

Adjournment Debate

and the concerns people have about enforcing equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory measures in business itself. I hope that tonight the Parliamentary Secretary is going to tell us that not only will this business centre deal with those matters but tell us specifically how, and tell us about the enforcement provisions which are needed to overcome discrimination in these areas.

[Translation]

Mr. Vincent Della Noce (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport) and Minister of State (Multiculturalism)): Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to reply to the question of my colleague from York East (Mr. Redway). I am pleased to be able to speak to this matter which is important to all of us—equality of opportunity. This is what our Government stands for and the purpose of our multiculturalism policies and programs.

Of course, we are talking about equality in all aspects of Canadian life: equality of cultural opportunity, equality of social opportunity, and equality of political opportunity. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, I should like to refer to the remarks of our Minister at the Toronto Convention Centre on April 11, 1986. He said, and I quote:

When I speak of equality, I mean all aspects of life in Canadian society:

Cultural equality—to preserve, encourage and promote the cultures, practices and customs which are the very essence of a truly multicultural society;

Social equality—to respect the right of every individual to take part freely in the life of society without coming up against the constraints imposed by racism, intolerance and fanaticism;

Political equality—to give everyone the opportunity to take part in the decisions made in municipal, provincial and federal affairs.

Mr. Speaker, needless to say, those are my own priorities, and I am quoting the Minister, and they are also those of the Government of Canada.

● (1810)

[English]

Mr. Speaker, at the same time, our Government continues to support cultural retention and enhancement, as well as the greater integration of Canadian society, both through individual learning or skills acquisition and through the evolution of institutions to reflect and be open to Canadians of all cultures and races.

Such an open society is attractive to investors and entrepreneurial immigrants from countries around the world. They can feel welcome here and feel that their children will have equal opportunities for advancement. At the same time, such a society is open to a more effective use of all its human talents and resources.

The recent Multiculturalism Means Business conference is an example of initiative that promotes equality of economic opportunity. The conference brought together about 700 people from across the country from many ethnocultural backgrounds, representing all levels of Governments; community organizations; individual businesses of all sizes; business,

trade and professional associations. Many doors of opportunity were opened and many contacts were made.

The momentum generated by this conference will be continued and the issues raised there will be addressed. A multiculturalism and business centre is one initiative to increase economic opportunity for all Canadians, both in terms of business and employment opportunity.

The Government's commitment has not waned on social and cultural issues. The Government has already announced its commitment to the second decade to combat racism and racial discrimination. At the same time, the Minister of State for Multiculturalism (Mr. Jelinek) released the progress report on *Equality Now* recommendations.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to reiterate this Government's commitment to a society where all Canadians enjoy equality of opportunity in all spheres of life, social, cultural, political and economical. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WESTERN GRAIN STABILIZATION ACT—SIZE OF PAYMENT TO FARMERS. (B) REQUEST FOR ANNOUNCEMENT OF DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, the Government has a responsibility to deal with the crisis in farm income, particularly in the grain producing sector. The extraordinary drops in income, caused partially by the EEC and U.S. action in the market, merits extraordinary response from the Government. Members of this House and many farm organizations have been asking, since the initial grain price announcements, for some indication that the Government intends to live up to its commitment to take some action.

The western grain stabilization payments of \$600 are timely and appreciated, but they are also a very good indicator of the magnitude of the income reduction that has been taking place. The western grain stabilization makes up for income shortfalls for 1985-86. It does not deal with the projected shortfall or income reduction in the 1986-87 crop year. That shortfall, with \$3 wheat indicated by the initial payment announcement, will be \$1 billion. In fact, the Saskatchewan Pool Research Branch has indicated that it feels that, with all areas and grains included, it is likely to be a shortfall closer to \$2 billion. The western grain stabilization plan may trigger another pay-out in 1986-87, but by its very nature it eats itself. Each time a pay-out is triggered, it indicates a lower income, which lowers the five-year average. Therefore, the next pay-outs are going to be progressively smaller, particularly if the pay-out is triggered in successive years.

The grain producing community is asking the Government to make a commitment to ensure that the incomes of farmers next year will at least be equal to 1985-86. If that is not done, there will be far fewer farmers to help in 1987. I hope the strategy of the Government is not to reduce the number of farms and eliminate a number of farmers so that the need for assistance will be less, as has been suggested by others, and implied in the Nielsen report.