

straight on or we will be left with this plague for years to come.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, racial tensions within other communities are also on the rise. During the hearings of the Subcommittee on Multiculturalism, the Hon. Member for Vancouver East (Ms. Mitchell) emphasized that racial tensions between the white and Asian communities had increased in Vancouver.

In other words, Mr. Speaker, we have a lot of work to do. The creation of a single Department of Multiculturalism will promote better understanding and result in the elimination of racism and bigotry. Because of the evolution of the multicultural reality, the establishment of an independent and influential department has become a necessity. We, as Liberals, feel therefore that this department should serve to promote our multicultural heritage.

As I said earlier, Mr. Speaker, this new department could influence the attitude of Canadians by adequately funding the various groups on the basis of their services to their communities. Unfortunately, judging from the this year's estimates, it seems that there will be cuts in these organizations' grants.

[*English*]

While over-all the budget for multiculturalism has gone up, the funds for community support and participation have decreased by \$400,000 this year. This represents a full 15 per cent cut in the funding for such groups as the Canadian Ethnocultural Council and various others which act as co-ordinating and community liaison organizations which help various communities to communicate among each other and with the various levels of government.

It seems that this Government is moving toward a more project-oriented rather than an organizationally oriented program. This, quite frankly, raises several concerns that must be addressed. The danger that arises from a greater project oriented subsidization program is that it is a band-aid approach to solve a very complex problem. When groups are funded they are able to act in unison to co-ordinate progressive and ongoing activities that build upon each other for greater racial and ethnic harmony. This is not to say that I feel projects should not be financed. Quite the opposite is, in fact, true. However, I feel that to orientate in that direction would take

away from a concentrated and co-ordinated attempt at addressing the problem.

I am also concerned about whether or not this trend to cut operational support is for one, two or three years. If this is the case the effectiveness of the Department of Multiculturalism and Citizenship to combat racism effectively in Canada will be adversely affected.

I also found that none of the groups affected by the cuts was ever consulted by either officials of the Department of Finance or those from the Secretary of State. But then again this is perfectly consistent with the way this Government has handled all aspects of the budgetary process. Hopefully the Department of Multiculturalism and Citizenship will be more responsive to the groups and organizations that represent the various cultural groups of Canada. The Department needs to co-operate closely with these organizations so that it can monitor the situation out there in the real world.

We cannot let bureaucrats here in Ottawa decide in a vacuum what the reality of Canada's multicultural dimension really is.

[*Translation*]

We all know that the Canadian fabric is the result of our population and our immigration policy. That is why we must keep a multiculturalism policy flexible in order to accommodate new arrivals and ease their transition into Canadian society; this implies making Canadian society prepared to accept them.

[*English*]

Until 1967 Canada's immigration laws were somewhat restrictive, following the closed door policies practised by our Government during the First and Second World Wars and the Depression. Between 1947 and 1967 most non-British and non-French immigrants to Canada came from war torn southern and eastern Europe. By 1984, immigrants from Asia, Africa and the Caribbean constituted 62.5 per cent of the total number of people coming to Canada.

As parliamentarians we must find a way to facilitate a greater understanding between groups that in their homelands may be traditional rivals. We must ensure that Canada does not become a new theatre for old wars. The way to achieve this is not through reduced immigration. We must have our doors open to all people who are fleeing tyranny and oppression. The way to achieve this ethnic harmony in Canada is through a direct dialogue