

*Government Orders*

training programs that they might stimulate. We need changes to the curriculum to ensure that accurate racial and ethnic history is taught, which is very important. And, of course, there should be many kinds of multicultural-multiracial events in schools.

Will the foundation that is being proposed be able to provide resources for schools and for this kind of public education? I hope it will. I hope there will be funds also to commission films and documentaries, particularly for TV, which will present positive images as well as accurate facts.

The foundation should also be able to contract out work to ethnic groups to produce accurate ethnic history with positive images. I am thinking particularly of the kind of thing that the black community does during Black History Month. This has been a very effective way, not only of bringing together the many diverse elements in their own community—and it certainly helps some of us to be more aware of the diversity within that community as well—but of making people proud of the contribution of black people in the early history of Canada and angry at the intolerance and racism that people have experienced.

I wonder if the foundation will also research past injustices such as the Chinese head tax, discrimination against Ukrainian, Italian and German Canadians and the Komagata Maru incident. There has been a lot of work done on this already and we do not want to delay government action in acknowledging particularly the Chinese head tax and the Inclusion Act, and its meeting with the Chinese Canadian National Council regarding its very modest redress proposals. However, while we do not want to delay government action, certainly a foundation would be concerned with such documentation.

The foundation will be a national resource located in Toronto. I would like to point out to the minister that some westerners, with our usual paranoia, usually paranoia based on facts and experience, may feel some concern that the foundation should be very much sensitive to racism as it is expressed in all areas of Canada and should not be just central Canada oriented. It is very important to have links to the different regions. In

British Columbia, my province, racism has largely been related, although not exclusively, to Asian people. In Nova Scotia I am sure the concerns of the black community will be uppermost. Of course, concerns of aboriginal communities is a top priority.

The foundation, the minister says, will work with business and labour. I hope that this means they will look at job ghettos and the exploitation of visible minority people who work as domestics, as farm workers and in the garment industries. I hope it means that employers will be pressed again, although this is a government responsibility as well, into implementing mandatory meaningful employment equity.

I also hope that affirmative action will be encouraged in a different way within union leadership and membership. I have been at conferences where union leaders have asked how they can reach out more to minority people, both as members and in the community. The promotion of languages classes related to the workplace might be another thing that would be of concern to the foundation.

It is interesting that the government mentions government and public institutions as being another area of concern, but mentions it last. I would say that it should be first. We cannot continue to condone systemic discrimination in our public and government services. This is a job which, of course, is the responsibility of government and of the Human Rights Commission, which is grossly underfunded, but I am sure the foundation will also be concerned with this and, hopefully, will shame the government into some action since it does not seem to be able to take it on its own.

• (1230)

This bill will be going to committee. I hope that we will be able to ask more specific questions and have open discussions. I also hope that the minister will be much more open to the opinions of witnesses and the opinions of all of us on committee, all party members, and their suggestions. This has not been the case in the past unfortunately.

The answers to many of these questions will depend largely on the selection of the board members for the