

party did no service to Canada by taking such an approach. I say to the minister that he does nothing good for Canada by suggesting that only the Liberal party has such a policy with regard to multiculturalism. If these programs are to be successful they will succeed only to the extent to which Canadians of all ethnic origins in all provinces accept them as being a response to the aspirations of all Canadians irrespective of party. When the minister gives the impression that only his party has a policy which meets the needs of those whose origin is neither English nor French, he invites opposition parties to criticize his programs even though, occasionally, they are on the right track.

We accept the principle that the cultural traditions brought to Canada by the various ethnic, religious and racial groups which came to this country during the past 200 years are of value to the development of our national culture. The literature, art and music they brought to Canada have all helped to develop a greater cultural depth in this country. As to the native peoples, in recent years Canadians have begun to realize, for the first time, I suspect, that the people who lived in this land before it was called Canada also have a culture and a way of life which possessed, and possesses, an ability to make a contribution to the over-all achievements of our society. I draw attention to the world-wide acclaim which has been given in recent years to Eskimo sculpture, prints and other forms of art. It is only in recent years we have begun to realize that those who lived here before our forefathers arrived possessed a distinctive and valuable culture of their own—that they were not savages, and so on, as they were too often called, and as they are still sometimes referred to, in our history books.

Volume IV of the report of the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism recognized and accepted many of the ideas which some of us who are neither of English nor French origin have been expressing from the time the proposal to establish the commission was first made. I have already indicated the principles which guided us. The minister, in his speech, quoted with approval the statement made by the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) on October 8, 1971 at which time he accepted the principle of multiculturalism. The words he spoke on that occasion were excellent, as was the document tabled at that time, which was entitled "The Federal Government's Response to Volume IV of the Report of the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism". I do not have time to put on record all the excellent ideas and principles which were expressed in that document, but let me quote just a few of the statements made in that response by the government:

Bilingualism does not properly describe our society. Multiculturalism is more accurate.

And later:

The Government of Canada will support all of Canada's cultures and will seek to assist, resources permitting, the development of those cultural groups which have demonstrated a desire and effort to continue to develop, a capacity to grow and to contribute to Canada, as well as a clear need for assistance.

It goes on to say:

Government aid to multicultural centres, to specific projects of ethnic groups and to displays of the performing and visual arts as

well as the programs already mentioned, will promote cultural exchange.

Then, later:

The government will continue to assist immigrants to acquire at least one of Canada's official languages in order to become full participants in the Canadian society.

After discussing the process of implementation and administration, the document states:

The growing provincial interest and public action in the field of multiculturalism make it imperative that the two levels of government co-operate. Patchwork programs and jurisdictional confusion will result unless an attempt is made to coordinate federal and provincial policies at the ministerial level and good relationships are established between the officials administering the programs.

All these are excellent ideas. What dismays me is that for a period of almost a year and a half after this statement was made, the government did virtually nothing to implement these principles. We are told today that the government is providing \$10 million for that purpose this year. Until the present year, the appropriation was a great deal less—something in the neighbourhood of \$2.5 million. Why is this? It is not as if the ethnic communities are bereft of organization or leadership or ideas. Ten times the \$2.5 million appropriated last year could have been spent. Why was there virtually no consultation between the government of Canada and the ethnic groups? The minister has not explained that.

● (1620)

Mr. Haidasz: There was consultation.

Mr. Orlikow: The minister says there was. I represent a constituency which probably has more ethnic groups and people of ethnic origin than any other constituency in Canada. I am in frequent consultation with them and I know the groups that receive funds and the groups that do not. But until today I have been unable to get any explanation from the government or from these groups as to why certain of them get grants while others do not. Much more important than the fact that I could not get any explanation is the fact that the organizations themselves could not get any explanation. It is true that criteria were tabled supposedly outlining the basis on which grants would be made. I have looked at these criteria and I know which organizations received grants and which did not. Although I have lived in my constituency all my life and know these organizations quite well, I know no more than they do why some got grants but others did not.

The document that I quoted refers to the absolute need for consultation with the provinces. I have not had a chance to discuss just what happened in other provinces, but I do have some connection with the present government of Manitoba and on more than one occasion I have discussed with the minister in charge the objectives of this program in that province. The province of Manitoba is doing its own work in this field, and also encouraging ethnic groups by providing funds. It makes no sense to me, as it made no sense to the federal government when they tabled their response to volume 4 of the report of the royal commission on bilingualism and biculturalism, to run these federal and provincial programs virtually in separate compartments.