

its first reason for the denial of Mr. Webb's application for employment the following:

We require leaders who are functionally bilingual and who pursue a conserver lifestyle in keeping with the Katimavik objectives.

On further investigation of his application I thought as far as a conserver lifestyle that with his involvement of three years with the armed services, his trips throughout Canada in the capacities of sales representative, production manager, and traffic manager, and his being stationed for three years as an armed service recruit in Calgary, Alberta, followed by another three years in Germany, the least they could have done was give this gentleman an interview.

However, in the interests of pursuing the issue, I asked Mr. Webb if he would be kind enough to apply for the other position, that of district co-ordinator. We must bear in mind that the job was in Toronto, Ontario. The advertisement indicated that it was located in a district comprising the Greater Toronto and surrounding area. He applied for the district co-ordinator's job and was not even given the courtesy of an interview for the following reason:

Because of the large number of applications received in response to our organization's advertisement for the position of District Co-ordinator we have had to apply a screening process to reduce the number invited for personal interview to manageable proportions.

This resulted in a further inquiry on my part to find out exactly what were the terms of reference for jobs in Katimavik. I have had conversations with the body responsible for Katimavik known as OPCAN. I have had discussions with the staff of the office of the Secretary of State. A Mr. John O'Sullivan very kindly pointed out to me today that if a person was found to be bilingual this would be the ideal situation, meaning that if they could find a bilingual person in downtown Toronto for these programs he would be considered ideal and from there they would work with the remaining qualifications. I suggest that the House of Commons give serious consideration to the ramifications of that decision.

In the Province of Ontario we have over eight million people, of which only 475,000 are Francophones. I would suggest, and I stand to be corrected, that many of those Francophones might not even qualify because they themselves would not all be in Toronto. We are dealing with an ad in *The Globe and Mail* asking for workers in Toronto and we are immediately reducing potential Katimavik Program employees to somewhat less than 5 per cent of 8,264,000 the total population of the Province of Ontario.

● (1805)

The step that Mr. Geoffrey Webb of Peterborough is now pursuing is this letter which has been sent to the Human Rights Commission in Ottawa, Ontario, to the attention of Mr. Gordon Fairweather:

I am lodging a complaint of discrimination against the Katimavik Programme.

Adjournment Debate

I answered an advertisement in the Toronto Newspaper in March 1983 for a Group leader (Copy enclosed) but my application was refused because I was not functionally Bilingual. Whereas the advertisement stated that I must indicate my willingness to become so.

I also answered the next advertisement (Copy enclosed) for a district co-ordinator but again was refused this—

The reasons were given in that letter which I read into the record, in reply to in his second application. There were literally no reasons given for the refusal other than that he had one of far too many to consider being given an interview.

I would be interested in the Minister's response to the question whether he intends, through his Parliamentary Secretary, to assure this House that the qualifications as specified in the advertisement will be adhered to, so that totally bilingual people are not the only ones who can become part of the Katimavik leadership or district co-ordinator employee classification.

[Translation]

Mr. Jean Lapierre (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs):

Mr. Speaker, after listening to the comments made by the Hon. Member, I must say that he has amply demonstrated his ignorance with respect to the Katimavik Program. The Hon. Member is claiming that since Katimavik has projects in Toronto and the number of anglophones in Toronto is very substantial, the person in question would not have to use French. Now, I think most people are aware of the Hon. Member's views on the subject, and some people—I am not naming any names—would even go so far as to call him a frog basher. In any event, Katimavik projects cover a wide spectrum of Canadians, and a project leader must be able to communicate with participants. A representative sample of Canadians, although my hon. colleague opposite may find this most disturbing, would have to include Francophones, and these people must be able to communicate with their group leader. That has been the policy of Katimavik from the outset. Mr. Speaker, I would even say that the *raison d'être* of Katimavik is to bring Francophones and Anglophones together. It is too bad the Hon. Member has never taken part in this program, since it might have broadened his mind a bit.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is absolutely disgusting the way the Hon. Member is trying to launch an indirect attack on our policy of bringing together francophones and anglophones in Canada. He has been doing this since he became a Member of the House, and quite frankly, I think his francophobia is preventing him from learning what Canada is all about and from acquiring a proper appreciation of Katimavik, a program that was set up so that his children will not have the same aversion to bilingualism and to Francophones.

Mr. Speaker, I think Katimavik is entirely justified in wanting to have group leaders who are able to communicate with all participants, as is indeed the case throughout Canada.