

*Adjournment Debate*

In any case, there are certain things that the federal government can do. Right now the employment equity legislation is up for review after five years. As we know, racism is linked to high unemployment, to poverty, to the lack of education and to the lack of training. I would suggest that there are many things that could be done to strengthen the employment equity legislation in order to give a better break to the visible minorities in this country which make up one of the target groups under the legislation.

Right now in that legislation there are no effective sanctions. Although the law says that companies under federal jurisdiction must have affirmative action programs for visible minorities, there is no sanction if they do not do it. In addition, the law only applies to companies with 100 persons or more and it does not apply to the federal government.

In conclusion, I would urge the government to take more effective action to combat racism in this country, to show more leadership and stop this cancer before it takes hold.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Marcel R. Tremblay (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport) and Minister of State (Youth) and Deputy Leader of the Government in the House of Commons):** Madam Speaker, since the coming into force in 1985 of section 15 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms concerning equality rights, Canada has made great strides.

The federal government is committed to playing a leadership role in the fight against racism and racial discrimination. That is why, last summer, following the events in Halifax and Montreal that gave rise to racial tensions, the hon. Gerry Weiner created in Nova Scotia the Interracial Relations Advisory Group.

The advisory group, which is composed of representatives from the three levels of government and from the black community, has the mandate of developing a plan of action and of presenting recommendations toward the fight against racism. Thus, in 30 days, the advisory group has succeeded in preparing a report which it submitted to Mr. Weiner. This is an excellent example of what can be accomplished by working together.

Canada continues to uphold the basic principles enshrined in the Canada Multiculturalism Act.

Among the initiatives taken in this field, there is the creation of the Canadian Police Centre on Interracial

Relations. This centre, whose head office is in Ottawa, functions as an independent organization. Its aim is to improve relations between police and the different cultural groups in Canada.

Other initiatives have been taken in order to implement a global strategy in this field such as the financing of conferences on visible minorities and the police in the Atlantic provinces and the giving of a grant to the Canadian Association of School Boards which is developing policies and strategies for eliminating barriers to equality in the schools.

Together, Madam Speaker, we can make Canada a genuine land of hope, a country where Canadians of all origins will be represented in our institutions, a country where the dignity and the diversity of citizens are protected and promoted.

[*English*]

## NATIONAL DEFENCE

**Mrs. Coline Campbell (South West Nova):** On September 24 I asked the Minister of National Defence why a naval reserve facility would still be built when he had just set up a committee to study the excess infrastructure in the Canadian Armed Forces.

• (1810)

The minister said that it did not refer to that particular naval facility. It seems to me to be unfair that this new facility will cost millions of dollars in light of other closures that will be happening with the defence policy announced by the minister.

I want to tell the minister, through the parliamentary secretary, what the cutbacks mean to a base like Cornwallis which has a long history in the military and a long history in the navy and to now see a new naval facility being built when we are cutting back in an area which represents approximately 20,000 people who gain the benefits from that.

The Department of National Defence earlier on this year announced that the recruit levels at Cornwallis will drop by 60 per cent. Cornwallis graduated 4,100 recruits in 1989-90 and it will graduate under 2,000 from this coming year until 1996. When you think that we had a white paper in 1986 which was going to increase our defence forces and now we have one that is going to decrease our defence forces, it does not seem right to the Canadian people that you can change policies like this and affect the livelihood of people.