

Multiculturalism

ism and Citizenship, the word "multiculturalism" is mentioned but once in a list of duties relating to citizenship as well, while citizenship on its own is mentioned in three specific subsections.

I feel that a greater degree of attention should be paid to the multicultural section of this Bill than is accorded to it in its present format. I feel that an amendment of the legislation is needed to ensure that future Ministers of Multiculturalism and Citizenship actively cover both areas of their mandate.

The need for a Department of Multiculturalism has been there for many, many years. The fact that nearly 40 per cent of Canadians are of neither British nor French heritage accentuates the need for such a department. In fact, this policy was started under former Prime Minister Trudeau who recognized the ever-changing Canadian mosaic. No longer is Canada an exclusive haven for Europeans and Americans. It has become home to peoples of diverse cultures from all over the world representing hundreds of linguistic and ethnic groups.

The variety of people coming to our shores in ever increasing numbers makes Canada's multicultural policy a living rather than a static entity. We all hope for the day when racial, linguistic and ethnic relations will be at such a state where no official body is needed to facilitate these ends. At such a time, a universal cultural ministry would be a more appropriate mechanism to facilitate Canada's diverse cultural heritage.

Unfortunately, such a state does not exist in Canada today. For that matter, it still does not exist in areas of government jurisdiction. If we look at certain departments, we see that the percentage of visible minorities represented is far below the percentage in the general population.

The CBC, Canada's main cultural vehicle, only has 332 visible minority employees representing only 2.5 per cent of the corporation's total workforce. This is utterly unacceptable when the percentage of visible minorities in the Canadian population is closer to 8 per cent.

How does the Minister expect a greater degree of understanding to be portrayed through the broadcast media if the CBC does not have the staff who can best represent our multicultural heritage? Mr. Anthony Manera, senior vice-president of the CBC, stated that he was not satisfied with this pitifully poor representation of

Canadian visible minorities in his corporation. Do you know what else he said, Mr. Speaker? He said that the CBC has been downsizing and will continue to downsize and therefore its ability to change the complexion of the CBC will be extremely limited.

It is nice to make fancy speeches and establish departments but that is simply not enough. The Minister must recognize that without greater representation of our minorities on television, and specifically the CBC, a more tolerant public attitude toward various groups will be long in coming.

If the state of things on Canada's national network are so far from the desired targets of both the Employment Equity and Multiculturalism Acts, one can only imagine the status of affairs in the private sector. It has been clear in recent months that ethnic violence and racism has been on the rise, particularly in urban areas. We have been seeing more and more ethnic youth violence in Montreal, as well as the rise of the skinhead movement which attempts a sick mimicry of early day Nazism. The League for Human Rights of B'nai Brith Canada released a major study relating to racism against the Jewish community in Canada. The number of anti-Semitic incidents during 1988 increased by over 100 per cent over 1987 and represented the highest level since 1984.

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According to this organization the main factors contributing to the rise was the negative images portrayed by the media concerning the intifadah and the trial of Ernst Zundel here in Canada and the Demjanjuk war crimes trial in Israel.

The number of incidents of vandalism against the Jewish community tripled in the past year and this included attacks against synagogues and cemeteries. The most disturbing incident occurred in Calgary where two alleged members of the KKK were apprehended before they were able to plant a bomb at a Jewish high school. Mr. Dimant, Vice President of the B'nai Brith said, and I quote:

This study makes us painfully aware that we are still a vulnerable community and that multiculturalism, acceptance and tolerance are still far from reality in Canada.

I am sure that the Secretary of State (Mr. Weiner) is particularly concerned with these issues and I am sure he recognizes that we must confront this kind of hatred