

Government Orders

getting close to the point but they do not really state the equality of these cultures and races.

Then in Section 5(2)—and perhaps we have come to the point—the minister may, in accordance with terms and conditions approved by the Treasury Board, make grants and contributions in support of programs and projects undertaken by the minister. There it is, Mr. Speaker, pork-barrelling.

With no criteria, no definition, no standard of judgment to which the public can appeal, the minister can hand out the taxpayers' money to whomever he likes among the so-called multicultural groups. If he says it is multicultural, it is multicultural. There is no definition.

That seems to be what the deal is about, Mr. Speaker, another opening for government patronage. Just to make that clear, there has been a cut of over \$4 million in the programs provided for heritage language, one of the most important developments of the last decade or so in many of Canada's cities. That is to be cut back.

Last year 15 per cent was cut from the advocacy groups, including the Canada Ethnocultural Council. The government feels there is an excess of democracy there. The program for citizenship instruction and language training which co-operated with the provinces in providing English and French as second languages and citizenship training has been ended.

Instead we are going to have \$1,300,000 for a Heritage Language Institute, and \$24 million for a Race Relations Foundation. What will they do? We do not know. Who will direct them and with what principles? We do not know. Who controls them? Who advises them? We do not know.

I am strongly persuaded that the Canada Ethnocultural Council has it right when the president, Lewis Chan, says in his letter:

I strongly believe that government can get the best advice from democratically elected community groups rather than from persons appointed by a Minister.

• (1650)

It seems that the minister and the government may be afraid of that much democracy. It appears that the whole exercise is not intended to enable minority groups in Canada, first nations, or recent immigrants, to exercise

democratic power, nor to assist them. Rather, it is to control them. Father knows best, and multiculturalism will be enforced on the multicultural people to the extent that the government provides money for these top-down programs.

This is all in line with the recent budget which, apart from its very shameful cuts to groups like first nations and to women's organizations, also made some extraordinary increases. It gave a 21 per cent increase to the budget of the Canadian Security and Intelligence Service—\$33 million. More than all this multicultural stuff, more than the women's programs, \$33 million to CSIS—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I regret the hon. member's time has expired. The hon. member for South Shore.

Mr. Peter L. McCreath (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be able to join the discussion, but I must say in some respects I am not pleased to be speaking in what seems to me to be an excessively lengthy debate over an amendment. Much of the discussion that I have heard does not seem to bear any relationship whatsoever to the amendment on the floor which has to do with the inclusion of a definition in the bill that is before us.

I am really disappointed that it has taken as long as it has to get this bill through the House. We are not talking about a bill that is momentous in its implications for Canada. That was done when this government, showing the leadership that it has, brought in the Canadian Multiculturalism Act two years ago, setting forth the concept of multiculturalism in Canada, a framework for the basis of a multicultural policy that reflects Canada as it is now and as it has been historically, and a fabric and an ethic for what kind of Canada we are looking towards in the 21st century.

The notion that we should include a definition of multiculturalism in an act which is merely a technical piece of legislation establishing a department, that it can provide a firmer basis for the delivery of that program as set forth in the Canadian Multiculturalism Act, and that we should have nearly a year's delay in the passage of technical legislation of this sort, seems to me to not speak well for those who have caused this delay and who purport to have an interest in the manifestation of the