

the confusion in the minds of the public. The Council also calls for a Commissioner of Multiculturalism. It also raises many other points, both positive and critical.

In considering this Bill to establish a multicultural Department, it is important that we refer to Section 3(1) of the Canadian Multiculturalism Act. This is the Section that outlines the multicultural policy of Canada, and it is very important. It seems irrational to me to have a Bill to establish a Department without including in that Bill why we want to establish the Department. I feel that we should go back to the statement of objectives in the original multiculturalism Bill and that there should be a reference to that in the Act.

Very quickly, I wish to refer to the 10 policies outlined under Section 3(1) of Bill C-93. It includes references to the cultural and racial diversity of Canada, to multiculturalism as a fundamental characteristic of Canada, to full participation in all aspects of Canadian society, to equal treatment and protection under the law, to multicultural content in Canadian institutions, to cross-cultural relations, appreciation of cultural diversity, and heritage language preservation that is in harmony with official language policies of Canada.

The NDP views equality rights as the primary objective of multiculturalism. Long before we talked about multiculturalism in today's terms we, and our antecedents, starting with J. S. Woodsworth have spoken out strongly against the injustices toward ethnic minorities and the infringement of human rights that regrettably are in Canada's history. We have advocated redress and redress policies in regard to some of those communities.

We continue to protest the injustices in our present immigration policies. I know my colleague, the Hon. Member for Spadina (Mr. Heap) will be elaborating on that. We continue to deplore and ask for action to remove systemic discrimination in employment against visible minority people. It is upsetting to think that this is discrimination within our own Public Service and within fields of federal jurisdiction, as well as private employers. This we have to change.

We also feel very strongly about the growing incidence of racism in Canada. I raised this in committee in relation to some racism in the media, and have asked that this be a priority. It has to be considered a priority

both by this Department and by the Standing Committee.

On June 2, in my private Member's motion on the subject of recognizing multiculturalism as a fundamental character of the Canadian nation in the preamble to the Constitution, I raised a number of constitutional concerns. There is a growing awareness and a growing anxiety in many ethnic groups. In my area of Canada, in Vancouver, it comes from the Chinese community. They feel that the notwithstanding clause does not allow protection of their rights and that there must be major changes to ensure that their rights are protected under the Charter.

On June 2, my speech outlined our Party's concerns that there be greater protection of minority rights under our Constitution, as well as recognition of multiculturalism as a fundamental characteristic of Canada. There is not time to go into those issues today. However, I know my colleagues will be speaking on some of them, and we will speak on them later as the year goes on.

I wish I had more time to elaborate on multiculturalism and citizenship in Canada. The more one moves into this area, the more deeply one feels how important and enriching it is. Multiculturalism is a fundamental characteristic of Canada, whether or not it is expressed in our Constitution. More than one-third of Canadians have come from origins that are not aboriginal, French or English. This number is rapidly increasing. Together they form the largest majority in the Canadian population. In many western communities the non-English or French descendants are actually in a majority. It is rather an interesting difference between eastern, western, and central Canada.

People from Europe, Asia, and other countries bring a rich cultural heritage, as well as contributing to Canada's economic and social development. In recent years, immigrants have come in increasing numbers from Asia, the Caribbean, the Middle East, and from the Latin American countries. Canada has become a very rich and colourful mosaic and a haven for many people—not enough—from developing countries. We must be more generous in opening the door to those people. Most of the so-called white majority in Canada who originated in Europe have welcomed this change. However, there are many who have serious concerns. They must recognize that all Canadians are Canadians and have equal rights. We want no skinheads promoting fascist ideas in Canada. Multiculturalism policies must ensure these rights and eliminate discrimination and racism against persons of