

Multiculturalism

last year, and it will continue to be larger in the future. It is not our intention to cut back funding for multicultural programs.

● (1602)

I would make one other point that I think is important. The question was raised and alluded to by the Leader of the Opposition that the funding we have for about one third of the Canadian people, being \$10 million, is rather inadequate. I make two points in response.

First, I have yet to hear, other than perhaps today indirectly, anybody in the opposition in my presence suggest that there ought to be more funding for multiculturalism. I would welcome anybody doing that. I have only had a couple of questions in the House of Commons as Minister of Multiculturalism, which indicates the degree of interest being taken in that regard.

I would point out that all ethno-cultural communities are Canadian and they benefit from all government programs in Canada as Canadians. The amount of money we are talking about is money specifically earmarked for them as ethno-cultural Canadians over and above all the benefits that every Canadian in this country enjoys.

Mr. Clark: Mr. Speaker, I think the minister will find that one reason he does not receive very many questions has to do very directly with the quality of his answers. I wonder if he will tell us now, since he has refused to give us a commitment, that there will not be a reduction in subsequent years of the budget for multiculturalism. What portion of that estimated \$50 million over the next five years will be directed toward advertising, and what portion will be directed toward administration?

Mr. Cafik: Mr. Speaker, I would first indicate that I did not refuse to give a commitment that we would not cut back on multiculturalism. I was very precise in that regard. It is not the intention of the government to cut back in any way on multicultural programs. I make that very clear, if my words were not as clear as the hon. member could understand. In any event, in terms of the budget, the advertising budget of the Directorate of Multiculturalism is half a million dollars a year. That budget is directed to the ethnic media in order to be able to communicate through that important instrument of communication with the ethno-cultural community. That is an important aspect of our program.

In terms of actual granting programs, in the neighbourhood of \$5 million will be made available directly in grants through the numerous programs that we have within our directorate. In terms of operational funding, the amount is \$2.6 million. I would draw to the attention of hon. members that that \$2.6 million is not strictly for operational expense. It carries within it funding for studies that are undertaken, for example, the ethnic attitude study which should be tabled very shortly. It deals with special projects that I am involved in now, for example, with the visible minorities and how we are trying to deal with that. Contract funding will deal with specific policy

[Mr. Cafik.]

areas that are very important to the continuation of this program and the achievement of objectives to provide equal opportunity and to overcome disadvantages to the ethno-cultural community.

Hon. Stanley Haidasz (Parkdale): Mr. Speaker, in rising to ask the Minister of State (Multiculturalism) (Mr. Cafik) a question, I would first like to thank him for his statement and also to pay tribute to the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) for announcing the official policy of multiculturalism in 1971.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Haidasz: What amount of the \$10 million expenditure per annum will be directed to the ethnic press and media for other than advertising, something they have requested for some time?

Mr. Cafik: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is raising an important question. I draw to his attention, and of other hon. members if they are not aware, that we are now having a two-day conference with the ethnic press here in Ottawa to deal with a wide range of programs and policies. The aspect that I am dealing with in multiculturalism is hopefully to establish a relationship with the ethno-cultural press in which they can give valid and useful advice to myself as to how we may best assist the ethnic press in legitimate and proper terms. In terms of funding, for example, the Ethnic Press Federation have been concerned about support funding for their national body. At the moment, no decision has been taken in that regard. I have had a number of representations. Hopefully, I will have the opportunity to discuss that aspect of the problem with the Ethnic Press Federation within the next two days, if that is what the hon. member has in mind. I think that the general substance of the comment is a recognition of the importance of the ethnic press in Canada. I certainly agree that they perform a very valuable—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I will conclude the questioning with the hon. member for Sault Ste. Marie (Mr. Symes) and the hon. member for Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Waterloo (Mr. Beatty).

Mr. Cyril Symes (Sault Ste. Marie): Mr. Speaker, I have a very brief question. I hope I can have a brief answer. In talking to many ethnic groups, one of the problems they have brought to me on many occasions is the lack of any granting of funds for capital purposes such as helping to renovate a hall or build a new one. In a sense, this is very important because it is the centre of most of the activity for multicultural groups. Has the minister's department studied and will it give consideration to providing some sort of granting of funds for capital purposes to aid in the construction or renovation of halls, maybe on a matching basis along the lines of Wintario?

Mr. Cafik: Yes, Mr. Speaker, consideration is being given to that. With the adjustments in the program that we have announced here today, we did not move in the direction of providing funding for capital projects. It would take an enormous amount of money. I should point out that on other levels