

at home everywhere, be they French, English, native, or part of the multicultural community of Canada.

• (1330)

[*Translation*]

Madam Speaker, I would like to take a few moments to congratulate the hon. member for York Centre (Mr. Kaplan) on the motion he presented before the House today.

I believe that all Canadians, especially those who hold public office, have a duty to speak to this issue. I hope all parliamentarians will do so.

[*English*]

It has been said before, of course, that all that needs to happen for evil to triumph is for good people to do nothing. It is our duty to do something to ensure that evil does not triumph, particularly not on this issue.

I want to ask all my colleagues to join me to ensure that we all speak out for Canadian unity and for Canadian tolerance. Our country was built on that so let us make sure that it is not destroyed by these kinds of unfortunate actions.

**Mr. Rey Pagtakhan (Winnipeg North):** Madam Speaker, I listened to the eloquent speech by my colleague from Glengarry—Prescott—Russell and I cannot help but stand up and truly convey to him my sincerest appreciation.

As he spoke of human dignity, I was reminded of what has been written. Do we speak of the dignity and the beauty of a star? Do we speak of the beauty of a mountain? No, when we speak of human dignity we do not speak in terms of the glory of a mountain, in the glory of an object but in the glory of the individual. That individual must affirm oneself, and that is the essentiality of life itself.

I am also struck by his comment that those of us in government, the persons who are in power, must treat those other individuals with care. Those are the two concepts that are crucial when we speak of human dignity.

I congratulate my colleague, the member for York Centre, in introducing this motion in which he tells us that intolerance and prejudice exists in Canada and then challenges us to condemn that because intolerance and prejudice definitely will destroy the fabric of our nation.

### *Supply*

We ought to be reminded that the threads that constitute the fabric of our nation are the cultural, social, economic and political factors.

As we address these many issues as alluded to by my colleague, then one day truly we will say that bigotry, intolerance and injustice will be history in the history of our country.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Boudria:** Madam Speaker, I will take only a few moments to thank the hon. member for his kind remarks. I am happy to see, Madam Speaker, that there are many in this House who take this question very seriously. I hope we all do so and that in the days and weeks to come, we will be able to fight the latest unfortunate development we are seeing in this country, and that we will all work together to ensure that Canadians acquire a better knowledge and understanding of each other. I hope that unfortunate events such as those we have seen in the past few days will never happen again.

**The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne):** Resuming debate. The hon. member for Charlesbourg (Mrs. Tardif).

**Mrs. Monique Tardif (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Supply and Services):** Before I begin, Madam Speaker, I wish you to know that I will share the time allocated to us with one of my colleagues.

Madam Speaker, it is with deep emotion that I rise to deal with the motion which is before the House today and which, as the previous speaker reminded us, not only condemns intolerance and prejudice in our Canadian society, but urges—that's the part I wish to emphasize—the government and all members of Parliament to play a role in strengthening understanding and respect among Canadians.

Madam Speaker, it is indeed important to encourage mutual respect and understanding between Canadian men and women, especially in an area as basic as our linguistic duality, the recognition and promotion of both our official languages.

As next week will mark the 25th anniversary of the tabling of the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism Preliminary Report, I suggest it is important to see that this issue is still part of the current events, that there are new challenges and that we must strive to meet them.