

Oral Questions

[Translation]

Mr. Rondeau: I should like to put a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

In these circumstances, does the minister not think that the Canadian policy regarding South Africa, which has been much more democratic, could also be applied toward this military government which has been extremely cruel to the majority of its citizens?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member is supporting his question with an argument.

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[English]

CANADIAN CULTURE

ADVERTISEMENT RESPECTING POLICY ON
MULTICULTURALISM

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State responsible for multiculturalism. I have before me an advertisement of several pages that appeared generally in ethnic papers concerning the policy on multiculturalism, which has all the appearance—

Some hon. Members: Question!

Mr. Diefenbaker:—of patently naked partisanship for which the Canadian people are paying a quarter of a million dollars. I ask him, in the preparation of this advertisement was it an intentional omission in not letting the people know to whom the advertisement is directed that of the \$90 million being spent this year outside Quebec, according to the figures I secured this morning, for biculturalism, the total amount that these ethnic peoples will secure will be approximately 3.4 per cent of that sum? Was it just a lapse on his part that that information was not passed on?

Hon. Stanley Haidasz (Minister of State): Mr. Speaker, I should like to reassure the right hon. gentleman that that was not the purpose of this information bulletin.

Mr. Diefenbaker: No, the purpose was to get votes. Was the purpose intended to be a partisan one, to get votes by false pretences in not giving the figures?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Haidasz: Mr. Speaker, I should like to reassure the right hon. gentleman again that, in response to a very wide demand from the spokesmen of the ethno-cultural groups of Canada for information about the multicultural policy and its programs, I thought it was necessary to inform them as soon as possible in the most comprehensive way, and non-partisan as well.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Mr. Sharp.]

Mr. Diefenbaker: The devil can always quote scripture. I ask this simple question: Was it inadvertance or something else that caused him, in the preparation of the advertisement, to forget to tell the ethnic peoples that they are getting about 3½ per cent of the total expenditures?

● (1450)

Mr. Haidasz: Mr. Speaker, it was always my good intention to inform the readers of this information bulletin of the facts of the multicultural policy and its programs.

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

BENEFIT CONTROL—NATURE OF REPORT OF ADVISORY
COMMITTEE—STATUS OF BILL C-125

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the minister responsible for the Unemployment Insurance Commission. I have it on authority that the minister now has a report from the advisory committee containing the results of its inquiries in connection with the investigative blitz and other related matters. Can the minister advise us whether the report confirms the allegations that benefit control officers were overzealous or used questionable methods during their investigations?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): I did receive that report yesterday afternoon. It is not a complete report. There will be more information forthcoming from the advisory committee. In response to the second part of the question, the answer is that it did not confirm that the benefit control officers had been overzealous.

Mr. Alexander: In light of the importance of this document, can the minister assure the House that he will table the report in its entirety—he will notice that I say “in its entirety”—on Wednesday before we adjourn for the Easter holidays so that not only the hon. gentleman and his officials but members of the House and all the people of Canada may know what it contains?

Mr. Andras: As I indicated to the hon. member privately yesterday, that is my intention.

Mr. Alexander: In light of the fact that the report probably went into certain areas set up by way of criteria or terms of reference—

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Why not table your copy?

Mr. Alexander: I am talking to the Minister of Manpower, now; I will get to you later—can the minister advise whether in fact the terms of reference have now been sufficiently completed that, after study, he can bring in a revamped or amended bill C-125, or does he have to wait for a further report before he can get down to business on this very important subject?