

*Government Orders*

for scapegoats, ways must be found to increase tolerance among diverse groups.

Before continuing, Madam Speaker, I would like to clarify some points: first, the myth that racial discrimination does not exist in Canada. Unfortunately, that is totally false.

Increasingly, the media report conflicts in all areas of life, from the schools to the legal system and the working world.

Second, the myth that all Canadians are treated the same and that they all have equal opportunity. In principle, that is quite true—it is in the law. In practice, it is a different story.

Just try to rent an apartment if you have a different accent or are a different colour! Although not everyone is racist, there are still far too many racists.

[English]

We, in this society, have a lot to do and the government must show the way and promote inter-racial harmony. It must hire people in senior positions who know and understand what is happening. It must hire people from the milieu who can suggest means by which to create a climate of tolerance and harmony, not by noting the differences, but by accentuating the common grounds. It is only together that we can build a country. Individuals cannot make it on their own.

The aboriginal people of Canada face racial prejudice and discrimination on a daily basis. They are often denied their ancient right of self-determination. They represent but one group living discrimination on a daily basis. What is the present government concretely doing to correct the situation?

[Translation]

Madam Speaker, our society is increasingly uncertain about the future. Free trade, the GST, the Meech Lake Accord all get Canadians' adrenaline levels up. Many causes of tension and hostility are often taken out on the latest arrival, the person perceived as different, even if he or she was born here. Surely someone must be to blame for all our troubles?

No group is safe. Therefore it is important that the Race Relations Foundation not waste years studying the Canadian situation—I think that we all know what it is.

From the first year of its mandate, it must be proactive, both by setting an example and by advertising in the media.

• (1150)

[English]

"Barriers between blacks and police must be understood before they can be removed," appeared in *The Toronto Star* on May 21; "Hate wave," *The Ottawa Sun* on May 22; "The spectre of racism," *The Ottawa Citizen* on May 17; "Canadian racism angers Apache," *Time Colonist* on March 16; "Racism by any other name," the *Vancouver Sun* on February 26; and, "Rally condemns silence on racial bias," *The Edmonton Journal* on March 25.

These are a few of the headlines we are reading in our newspapers throughout Canada. Racism is on the rise. It has been slowly building up in the last few years and is ready to explode as soon as a crisis occurs. Crisis situations are now part of our daily lives. The country has never been so divided, so lost, and so insecure. We can thank the Conservative government for that.

When children are showing contempt for other children because of a difference in race or culture, we have a lot of questions to ask ourselves.

[Translation]

Often without even knowing what they are really saying, Madam Speaker, children make statements which reflect the prejudice of the adults around them. I am not saying that all adults teach their children to be intolerant, although too many certainly do, but through their comments and jokes, they sometimes project a degrading image of all the men and women they feel are different. Their children are the adults of tomorrow and it is on the basis of the values they have received when they were tots that they will pass judgment on others later on.

Madam Speaker, there are already too many stereotypes and clichés we must seek to destroy and it is a task for pioneers. It is essential that the Canadian Racial Relations Foundation should act without delay. It should not follow in the footsteps of this government which, by failing to make a quick decision in connection with the Sikh turban issue, only succeeded in aggravating the situation. If the Foundation wants to justify its existence, it should go ahead and take preventive measures. It