

Canadian Culture

• (11:30 a.m.)

I make only these two short comments in conclusion. I suggest that our failure in this area in the past was not the fault of any one government or any one level of government in Canada. It has been a failure of all our people across this country, a failure of Canadians to appreciate the importance of these things, a failure of Canadians in their neglect of the native peoples of this country. I am not saying this to needle the Prime Minister or the government but I say, because I believe it to be true. The statement of principles will be a mockery and a betrayal of high ideals and objectives unless collectively we provide the funds to make the principles meaningful in the lives of the minorities in Canada, and unless we develop programs in consultation with the minorities, giving them every opportunity to participate in the development of programs rather than imposing such programs on them. Democracy requires this kind of consideration, and with all my heart I hope that the statement of principles will be followed with action which will make us all proud of our country.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, even if I do not always agree with the Prime Minister on various points, I fully agree with the statement he made this morning. Indeed, I have been repeating for 30 years, to those who will hear me, and those who won't, that we have one Canadian nation and not two, three or ten, that we have two official languages, English and French, and that we have a multiplicity of cultures which are the wealth of our country.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues and myself are happy the Prime Minister made that statement. However, I find this statement somewhat confusing. The Prime Minister has stated and I quote:

For although there are two official languages, there is no official culture, nor does any ethnic group take precedence over any other. No citizen or group of citizens is other than Canadian...

Mr. Speaker, if there is no official culture in Canada, I do not see how we could succeed in really becoming a nation while we would be endowed with only a few cultures unable to get on among themselves or at war with one another. I am positive that we have in Canada a culture peculiar to us. We French Canadians have one that is not at all that of France, just as English-speaking Canadians have a culture which is different from that of Englishmen from England. We have our own Canadian culture. We have our history. Our traditions and customs may differ from one area or ethnic group to another. However, if we cannot change an Englishman into a Frenchman, or vice versa, we can nonetheless make good Canadians out of members of all ethnic groups in Canada.

Ukrainians, Italians and Germans must be able to attain self-fulfilment in Canada.

I am absolutely convinced that Canadians in general share the views expressed this morning by the Prime Minister. So there is no reason to worry. There is trouble in Quebec and elsewhere in Canada. Some say that if things are going wrong, it is the fault of French Canadians or English Canadians, or because we welcome too many immigrants, and so on.

[Mr. Lewis.]

[*English*]

What I said in French was that we do not want to have in Canada a little France, a little England, a little Italy or a little Russia. We want in Canada a great country for all the people of Canada, for all the ethnic groups in our country. Through that channel we will achieve unity and we will reinforce our position in the whole world.

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UNITED NATIONS

ALBANIAN RESOLUTION TO EXPEL TAIWAN—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, under the provisions of Standing Order 43 I seek the unanimous consent of the House to propose a motion dealing with an important aspect of the conduct of this country's foreign policy, namely, the announced intention of the Canadian United Nations delegation to vote for the Albanian resolution calling for the expulsion of a member of the United Nations.

I move, seconded by the hon. member for Halifax-East Hants (Mr. McCleave):

That, before Canada's vote is cast on this very serious, important and portentous resolution that the question be referred to the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence for full discussion and consideration.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. members have heard the motion proposed by the hon. member for Hillsborough. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There is not unanimous consent and the motion cannot be put.

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ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

INCREASE IN MURDERS IN MONTREAL AND PROVINCE—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce): Mr. Speaker, I would like to move a motion under Standing Order 43 regarding an extremely important matter and I would ask for unanimous consent to put the said motion. As of this date 40 violent murders have taken place in Montreal during 1971, which constitutes an all-time record for that city. At the same time, 78 murders have taken place in western Quebec and the province as a whole is also moving toward a record in this regard. A good many of these murders appear to have been carried out by organized criminal groups. I might point out that the same thing is taking place in other provinces but I do not have the statistics. I would therefore move:

That the Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs be instructed to conduct an inquiry into the causes and nature of violent crime in Canada, and that recommendations be formulated for the amendment of the appropriate criminal law statutes.