

Obviously, if one is following my speech, there are terms which must be defined. I could proceed to expand on the various objectives and the positive objectives of the Multiculturalism Act but we cannot argue that the majority of the points mentioned in the Act are important statements.

The problem I have is that perhaps they are indeed just statements. When all is said and done, I think with this Act more is said than done. We must be able to look at the Act itself and the one thing which we will notice is the use of very vague language such as promote, enhance, facilitate, encourage and so on. In reality, there is really no mechanism set in place to bring to fruition these very noble and necessary progressive ideals. I am very much puzzled by how the Department is going to better address the somewhat vague Act which lacks a true sense of objective and focus.

I have many questions about this Department. For example, are we to assume that this Department is going to give so-called ethnocultural groups greater access to justice? How will they benefit? What is the ultimate goal of this Department? Is it a Department which we want today for the 1990s, or is it a Department which is part of a vision which will take us to the 21st century. Will the rights of ethnocultural Canadians be better represented?

Are they not going to receive, in essence, the same protection which they would normally receive under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the Criminal Code, the Citizenship Act and the Canadian Human Rights Act? Where do we see the improvement?

There is no question in my mind that the Department will have to view the Multiculturalism Act as the cornerstone of its policy implementation. Quite frankly, with an Act which lacks direction and substance, I am wondering how the policy direction and enforcement will be carried out by the Department.

It is very obvious to anyone who has read the Act that indeed it does not give any additional rights of citizenship to people, nor does it erase the barriers of discrimination or racism. It is quite evident that it has failed at that.

### *Multiculturalism*

The Act states the obvious ideals. They are simply on paper. How do we take the myth and how do we make it become reality? That is the issue at hand.

However, if and when this Department will be set up, I firmly believe that it should not turn out to be solely a financial clearing house, or grants for folklore dances and sing a song and that sort of thing. This country has grown up. The reality is a very different one.

If I may make a recommendation to the Minister who has kindly stayed for this speech, I would like the ministry to devote the majority of its resources in sensitizing Government agencies and Departments right across the board. I think an excellent start would be the Ministry of Justice so that they know that there is a new reality out there, that Canada is no longer a bicultural country but indeed the official culture is multiculturalism. Perhaps in Immigration and Employment, where we have the issue of employment equity and affirmative action. Sensitizing Government to the new reality is crucial. However, I must state that this should have been started with or without a Multiculturalism Act or Department. It is a responsibility of the entire Government and elected officials to keep up to date with the changes which take place in our society.

A true multicultural country will only be achieved when the political, economic and social structures of this nation will reflect its cultural diversity, a diversity that should concentrate its energies not only on the retentions of one's cultural heritage and background but also in the development of a true Canadian culture whose essence is multicultural.

Citizens of this country have listened to quite a bit of rhetoric about multiculturalism. This empty rhetoric should be sincerely and seriously examined. We must be able to, and begin to differentiate between the myths and the reality of multiculturalism. If this Department were to solely depend on the Multiculturalism Act as its cornerstone, and may I add, if our human rights were to solely depend on the Multiculturalism Act as its cornerstone, then I predict that it will not succeed in aiding the definition and development of Canadian culture.

The ultimate goal if we are going to get serious about building a nation, and if we are going to get serious about developing a nation that we can call Canada and bring everyone together under the spirit of nationhood, is that we must eventually, not tomorrow, but in the future be looking at the establishment of a ministry of culture which recognizes everyone equally. In all our great policies and Government policies, I think that nation-