

ment and, above all, the support of ordinary Canadian women and men.

The Canadian Race Relations Foundation is an essential element in this process of change. It will be an energy centre for our national efforts and I believe it will open the door to a better life for all of us.

[*Translation*]

The foundation will respond directly to the two areas of concern I described earlier, which are the concept of racism and its practice. Some of the most brilliant minds in this country will be involved in studies that will shed light on the actual extent of these problems and help wipe out, once and for all, the false premises and myths used by racists to propound their theories. When we reach this goal, racists will be isolated and clearly perceived as frauds and shameless liars.

The foundation's research will not be of the "ivory tower" kind. In fact, it will generate concrete guidelines that will be useful to all groups concerned about racism.

[*English*]

These ideas will be circulated and shared and, as a result, the Canadian public will know more about this widespread problem. Yet, we also recognize that the practice of discrimination will persist. Racism will continue to claim its victims. For this reason, the foundation will have a distinctly pro-active mandate. It will help to develop concrete strategies to confront discrimination and conquer it.

Of course, the foundation cannot do it all alone. It will seek to forge partnerships with all segments of society. Programs and training approaches will be developed to assist business, labour and public institutions to free themselves from the web of systemic discrimination.

Madam Speaker, I have great hope for the Canadian Race Relations Foundation. Members of the House know that this foundation will not be a magical solution to bigotry, to prejudice and injustice, even if we would like it to be; but it will contribute to the solution. The foundation will complement the work this government is undertaking with all our partners dedicated to eradicating racism. It will strengthen our efforts to promote our most significant public awareness campaign, commemorated on March 21, the International Day for the

Government Orders

Elimination of Racial Discrimination. As well, the foundation will be a resource for community organizations working in support of equality.

[*Translation*]

Madam Speaker, we Canadians have never been content to stand aside and let inequality, polarized situations, and unhealthy divisiveness take over our communities. We know that the social cost attached to any social injustice that segregates minority groups is very high.

With courage and confidence, we have opted for a common-sense approach to correct past injustice and advance our cause. The Canadian Race Relations Foundation will be a major milestone in our march towards the future.

As part of this continuum, the foundation is also concerned about the present. We could have chosen a better time to affirm ourselves as a diverse nation, to reject arbitrary divisions that separate us from our neighbours and to focus on the fundamental truth that all people on this earth are one.

[*English*]

I am proud to remind all members of the House of the commitment made by the Prime Minister in this Chamber on September 22, 1988. In the context of the Japanese Canadian Redress Agreement, the Prime Minister said, with the unanimous support of the House:

We cannot change the past. But we must, as a nation, have the courage to face up to these historical facts—in commemoration of all who suffered these injustices, we will establish a Canadian Race Relations Foundation to foster racial harmony and cross-cultural understanding in Canada.

Madam Speaker, together we will embrace a new age of Canadian wisdom: a diverse Canadian people united as one nation.

[*Translation*]

Mrs. Shirley Maheu (Saint-Laurent—Cartierville): Madam Speaker, I am pleased to speak on a subject I care about, namely Bill C-63 on the Race Relations Foundation.

I believe it is important that this foundation be established in the immediate future as a way to control rising racism. In a country that is looking more and more