loss of 1,000 jobs in Manitoba could be partly compensated by placing an institute such as this one in a community which has shown more concern about race relations than any other in the country. While I appreciate that at first glance the problems appear to be more pressing in cities such as Toronto, Montreal and elsewhere where there are greater populations, Winnipeg has always been an immigrant city and therefore questions of race relations have been paramount in the minds of its decision makers.

The city of Winnipeg was one of the very first cities in the country to set up a race relations committee which meets on a monthly basis and brings together leadership from the different communities. Not only do we have traditional groups from eastern Europe and central Europe, we also have representatives from the newest of Canadians—the Caribbean community, the African community and the different Asian communities. The Canadian aboriginal communities also have representatives at these meetings to discuss issues.

We just finished a series of hearings in the city of Winnipeg on race relations and the police force. Again we see that at the community level it is really important that federal politicians lend support to working out