

extremely large problem with respect to unemployment is going to develop as a result of the Government's approach to this matter. Would he be able to—

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order. Before allowing the Hon. Member for Sherbrooke to comment on that question, I must once again, as I have previously, draw to the Hon. Member's attention that questions and comments must relate to the specific matters raised in an Hon. Member's speech. I appreciate that the Hon. Member for Comox-Powell River (Mr. Skelly) is touching generally on the question of unemployment, but he specifically raises an issue which was not touched upon in the speech of the Hon. Member for Sherbrooke. However, I will allow the question in this instance.

● (1540)

**Mr. Pelletier:** Mr. Speaker, I believe I can tell the Hon. Member for Comox-Powell River (Mr. Skelly) that I in fact met with a delegation of fishermen from British Columbia yesterday. They were in my office for about half an hour. We discussed the whole issue. I told them that I would talk with the Minister about the problem they raised. I have read the different pieces of information they sent to me previous to their visit. The meeting was very cordial. I told them, having worked with the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. De Bané) when he was the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion, and as the Chairman of the Committee on Regional Economic Expansion, I feel that the Minister is surely one of the most openminded Ministers I know. I told them that the question of the B.C. fisheries was very much discussed in our caucus, and that their representations could not but help resolve the problem. I am not saying it will be resolved to the satisfaction of all, but one thing is sure, their message was heard by government Members and will definitely be passed on to the Minister.

**Mr. Skelly:** Mr. Speaker, I have just a comment on that. I certainly wish to express my appreciation as a Member of Parliament from the West Coast for the Hon. Member's attention to this matter. There were some Hon. Members whose time schedule did not permit this to happen. However, certainly, I, as a Member from that area, appreciate the time and energy which the Hon. Member opposite spent on this matter and I respect his assurance that he will attempt to keep this matter foremost and will honour the commitments he made to this group.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order. I cannot help but make an additional comment to the one I made previously. This is obviously a case of the introduction of a totally new subject matter into the debate, having nothing at all to do with previous Hon. Member's speech. In the future, I will be more careful before allowing responses to that type of question. Debate.

**Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to spend the few minutes I have at my disposal to talk about a subject which I believe is very important to the fabric of our country. Some months ago I was appointed by our Leader to

*The Address—Mr. Murta*

take on the responsibility of spokesperson on multiculturalism for the Conservative Party. I found it to be a wonderful experience, Mr. Speaker, travelling across the country and meeting with various individuals and groups from all different ethnic and cultural communities. In doing so, I personally have made a lot of new friends I would not have known otherwise.

I would like to say to the House of Commons, Mr. Speaker, that one of the greatest strengths of this country is our diversity, the fact that most of us come from some place else. We bring this diversity not only to the House of Commons but, more important, to the country itself. It gives us the kind of quality and flavour which Canada is known for throughout most of the world. We come from many lands. We have different backgrounds, different languages, different customs, different colours, and while that makes us individual, it also makes us strong. When we have learned to work together, to respect each other, to truly understand each other, we become truly strong and in that context, Mr. Speaker, we become truly Canadians.

The Canadian people generally look to their Government for leadership. They view their Government in most cases as a reflection of themselves, and in some cases a reflection of their own particular communities. In this context, Mr. Speaker, I would like to discuss the whole question of multiculturalism and how far we have come in that area since 1971. As we all know, the Department of Multiculturalism was set up in 1971 by the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau). However, it surprised me as I travelled across the country and talked with people to find that there is still a remarkable lack of awareness within the general population as to the goals and objectives of the Department of Multiculturalism, even after some 13 years. What appears to have happened, Mr. Speaker, under successive Governments, mainly Liberal Governments, since 1971 is that the whole thrust of multiculturalism has been relegated to tokenism, mainly because it has not been a priority of Government, although it has been given lip service. More important, Mr. Speaker, it has not been given an adequate budget.

As most of us know, the Ministry of State for Multiculturalism is part of the Department of the Secretary of State. The budget of the Department of the Secretary of State, not including the funds and grants it gives, is between \$200 million and \$300 million. Multiculturalism, of course, is tucked into the Department of the Secretary of State. It started off with a budget of around \$10 million, and the projected budget for the coming year will be in the neighbourhood of \$18 million to \$20 million. Because the budget of the Department of Multiculturalism is so small, and because that Department is included in the larger Department of the Secretary of State, it is a forgotten sector and has been a forgotten sector within the Government itself. As a result of that, people across the country—and I believe rightfully so—feel that the whole area of multiculturalism, and the eight million to ten million people other than English and French, have been relegated to the area of tokenism primarily for votes at election time.

In effect, what one hears as one crosses the country is that the ethnic cultural community in Canada is wooed a few