

*Government Orders*

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I must interrupt the hon. member for Calgary Northeast. It is not appropriate to argue with the Speaker's ruling.

At the time the reform committee considered the whole question of applications for emergency debate, it was recommended that the Speaker give no reasons at all.

All that the Speaker did in this case is remind hon. members that the matter has been raised continually, which of course it has been, and that there is for the hon. member another approach to the matter.

I have great respect for the hon. member, but he is not in order in arguing with the Speaker on an application for an emergency debate.

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## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[*English*]

### CANADIAN RACE RELATIONS FOUNDATION

#### MEASURE TO ENACT

**Hon. Gerry Weiner (Secretary of State of Canada and Minister of State (Multiculturalism and Citizenship)):** moved that Bill C-63, an act to establish the Canadian Race Relations Foundation, be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee. He said: Madam Speaker, two years ago this House unanimously adopted Bill C-93, the Canadian Multiculturalism Act. Since the passing of this landmark legislation, this government has shown again and again that it is committed to creating a society whose citizens will be judged not by the colour of their skin, but by the content of their character.

• (1130)

Two weeks ago this House sent forward the legislation to establish a department of multiculturalism and citizenship which is an administrative instrument to execute policies that will aid in nation building. Not too long ago, Bill C-37, an act to establish the Canadian Heritage Languages Institute received second reading and is now being considered by a legislative committee.

Today, it is with great pride that I stand to initiate a debate on the second reading of Bill C-63, an act to establish the Canadian Race Relations Foundation.

Before I go further, I would like to inform the House that before the end of the year I plan to introduce a new citizenship bill. Together, these pieces of legislation will demonstrate the continuing commitment of this government to ideals of multiculturalism and equality.

This legislation reaches the very heart of our identity as Canadians. The Canadian Race Relations Foundation is an initiative based on an unmistakably Canadian approach to the building of our nation. As a people we believe in the limitless potential of Canada and we acknowledge the vast richness our diversity brings. But we know the cultural diversity which we hold so dear is problematic, for the very elements of that diversity are used by racists to denigrate our peoples. That is why this government has given such a high profile to fighting racism and racial discrimination.

In any society plagued by racism and racial discrimination, the struggle against these evils is important. However, in a society such as ours, which has declared itself multicultural, the struggle becomes a moral imperative. Our history is filled with ideas and individuals who have striven to move us closer to realizing the multicultural vision of our country.

[*Translation*]

The origins of Canadian multiculturalism predate Confederation, with the aboriginal peoples. Subsequently, generations of people from all over the world chose Canadian citizenship over all others. These people, Canada's past and present, have worked hard to build this country.

[*English*]

Canada's democratic system of government has responded to the character of our diverse people by recognizing the primal importance of human rights. We have witnessed the evolution of citizenship rights in this country from the opening of our first Houses of Parliament, to Canada's first Bill of Rights in 1960 and, more recently, with the signing of our Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and our Constitution.

Today, and every day, we must never forget that we are all citizens of the first nation in the world to enshrine the multicultural character of our country in its laws. As both a philosophy and a program, multiculturalism is recognized as a positive and progressive force in our nation building.