

### *Multiculturalism*

federal Government and Canadian institutions generally of the importance of that fact in order to ensure that within our teaching of history and cultivation of culture there is genuine recognition of that. If one looks at Book IV of the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism, one finds an unwillingness to take that step by actually providing recognition.

There is one particular question that is clearly before the Government if one recognizes that which the present Minister of State for Immigration (Mr. McLean) has indicated. That is the question of whether or not immigration should be an important part of this new Government. I would ask the Government to consider that question with particular care.

● (1740)

Eloquent arguments have already been made by certain persons suggesting that to make immigration a part—and it will inevitably be a large part—of such a department will reinforce the unfortunate impression that multiculturalism has to do with immigrants, with new Canadians and with the concerns of those who are still, in a sense, “other” to the country. Of course, in its way, the citizenship branch activities would only underscore the fact that multiculturalism is involved in facilitating the assimilation process which this society is carrying on. That particular impression would be a profoundly unfortunate one because, as I have already suggested, it is recognized that multiculturalism is the very basis of this country. It is recognized that it is the essence of this country which was built by persons from a great variety of backgrounds. Each made their contribution. The Asian contribution was fundamental to the opening of the West, if one considers the Chinese labour which built the transcontinental railway.

It must be recognized that at one place and another we have had diversity building the country. If for too long the life of the country was dominated by those of British background, then it is clear that in the last 15 years that dominance has been shaken. In the Liberal Governments past, and the present Conservative Government, it is obvious that a British dominance is a thing of the past. What many Canadians are calling for these days is a realization that it is not two founding peoples, even with the addition of some recognition of the native peoples who built the country, but that, in fact, people of many colours and many creeds from many parts of the earth worked together in building the country and they play their part in it. The Ministry of Multiculturalism should be one which pulls that fact up bravely and boldly before the Canadian public, which insists that the Department of Multiculturalism must be one which cultivates the diversity and preserves and enhances the multiculturalism, which is the very nature of this country and which makes it genuinely a part of the consciousness of every Canadian.

It is with these comments, Mr. Speaker, that I conclude. I think the establishment of a Department of Multiculturalism is of enormous importance to the cultural, political, social and economic evolution of the country. There are great concerns

with respect to employment and other matters which need to be addressed. We need a Department which can play a leading role in pressing these matters on in ensuring that the federal Government itself remains sensitive and becomes still more sensitive. The Department must ensure that the provincial Governments act and that in jurisdictions, both federal and provincial, this country reflect in all of its life the multiculturalism that is the very essence of its history and its stature.

**Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. In a bit of confusion, and because of the new timing provisions of the House which we are following for the first time today, I had tried to catch the eye of the Chair when you called Bill C-49.

I wish to say that I had intended to speak on Bill C-49, which is an Act respecting prostitution, since the Mount Pleasant area of my constituency is directly affected, but did not speak in order that there be no delay in passing the Bill, as I promised my constituents this summer. Therefore, I did not speak and the Bill received second reading without a recorded vote in just one day of debate. I would like to bring this matter up as a point of order. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest):** I do not think it necessary to rule on the point of order.

**Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to speak on the motion put forward by the Hon. Member for Thunder Bay-Nipigon (Mr. Epp). Before proceeding with my remarks, I would like to recognize the new Minister of State for Multiculturalism (Mr. Jelinek). I congratulate him on his new portfolio and I wish him well in the coming weeks, months and, perhaps, years.

I believe that in the last decade and a half multiculturalism has travelled a long and fairly successful journey. It was initiated in 1971 by the then Government of the Right Hon. Pierre Elliott Trudeau. I think a national multiculturalism policy has become a permanent fixture within the Canadian political, social and cultural landscape and that one can point to a number of successful developments which have come about since 1971. However, we on this side of the House cannot and should not point to the list of achievements which have been developed over the last decade and a half with respect to the policy of multiculturalism as an answer to the new and evolving challenges, problems and questions which we will not doubt be facing in the coming years.

It is from this perspective that we on this side of the House are in full concert with the motion as put forward by my hon. friend from Thunder Bay-Nipigon. The Government should consider the motion as a way of enhancing and strengthening the role that multiculturalism should play in the federal Government and throughout the country from coast to coast.

The initial part of the amendment, as my friend has mentioned, concerns itself with the Standing Committee on Multiculturalism. I, too, am pleased that on the last day which the House sat before the summer recess that we unanimously passed a measure to establish the Standing Committee on