

leader of Ontario who says that numerical targets are merely a euphemism for quotas.

The RCMP do not call them quotas but this year the RCMP is hiring 426 people. One hundred and twenty-five will be from visible minorities, 125 will be females, 95 will be aboriginal and the rest can be from society in general. Does the hon. member think those are quotas or does he think they are something other than quotas? They sound like quotas to me.

I have just the two questions. Does he agree with Lyn McLeod and does he think the numbers I quoted from the RCMP sound like quotas?

**Mr. Scott (Fredericton—York—Sunbury):** Mr. Speaker, I am genuinely surprised by the inability of the member's party to address the question of the need for some collective redress to the lack of representation.

I am an Atlantic Canadian. We have always believed a little bit that in the nation we are on the outside. I have some sympathy for those people who feel that the power structures at play do not always work in their favour.

Everything I have read and have heard expressed by the member's party in terms of where they were born speaks to expressions like western alienation and so on. It seems to me there should be some affinity between the member and his party and those people for whom the system just does not work as well as it does for others. I think it is political posturing on the part of the member to draw in someone else's comments in some other debate.

• (1625)

Ultimately this is about a fundamental principle. We have to understand that the system does not work equally for everybody. I have heard it said by many people in the member's party that is the case and that therefore certain actions have to be taken. I find it unfortunate that a member representing a party that speaks of this often would deny the same access to people for whom the system obviously does not work as well as it does for someone like me, a seventh generation, white, male Canadian.

**Mr. Ken Epp (Elk Island, Ref.):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member has still left the question unanswered as to whether we have quotas or whether we are simply looking at loosely defined numerical goals.

I would like to enlarge on this just a little. I honestly believe that in areas where we have not had these kinds of programs, employment equity, quota systems, whatever you call it, that at least in the area where I come from in Alberta, the number of people employed in large organizations is roughly proportional

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to the number of people who are there from the different groups. It is just a rough observation which I think is true.

**Mrs. Ringuette—Maltais:** Through the eyes of the observer.

**Mr. Epp:** No, I am sorry, I believe it is true.

I would like the member to answer this question. Are quotas the same as numerical goals? If not, how are they different?

**Mr. Scott (Fredericton—York—Sunbury):** Mr. Speaker, I am quite familiar with the issue of quotas, targets and so on. In a previous life I was involved in the official languages policy in the province of New Brunswick. A lot of the attempts made here to try and characterize efforts to collectively address the systemic weakness are always characterized this way. There are always attempts to fix positions so they can then be thrown back in the face of the government.

The answer is no. There is an objective, you try to meet but it is not a quota.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Kilger):** The hon. member for Prince George—Peace River. I understand you will be splitting your time. Could you indicate that to the chair?

**Mr. Jay Hill (Prince George—Peace River, Ref.):** Mr. Speaker, I will not use the 20 minutes.

I welcome this opportunity to rise in debate and support the motion put forward by my hon. colleague from Fraser Valley East.

I am becoming more and more concerned about the direction in which the government is taking Canada. The Liberal government seems to think that it can legislate Canadian values and social change. History proves that imposed solutions do not gain broad acceptance. They are viewed with suspicion.

From the mail I receive, the mindset that dominates Ottawa's policy shifts does not appear to reflect the values or convictions of most Canadians living outside a few metropolitan centres. In fact, I am not even sure it reflects the views of most people living in Toronto or Ottawa.

This government is promoting the idea that society is responsible for what people do with their lives. Somehow personal achievement no longer has anything to do with individual merit, initiative or effort but has more to do with whether one falls into this government's definition of a group it has singled out for special treatment. This is a misguided attempt to right past wrongs. When I was young I was taught that two wrongs do not make a right. Evidently Liberals have not learned that lesson.

• (1630)

Reform believes in equality of opportunity. Given the same educational and employment opportunities, whether an individual succeeds should be largely up to them. Each person must