

it ahead of any order of the day this very afternoon. There is no danger. I thought we should conclude routine proceedings first, which would allow for some interval in order for reaction to take place, to see whether there might in fact be an agreement to send the motion to committee without debate. I do not know. I am only delaying it for a few moments.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, that may very well be, but that declaration does not give precedence to privilege. The hon. Minister of State for Multiculturalism (Mr. Cafik) seems to be very anxious to make a speech. I know the House will listen with anticipated joy to the revelations he will make. But the fact remains that before this question of privilege can be postponed, there must be consent on the part of the House. Personally I take the strongest possible objection to any delay in that connection.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think I can put the matter another way: when I came into the House I had the option of going through routine proceedings and dealing with questions of privilege at the end. I could have held back my decision just as easily until just prior to orders of the day. That would have put the House at the distinct disadvantage of facing the unexpected discussion of a motion this afternoon without even a few minutes to anticipate. Instead, I have advanced that decision on my part to the beginning of routine proceedings. I have indicated that I would call the matter as the first order of business for the day.

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MULTICULTURALISM

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW PROGRAMS

Hon. Norman A. Cafik (Minister of State (Multiculturalism)): Mr. Speaker, I wish to inform the House today of new and expanded programs in the Directorate of Multiculturalism. As hon. members know, on October 8, 1971, the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) recognized the importance of Canadian heritage by announcing the government's policy on multiculturalism. On that occasion he said:

For although there are two official languages, there is no official culture, nor does any ethnic group take precedence over any other. No citizen or group of citizens is other than Canadian and all should be treated fairly.

Multiculturalism has two dimensions: vertical and horizontal.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Cafik: The vertical dimension is designed to encourage and support cultural pluralism among the ethno-cultural groups—

Some hon. Members: Order!

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Who was the author of your speech?

Mr. Paproski: Who wrote it? Was it John Munro?

Multiculturalism

Mr. Cafik: Mr. Speaker, I know hon. members opposite have very little respect for multiculturalism in this country.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Cafik: But I think they should at least listen.

The vertical dimension is designed to encourage and support cultural pluralism among the ethno-cultural groups, while the impact of the horizontal dimension is to ensure that multiculturalism and its objectives are taken into account by the government at all levels.

In terms of the vertical dimension, I am pleased to announce that the government will provide \$50 million through the Multiculturalism directorate over the next five years to encourage equal opportunities for Canada's cultural groups to share their rich cultural traditions with all Canadians. The new emphasis of multiculturalism will be "unity through human understanding." Additional resources in this coming fiscal year of \$2.5 million will enable the multicultural program to provide support to a wide range of activities which will increase the awareness of multicultural reality in Canada.

National ethno-cultural organizations now will have financial assistance available to them toward their operating costs. Also, special consideration can be given now to projects promoting the integration of immigrants. Increased assistance also will be provided to all Canadian cultural groups for projects aiding in group development, the performing and visual arts, literary publications, and Canadian ethnic studies. Programs currently under way will be expanded so as to provide more flexibility to the unique projects involved.

Over and above the programs administered by the Multiculturalism Directorate, Treasury Board allocates an additional annual budget of \$2.4 million to the cultural agencies for multicultural activities undertaken by the National Museum of Man, the National Film Board, the National Library, and the Public Archives. These cultural agencies will continue to enable Canadians to become more aware of our rich heritage.

In terms of the horizontal dimension, the directorate and I are very concerned about the problems of visible minorities, the human rights question, equal opportunities for Canadians of all backgrounds, promoting the concept of Canada's cultural pluralism among all Canadians, and reinforcing Canadian unity.

In over-all budget terms the program, including funding for multicultural activities through the cultural agencies, has grown from an amount in 1977-1978 of \$8.407 million to \$10.196 million in 1978-1979, an increase of 28.8 per cent in this last year, showing the deep commitment of the government to this program. This does not take into account special funds given through other departmental activities related to this important area of public policy.

As the Prime Minister said, "A policy of multiculturalism within an officially bilingual framework is basically the conscious support of individual freedom of choice." We are free to be ourselves. But this cannot and should not be left to chance. If freedom of choice is in danger for some group, it is in