

Government Orders

—the Canadian Alliance for Italian Integration and Culture (Alliance for short). It was created in late 1983 and ran until March 1984. It hit the front pages in 1984—just as the Liberal leadership contest got under way. The Alliance had received a grant of \$538,000 from the Special Employment Initiatives Program of the Minister of Employment and Immigration to operate a storefront referral service. John Roberts was the minister responsible. Such funds could only be acquired through the recommendation of an MP—in this case, Roland de Corneille. Ian Waddell, NDP MP, had charged the Alliance's real purpose was to put government money into a Liberal riding before an election. Certain persons associated with the party were involved or employed by the Alliance.

She goes on to name names, but I see that my time is running short. However, you can find the names if you want in the December 1988 issue of *Toronto Life*.

• (1320)

It is possible that the Tories have arrived at where the Liberals were in making a grant like that. It is also possible that they are even falling farther behind in other ways. The Liberals, at that time, were reducing the funding for English as a second language in places like George Brown College where it was taught with professional qualifications, and handing the funding instead to people with no track record in teaching English as a second language, but with reliable Liberal Party connections. But now the Tories are cutting out their program of citizenship instruction and language training, CILT. They have cut it 50 per cent and announced that next year, 1990, it will be cut totally. This particularly hurts immigrant women.

We have had too many years in which ESL and FSL grants were handed out to some immigrants on the grounds that they were destined for the workforce and withheld from others, mostly women, on the grounds that they were not destined for the workforce. Of course, that means that no housewife does any work. There is no work to cleaning the house, making the supper or raising the kids. It also ignored the fact that many of those women did not get even what this department would call work. They worked in factories in cities like Toronto or they worked as domestic cleaners in the houses of more affluent people. But they were denied the opportunity that was given to some to study the English language. Now the CILT program is to be cut out entirely. There still is the employment-related one, but it is not nearly good enough.

What I hope is that if this bill goes to committee, as it should—I understand the government is talking closure. Perhaps it wants to drive the bill through in case it gets looked at too closely. But I hope it will get a very thorough look in committee. I would like it to focus on the existing forms of white racism, racism by people who are white like me against people who are not. That has never been fully acknowledged in Canada and we have corpses to prove it, not only in Toronto, but in many other places, corpses of people of colour, including some of the First Nations, whose treatment cannot be rationally explained except on the basis of systemic, habitual or institutionalized racism. That is not an easy thing to overcome. It would shake the foundations of some of our deepest patterns in some of our institutions.

There is something this government could do in very short order. It would not correct racism *per se*, although it would ameliorate it a little bit. It would not end all conflict between ethnic groups, but it would do much in a few years to remove the basis of the conflict, and that is to provide instruction in English as a second language, or in French as a second language, to every immigrant old enough to receive such instruction and requiring such instruction.

We have our jokes about our cousins from Glasgow and other parts of Scotland, but until they ask for instruction in English, they probably would be insulted if we gave it to them.

I would hope both of those points will receive heavy consideration if this goes to committee, and I certainly hope it goes to committee.

Mr. Nunziata: Madam Speaker, it is interesting that the member started to comment about racism and discrimination in Canada. I would like to commend him. At times, it seems to me, he went a little too far in suggesting that some of the very tragic events in Toronto were race related, even though a number of people have gone so far as to suggest that.

I do not think one has to go to that extent with respect to the killings in Toronto of blacks by police officers. One only has to look here in the House of Commons, across the way, if one wants to cite examples of racism and discrimination. There are members from the Conservative side of the House who are actively seeking and circulating petitions asking the Government of Canada not to allow Canadians of Sikh origin to be members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. That is the net effect of their objection. They are saying that it is improper and unacceptable for Canadians of Sikh origin