

partisan. When you do that on issue after issue, there is going to be more and more cynicism toward all political parties. The most shameful thing about the announcement is its timing, an attempt by the Liberal party to vie for more votes in the coming election.

I was rather surprised by the support of multiculturalism voiced by the hon. member from the Conservative party because I, along with other members of this House, read with great interest that the leader of his party was saying before Christmas that he would consider abolishing the ministry of multiculturalism in this country.

Mr. Paproski: That is not true.

Mr. Nystrom: A good friend in the Senate, Senator Yuzyk, is now organizing a write-in campaign to his leader to try keep the department of multiculturalism intact, should the hon. member for Rocky Mountain (Mr. Clark) become prime minister of this country. The time has come when we should stop playing politics with the people of Canada who come from other than French or English origins and treat them as real Canadians. They are citizens in spite of where they come from, whether it be Europe or anywhere else in the world. They have helped to build Canada and make it what it is. It is about time we realized they are good Canadians and that they have made their contribution, whether they be European or from some other part of the world. Hopefully, along with Canadians of English and French origin they can help us keep this country together and make it a prosperous place in the years ahead.

[*Translation*]

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, like the two hon. members who spoke before me, I see that this announcement is closely linked to the coming election which is already being fought by ministers and members in the Eastern Townships, particularly in Quebec.

Mr. Speaker, there is no question that the free evolution and fulfillment of all ethnic groups in Canada is a most commendable objective as related quite simply to the human development that every ethnic group is entitled to have. But I see that once again the government is using those self-evident factors to focus attention on its problem of national unity which again it considers as an opportunity of drawing sympathy toward the party which under the circumstances is now running this country. So when they talk about "unity through human understanding" they could have talked a lot more accurately, as my colleague from Bellechasse (Mr. Lambert) often suggests, of "harmony through human understanding." That would be more accurate. But since they have had this habit for months of focussing everything on national unity so this problem of national unity will be the exclusive realm of the party now in power, Mr. Speaker, it is always a bit strange to see them use everything to bring all issues back to this fundamental question. Again, it appears on page 3 of this statement as follows:

Multiculturalism

... promoting the concept of Canada's cultural pluralism among all Canadians and reinforcing Canadian unity.

They always talk continuously about national unity and the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) is going into an election campaign with the thought that he is the only one who can salvage national unity. Mr. Speaker, we share the same view, we all want this essential harmony if our country is to evolve and develop. That is obvious. But we would urge that all decisions made by this government not be tinged with that electoral aspect which kills genuine, good intentions.

Here is another point before I sit down. Multiculturalism should not be assimilated with biculturalism or bilingualism. It will be remembered, and the statement refers to it, that the right hon. Prime Minister was remarkably ambiguous with respect to the distinction to be made between the two. If I consider the quotation of the right hon. Prime Minister that we have here to prove that ambiguity, I will say, Mr. Speaker, that this is typical of the party which is now running this country—ambiguous, opportunist, not knowing how to administer in a really objective way, having brought this country to this culminating point of national crisis and claiming to be the only one able to solve it because perhaps it was the only one to bring it about. So, to quote the right hon. Prime Minister:

A policy of multiculturalism within an officially bilingual framework is basically the conscious support of individual freedom of choice.

Mr. Speaker, that sentence is meaningless. It does not fit into everyday life. To make such a connection is sheer stupidity in my view. There is no connection whatsoever between bilingualism and multiculturalism. Bilingualism is the recognized fact that two languages are used in this country, and multiculturalism is the individual's fulfillment on the basis of what he is. We are all for that, but when they try to confuse the issue so that it means both bilingualism and national unity, clearly the government are once more playing politics.

It is a sad reflection that in an area as factual as multiculturalism, the free evolution and fulfillment of individuals in this country, such a serious issue is used for purely electioneering purposes. This is evident, Mr. Speaker, from the monies that are allocated. Even though they try to swell the amount to \$50 million by computing over a five year basis, it is only \$10 million a year and no more. And the way prices are going at the current inflation rate, we know full well the practical import of \$10 million spread over an area as large as Canada's, a country endowed with so many cultural ethnic groups.

Mr. Speaker, they should also be more specific about including in those groups Canada's Francophones, more plainly the French-Canadians. Because they are not immigrant contributors, but founding partners. Therefore in respect of French-speaking groups of Canadian ancestry, if I may call them, the problem is not the same. There is a question of a basic right issuing prior tenure of the land. So a clear distinction should be made there. French-speaking Canadian minorities that may exist in New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, and so