

*Government Orders*

whole sense and philosophy of what is a just and equal society, not just for minorities, but for everyone.

I hope when this bill goes to committee there will be wide consultation to reveal that within and among those who are victims of racism there is a clear understanding. If one has to have an institute to reach out to them so they will communicate their experiences and increase our ability to respond, fine.

Let me say one more thing before I close, because I know you are very anxious to hear the next speaker, Madam Speaker.

I hope that the board of directors of this institute will not be chosen on a political basis, as a vehicle for patronage. I hope instead that we will follow the lead of previous bills in respect of which there was agreement on all sides of the House about the legitimate nature of the institute or the centre that was to be established. Instead of patronage appointments of directors, it should involve an all-party agreement on the selection of those directors in such a way as to reflect the unanimity that ought to exist, and generally does exist in the House, about the tragedy and injustice of racism and the need to address it appropriately.

**Madam Deputy Speaker:** If I may, I would like to mention to the hon. member that my signals about time are simply to let him know how much time he has left so that he can complete his very interesting speech without me standing and abruptly stopping him. Of course, I will be listening to the next speaker with the same interest, but I did not mean him to cut his intervention short.

[*Translation*]

Pursuant to Standing Order 38, I must inform the House of the questions to be dealt with this evening at the time of adjournment: the hon. member for South West Nova—Fisheries; the hon. member for Saskatoon—Clark's Crossing—Health; the hon. member for Mackenzie—Agriculture.

[*English*]

**Mr. Rey Pagtakhan (Winnipeg North):** Madam Speaker, I am delighted to rise and speak to Bill C-63, an act to establish the Canadian Race Relations Foundation. I support this bill, which is to contribute to the elimination of racism and all forms of racial discrimination in Canadian society.

On March 21, some two months ago, I urged the government to muster the political will to grant adequate funding for programs to combat racism and to promote racial harmony in Canada on the occasion of the celebration of the International Day for the Elimination of Racism.

Why did I urge the government at that time, Madam Speaker? It would give me the opportunity at that juncture to indicate to you that this government has failed fully to promote tolerance and to curb racism in the country.

Let me cite a few examples. The treatment of refugees by this government has created apprehension and mistrust of refugees among the Canadian population, thereby generating negative reactions on the part of the population at large to new immigrants and visible minorities in particular.

The failure on the part of the government to properly address pay equity in the workplace for visible minorities is another example. A March 1990 study by the Canadian Ethnocultural Council reported that only 2.9 per cent of public servants are visible minorities, whereas 6.4 per cent of the general labour force is made up of them.

The Canadian Human Rights Commission in its 1989 annual report stated that hiring and promotion practices reinforced the present concentration of visible minorities in poor paying jobs. This practice ought not to continue.

We have also witnessed the recent occurrences of racial discrimination within the Canadian justice system, particularly as it affects our aboriginal people.

Also, we have seen cuts of about \$9.7 million to native programs, cutting their native communications program, native broadcast access program and native friendship centres.