

not think the government was taking multiculturalism seriously. Another group said they were confused and angered. They were involved in certain programs but now doubted whether multiculturalism was going to continue.

Still another group indicated that they wanted a full time minister with a full time department. The fourth group said they felt they had been deceived because promises had been made and broken. Another group was afraid that grants would be slowed down. There was one group that had no position. Another felt that multiculturalism was being phased out, whilst yet another felt it was being denigrated.

I think this is pretty good evidence of what the groups feel about this matter of firing the former minister and tagging the job on to another minister who has a full time department, and who is also responsible for women. I am not sure what he does in that role, but that is his responsibility.

We have a situation where one-third of Canadians feel they are being suppressed, their status threatened, and that they are being downgraded from nearly equal to another category of subjugated Canadians who are not supposed to be proud of their identity.

If one looks at the report tabled by the Consultative Council on Multiculturalism it will be found that it expresses in a straightforward manner what the minority groups of the country expect from their government. On other occasions I asked the minister whether he would consider implementing any part of that report, but he simply said he was studying it and was waiting for yet another report. This type of answer does nothing to allay the fears of Canada's minority groups that they and their languages are being suppressed, and that the government is not taking action to retain their culture.

I see the parliamentary secretary is sitting on the edge of his seat so I will conclude and listen to what he can tell us about these serious problems.

Mr. Mark MacGuigan (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour): Madam Speaker, I concur with the observations of the hon. member for Athabasca (Mr. Yewchuk) about the sometimes sad record of minorities in Canada in the past, and about the importance of assuring that their future is brighter. Of course we must observe that the discrimination to which they have been subjected has not usually been discrimination in law—certainly not laws made by this parliament, but rather discrimination in fact. Naturally the law has to take cognizance of this and do its best to try to raise to the status of first class citizens all who belong to minority groups.

I wish I could say that I agree with rest of the statements of the hon. member for Athabasca. I find it unfortunate that he has thought it necessary to indulge in political posturing tonight. He knows better than to say that people in minority groups are no longer important to the government merely because there has been a change in ministers. That is nonsense. In fact, the Minister of Labour (Mr. Munro) is not only one of the senior ministers in the cabinet but is one who is assisted by a parliamentary secretary. However, he is no longer responsible for the status of women as that responsibility has been

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transferred to the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Lalonde).

Under the aegis of the present minister the Canadian Advisory Council on Multiculturalism has been extremely active. In the last several months regional meetings have been held across the country, and the annual meeting will be held in Ottawa on December 13 and 14.

Contrary to evading the questions of the hon. member with respect to the first report of that council, the minister has pointed out that the report has to be confirmed by this forthcoming meeting, after which it will be presented to the government. In addition, the Ethnic Studies Advisory Committee has also been extremely active under the minister's direction.

I would conclude, Madam Speaker, with a short quote from a speech the minister gave in Winnipeg to the Canadian Ukrainian Committee Congress on October 12.

● (2220)

... concern has been shown over the most recent Cabinet restructuring. Let conjecture stop right here. Multiculturalism is a permanent government policy. The programme requires further attention and development. I am committed and determined to giving it both.

The federal government considers multiculturalism an integral part of Canadian society and therefore a cornerstone of real and lasting Canadian unity based on mutual respect and understanding. Our government naturally believes that multiculturalism can operate fully within the context of bilingualism and both are part and parcel of the reality of Canada.

Government policy in this area rests not on the convictions of the minister who happens to be responsible at the moment; it rests on the firm policy and conviction of the government itself. This has been amply demonstrated in the last several years and is being demonstrated at present.

IMMIGRATION—POSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING COUNSEL FOR PERSONS FACING SUMMARY DEPORTATION—REVIEW OF CASES BY MINISTER

Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Madam Speaker, on October 21 of this year, as a result of a case in which I had a particular interest, it having been referred to me by a former chief of police in the constituency I represent, I asked the Minister of Manpower and Immigration (Mr. Andras) if he was prepared to take the initiative and permit individuals faced with deportation procedures time to obtain and properly instruct counsel.

The minister indicated in his reply that the whole matter of immigration procedures, policy and legislation has been under investigation since 1952, and that the government was going to do something about it. He also indicated that if I would give him specific instances of people who were treated unjustly by special inquiry officers he would ensure a thorough examination of these practices.

I am taking the minister at his word and using this opportunity to elaborate upon the case of which I spoke earlier, involving a man named Richard Eddy, an American citizen from Miami, Florida. I emphasize, in fairness, that since the date I asked the question, the minister has written to me. His letter, dated October 17, reads in part: