

be responsible. I am trying to show that the government plays footsy and displays a hypocritical attitude at times when it comes to the multicultural policy, and that disturbs me. This policy was brought in on October 8, 1971. At that time the secretary of state was Gérard Pelletier. He has gone on to big and better rewards. He is now the ambassador to France. What did he say around October 8, 1971? I would like to read from a paper entitled "Towards a Canada Uniquely Canadian" by Dr. Joseph Kage, President of the Quebec Ethnic Press Association. There is no date on this document, but I want to put on the record what the good doctor indicated. He quoted what the Hon. Gérard Pelletier said. The paper states:

"When we speak of cultural pluralism we are making a fundamental choice for Canada, both now and for the future, for we are talking about the development in Canada of a multicultural society. The government refuses to sacrifice, in the name of unity through conformity, any of the cultures which are represented in our population, whether these cultures are European or native to Canada such as those of the Indians and Eskimos. Canada is not a 'melting pot' and the government is opposed to any measure aimed at assimilation. On the contrary, it encourages all initiatives which have as their object the promotion and dissemination—alongside the two main cultures, English and French—of other cultural values".

**Mr. Haidasz:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Alexander:** I am going to get to that hon. member later on.

I have another undated document. This is one signed by one Bernard Ostry, Assistant Under Secretary of State. It is on the letterhead of the Department of the Secretary of State. It is entitled "Guidelines for Submissions for Grants under the Multicultural Programme".

**Mr. Epp:** Wasn't he in charge of Canadian unity?

**Mr. Alexander:** Yes. I do not have much time. Let me put a few things on the record. I do not know what the date of the document is, but it must have been around October 8, 1971, or shortly thereafter. This is what Bernard Ostry stated:

Funds may be made available only to projects which fulfil some or all of the objectives of the multicultural programme:

Notice, Mr. Speaker, how that word "multicultural" is always springing in there.

They will assist the development of a Canadian ethno-cultural group or groups which have demonstrated their desire and ability to develop their culture within the Canadian context and to contribute to modern Canadian society, as well as a clear need for assistance.

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They are designed to share a cultural heritage with other Canadians.

They will promote an awareness of Canada's cultural diversity.

They have the participation and financial support of the community to which they are directed.

They assist immigrants to become full participants in Canadian society.

That is what we are talking about. The government whip will not remember what was said in those days; he was not around then, and will not be around much longer.

**Mr. MacFarlane:** I wouldn't bet on it, if I were you.

### *Immigration*

**Mr. Alexander:** He is not aware of what I quoted, which is why he was surprised at my comments on multiculturalism. That was the policy of the government on and around October 8, 1971. I am amazed at the minister's policy. He was first elected to the House of Commons at the same time as the hon. member for Hamilton West, in 1968. He knows that his government accepted the objectives of multiculturalism. The government first brought forward the principle of multiculturalism, which we all accept. Now the minister says he cannot accept the amendment the hon. member for Greenwood (Mr. Brewin) has proposed. He will not accept that nine-word amendment.

I ought to put on record certain facts and statistics to show that when it is in the government's interest to do something, it will do it. But when it acts, it does not think of the hardship its policies will work on those who may be affected. On October 8, 1971, the government announced its multicultural policy, which had hitherto been under the aegis of the then Secretary of State, Gérard Pelletier. There was a young member of this House, the hon. member for Scarborough East (Mr. O'Connell), who is still a member, who was made minister without portfolio responsible for multiculturalism. I have great respect for the hon. member; unfortunately, his constituents did not return him in the 1972 election. I cannot understand why. Consequently, we were without the services of that minister without portfolio. But even when he was minister, his job was not full-time. He was not a full minister of state; he was a minister without portfolio, responsible to Gérard Pelletier who took over-all responsibility for the multicultural program.

After the election of 1972 the young doctor from Parkdale, the hon. member for Parkdale (Mr. Haidasz), was made responsible for multiculturalism. The government suddenly said, "We recognize the significant contribution our various peoples have made to this country's development and, for the first time, shall appoint a full-time minister responsible for multiculturalism."

**Mr. Paproski:** We want Stanley Haidasz.

**Mr. Alexander:** That minister did his best.

**An hon. Member:** What's your point?

**Mr. Alexander:** Mr. Speaker, I think the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance wants to make a speech.

**Mr. Paproski:** He doesn't care about multiculturalism.

**Mr. Alexander:** I am coming to my point. As I said, the hon. member for Parkdale was the minister responsible for multiculturalism, but sometime in October, 1974, the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) said, "We do not need you any longer. Multiculturalism is not important." The Prime Minister removed from office this country's first full-time minister of multiculturalism and put the implementation of the policy under the armpits, as it were, of the Minister of Labour (Mr. Munro). I say, shame to that. That is what I mean when I say the government is playing footsy with this policy.

**Mr. Fairweather:** It is an armpit policy.