

*S. O. 31*

Discrimination may be described as a distinction, whether intentional or not, but based on grounds relating to personal characteristics of the individual or group, which has the effect of imposing burdens, obligations, or disadvantages on such individuals or group not imposed upon others, or which withholds or limits access to opportunities, benefits and advantages available to other members of society. Distinctions based on personal characteristics attributed to an individual solely on the basis of association with a group will rarely escape the charge of discrimination, while those based on an individual's merits and capabilities will rarely be so classed.

The ways to eliminate racial discrimination are known. I urge the government to master the will to grant adequate funding to achieve the goal. Together we will go further.

\* \* \*

**NORTHERN BENEFITS**

**Mr. Albert Cooper (Peace River):** Mr. Speaker, northern benefits has been an important program for people living in northern Alberta.

This program has helped schools attract teachers, businesses to attract the skilled workers they need, and it allows citizens to better afford the goods and services they need.

I urge the Minister of Finance to accept the two zone concept of benefits as soon as possible.

\* \* \*

**MULTICULTURALISM**

**Mr. Bruce Halliday (Oxford):** Mr. Speaker, today, March 21 is the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. It is a worldwide initiative to expose the very real threat of racism. Our nation is working toward becoming an ever more compassionate society, but the appalling reality of racist actions inhibits our ability to achieve that dream.

In order to succeed, Canadians must acknowledge that racial discrimination exists across our land.

It is critical that we mobilize all Canadians in a battle against racism. To that end, the federal government has initiated programs, legislation and policies.

I call upon all members of the House of Commons to take action against racism in their communities, to work together every day to eliminate racial discrimination and make Canada a truly fair and just home for all Canadians.

**CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION**

**Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma):** Mr. Speaker, I want to call to the attention of the House that because of government cutbacks, the CBC has decided to eliminate the position of agriculture and resource reporter at its Ottawa bureau. This decision comes at a time when Canadian agriculture is in crisis, and we should be increasing the information available to the public, not reducing it. The CBC has maintained this vital position since the 1940s.

CBC reporter George Price has filled this position for over 20 years, reporting on Canadian agriculture year in and year out. He is well known in the agricultural community and has established himself as a trustworthy and impartial reporter and media personality. It is shameful that he had to learn the news of the abolition of his position by reading it in a wire story.

Today is Rural Revitalization Day in Canada. I believe it is totally unacceptable that the agri-food sector has lost an important means of communication with the public, which needs to know what is going on in agriculture and rural Canada. It is difficult enough as it is to make consumers aware of the difficulties facing Canadian farmers and rural communities without the government chopping this important means of communication.

I call on the government to reverse this budgetary cutback at the CBC, and to reinstate this important means of communication on the agriculture industry to all Canadians.

\* \* \*

[Translation]

**MULTICULTURALISM**

**Mr. Marcel R. Tremblay (Québec-Est):** Mr. Speaker, today, on the 21st of March, I would like to take a few moments to mention measures taken by the present government to fight racism and racial discrimination. It was this government that concluded a historic redress agreement with Japanese Canadians to compensate for the unjust way they were treated during and after the Second World War. It was also this government that