

*Adjournment Debate*

obligation to act. It has an obligation to tell the Vice-Chairman that what is purported in the document is dead wrong and that the Government will not have any part in it. The Government should tell the Vice-Chairman that the consequence of advocating that position is to be relieved from his duties on that Council. That is the very least for which Canadians are asking the Minister. As well, the mandate and operation of the Council should be submitted to a review so that the Council and its members which have been put under attack by the existence of the McCreath report may be vindicated and their credibility and confidence restored.

To date, the Minister has refused to act. He takes it as some kind of a joke. He simply throws it back to us in a light and humorous way. I would suggest that that is not the way to approach serious business in this House. It is a stonewalling tactic that will work against the Government. It is the same stonewalling tactic that was used in the events leading up to the Parker Commission, a tactic that is now backfiring badly on the Government.

It is no wonder that the ethnocultural Gallup poll conducted by Multifax Communications Corp. of Toronto, a research company that is dedicated to ethnocultural communication and research, showed the results it did. It asked three ethnocultural communities in Toronto what would be the results of an election if it were to be held tomorrow.

It is no wonder that within the Italian-Canadian community, the Liberal Party has the support of 39.5 per cent while the Conservative Party has the support of 3 per cent. It is no wonder that 34.5 per cent of Chinese-Canadians support the Liberal Party while 5.4 per cent support the Conservative Party. Forty-one point three per cent of the Portuguese-Canadian community are committed to the Liberal Party while 5 per cent are committed to the Conservative Party. The Indo-Pakistani community in Toronto is in support of the Liberal Party to the tune of 46.3 per cent while only 5 per cent support the Conservative Party.

● (1815)

I am not advocating that we as Liberals should be taking advantage of these numbers, nor rest on our laurels. We have to continuously build on this base and ask for the continued support of these Canadians in the various constituencies. The message should be loud and clear to the Parliamentary Secretary, the Minister, and to the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney), who takes great pleasure in going into Montreal and announcing all sorts of great things for the ethnocultural communities, that those communities are not satisfied, pleased, or happy with the policy thrust and directions of this Government. They are not pleased with simply laughing at the McCreath report. They are not pleased with the laughter at the subcommittee of the Tory caucus in Toronto which suggests manipulating the immigration and multicultural programs to the benefit of the Conservative Party.

The only people who are laughing are the Conservative Party members. That simply is not good enough for those

Canadians. Those Canadians are simply saying, by these numbers as one example, that the Act has to be cleaned up and the action and the rhetoric has to stop. I am looking forward to the great wisdom of the Parliamentary Secretary to tell us if we are going to get the resignation of Mr. McCreath, and whether we are going to get the review that Canadians are asking for, or whether we are simply going to get another answer of stonewalling and further undermine the figures that will probably be coming out next month.

[Translation]

**Mr. Vincent Della Noce (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State and Minister responsible for Multiculturalism):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member for York West (Mr. Marchi) has demanded an immediate inquiry into the activities of the Canadian Multiculturalism Council, to restore the credibility and integrity of this national advisory body. The Hon. Member is spreading panic and confusion, misrepresenting the facts and sowing the seeds of doubt among our ethnic communities.

The Government does not share the Hon. Member's view that the credibility of the Council is at stake, nor does it share his perception of the vice-president.

If the CMC's mandate has remained basically the same since the organization was created as the Canadian Advisory Council on Multiculturalism in 1973, its structure has undergone several changes since that time, for the greater benefit of all groups, irrespective of their political affiliation. The Government intends to maintain the Council as an independent source of advice for the Minister and ensure that its members represent a cross section of Canada's ethnocultural communities.

The Hon. Member for York West has concluded that the Canadian Advisory Council on Multiculturalism is nothing more than an extension of the Canadian Conservative Party. I gave him evidence to the contrary on October 20 of this year, and I may refer him to *Hansard* at page 546. If he insists, I can give him some details on the ethnic community in Montreal to which I belong.

In any case, it is not the view of this Government, which sees the Council as a group of experts from a wide range of ethnic backgrounds and representing various professions. In the category of professionals, the Council includes a university administrator, a restaurant owner, a chemist, a physician, an engineer, an oil rig operator, an architect, an artist and a housewife. These people were chosen for their ability to use their own experience, their interests and their wisdom in the area of multiculturalism.

The Government will review the membership of the Council to ensure that it has at its disposal a vast spectrum of abilities. There is no need to re-establish the credibility and the integrity of the Council as they were never lost. It is simply a matter of respecting fully the principles and ideals of multiculturalism, which are so important for the government.