

than to oppose this initiative, to maintain the *status quo* and to keep the name as it is now.

I have the feeling that you want me to conclude. I have a lot more to say, Mr. Speaker, but I will continue another time.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): The hour allotted for consideration of Private Members' Business has expired. Pursuant to Standing Order 42(1) this item is dropped from the *Order Paper*.

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MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): I have the honour to inform the House that a message has been received from the Senate informing this House that the Senate has passed Bill S-2, to amend and consolidate the laws prohibiting marriage between related persons, to which the concurrence of this House is desired.

● (1800)

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 66 deemed to have been moved.

MULTICULTURALISM—ESTABLISHMENT OF MULTICULTURAL BUSINESS CENTRE

Mr. Alan Redway (York East): Mr. Speaker, as you know, my constituency of York East is made up of a portion of two of the six cities that compose the municipality of Metropolitan Toronto. My constituency is composed of a portion of the borough of East York and another portion of the municipality, the City of North York. My municipality and constituency have a very multicultural population. In my constituency there reside over 60 different ethnic and cultural groups all together.

I had the privilege of serving as the Mayor of my municipality, the borough of East York, for a number of years. While serving in that capacity, we established a multicultural committee in East York. It later became the race relations multicultural committee of East York. A short time later, the City of North York established a similar type of committee. It is known as the Mayor's Race Relations Committee for the City of North York. We have a friendly rivalry in our two municipalities, Mr. Speaker, as to which one of these organizations was actually the first of its kind.

The East York Multicultural Committee was originally created for two purposes. One was to allow all of our residents, no matter from which cultural background they came or for how long they had lived in our community, to get to know and

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to understand one another better and, at the same time, to encourage the members of our community, whether newcomers or long time residents, to become involved and participate in the wider community activities and life.

The North York committee, on the other hand, was created to deal specifically with race relations matters. It grew out of incidents in Metropolitan Toronto in the late 1970s when race relations, relationships with the police, and relationships in various communities were of great concern. As a result of that, the focus and the main attention of that committee was placed on the race relations aspect.

I do not think it really matters which one of those committees was first. Both are geared toward promotion of good relationships in our community, whether race relations or the whole relationship of getting people to know and understand each other better. On top of those two functions, however, both committees are geared to ensure that all people have the opportunity to participate and become involved in the wider community. That is what multiculturalism is all about, in my view.

The Sunday before last in my municipality, the borough of East York, we had our great multicultural festival which is known as East York Day. On the platform that day we had two people who exemplified what multiculturalism is all about. One was the new Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Ontario, His Honour, Lincoln Alexander. He is the first black Canadian to serve as Lieutenant-Governor of a province. He was born in this country, in the City of Toronto. In order to take his full place in the wider Canadian society, he had to overcome great problems and obstacles. Another man on the platform that day was the Chairman of East York Day, a man by the name of Shamoh Kara. He came here as a refugee from Tanzania many years ago. He has become prominent in his own community and in the wider community.

● (1805)

Those are two great examples of what multiculturalism is all about. Our community is committed to multiculturalism, and so is our Government. It is moving beyond traditional multiculturalism into equality of economic opportunity. It has been doing that in two areas recently. One is the employment equity Bill which has just gone into committee. The other is an initiative which the Minister of State for Multiculturalism (Mr. Jelinek) recently took in Toronto through a conference called Multiculturalism Means Business. At that conference, and also in the debate concerning employment equity, one thing became quite clear: The concern of many of our fellow Canadians is about the question of whether or not there is discrimination, whether it be in employment or in business.

On April 14 I put a question to the Minister of State for Multiculturalism and asked him if the new multiculturalism business centre which he proposed at the conference was going to deal with this issue. I asked him that specifically, bearing in mind the concern people have over the enforcement of the rules and regulations set out in the employment equity Bill,