

*Oral Questions***MULTICULTURALISM**

## GOVERNMENT PRIORITY

**Mr. Bob Pennock (Etobicoke North):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for Multiculturalism. There have been some recent concerns expressed to me by various ethnic organizations in my riding that the Government is no longer giving the multiculturalism portfolio the priority it deserves. Their concern focuses on the fact that the new Minister of State for Multiculturalism has a dual portfolio instead of a single portfolio as was the case previously. I would ask that the Minister please address this concern and give his assurance that multiculturalism remains a priority with the Government.

**Hon. Otto Jelinek (Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport) and Minister of State (Multiculturalism)):** Mr. Speaker, it is typical that the concern for the ethnic community comes from a member of the Conservative Party rather than from the Opposition.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Jelinek:** I compliment the Hon. Member for asking the question. In answering it, however, I can assure the Hon. Member and others that they can put that concern to rest. First, dual ministries are not new. Second, this Government over the past 12 months has laid a strong foundation on which to build, including the development and establishment of a permanent Standing Committee on Multiculturalism.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, it is a total and absolute commitment, dedication and sensitivity to this area by, myself and the Government, which will guarantee success. We will reach out, Mr. Speaker, to 8 million Canadians of ethnic origin like never before.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

## FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE

**Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West):** Mr. Speaker, if we take those words as reality, could the Minister still get up in his place and tell the House why the First Ministers' Conference was void of any results? And why did the Government cut the budget by 9 per cent? If that was a priority, it would not have cut the Budget. Could the Minister please answer that question?

**An Hon. Member:** Right on.

**Hon. Otto Jelinek (Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport) and Minister of State (Multiculturalism)):** Mr. Speaker, those Hon. Members have been sleeping for the last three weeks. They have finally come on board after my colleague has asked the question. The answer is simple. My predecessor, for the first time ever, was able to hold a federal-provincial

Ministers' conference. Work from that conference is going to come to the Standing Committee on Multiculturalism—

**Ms. Copps:** Where is the 9 per cent?

**Mr. Jelinek:**—and I look forward to this member's participation. As far as the reductions are concerned, the Hon. Member will be very happy to know that we have already increased the budget of multiculturalism and we will proceed on that basis.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Member for Trinity. Is the Hon. Member rising to ask a supplementary question?

**Mr. Marchi:** I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

## SIZE OF BUDGET

**Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West):** If the multiculturalism budget has been increased, then it is news, not only to this side, but to the other side as well, because last April that budget—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Hon. Member indicated he had a supplementary question.

**Mr. Marchi:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a very simple question. By how much was the budget increased, and when?

**Hon. Otto Jelinek (Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport) and Minister of State (Multiculturalism)):** Mr. Speaker, it appears to me that there is "Panic City" across the floor on the other side.

Now that the Hon. Member has finally woken up in his seat, I invite him to come to the Standing Committee where I will explain the details of the whole thing.

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## AIR CANADA

## DEATH OF PASSENGER ON FLIGHT TO TORONTO

**Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina West):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. As he knows, flight attendants are responsible to be aware of and continue to pay attention to the well-being of passengers abroad the aircraft. Is the Minister aware that on an Air Canada flight which arrived in Toronto nine days ago, a passenger who was taken on board in a wheel chair as a debilitated passenger, passed away during the flight, and the attendants did not notice and were not aware of the passenger's death until it was time to take him off the aircraft in a wheel chair?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I have not been made aware of the subject to which the Hon. Member refers. As he knows, there were some 72 alleged infractions which were submitted by the CALFAA organization. Most of those have been investigated. There are