

In his statement in the House on October 8, 1971 the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) outlined the multicultural policy of the government. In reply to his statement, the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield), as reported at page 8546 of *Hansard* of that date, had this to say:

I wish to state immediately, Mr. Speaker, that the emphasis we have given to multiculturalism in no way constitutes an attack on the basic duality of our country. What we want is justice for all Canadians, and recognition of the cultural diversity of this country.

That, Mr. Speaker, is what we want, a recognition that the contribution has been made and that multiculturalism not only be an official policy but that clear cut action be taken to implement that policy.

I direct my attention to two specific areas. One is the problem of language instruction. Much is said today about third language instruction in schools. Having taught high school in western Canada for some time and taken a second language other than French, I know what has happened to second or third language instruction, depending on interpretation, in western Canada.

As long as our universities, specifically in Alberta and Manitoba, had a second language requirement for entrance to most faculties, there was in our high schools the maintenance of second language instruction. Generally this second language instruction was French, Ukrainian or German. Since the governments of Alberta and Manitoba have now dropped this requirement for almost all faculties, the impact on second language instruction in the high schools has been disastrous. Today, students do not opt for second language instruction, be it French, Ukrainian, German or any other language that is authorized.

The federal government and the provincial governments must together provide, to my way of thinking, a positive program whereby once again there will be a resurgence of second language instruction. Not only is a second language an advantage and gives a person an additional cultural outlook; it is a necessity if language instruction is itself to survive at all and western Canada is not to become even more unilingual than is the case now. So, a program of financial aid will have to be stepped up and students must be encouraged to take second language instruction.

Another point I want to make concerns radio broadcasting. The hon. member for St. Denis (Mr. Prud'homme) has given the House his view about the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, though I do not subscribe to that view. If the House will recall, we discussed the sale of radio station CKSB of St. Boniface for use by the CBC as a French language radio station. I have no quarrel with that, and I have so stated previously in a debate in this House. But I do suggest that the CBC re-evaluate this policy, and that if need be the Broadcasting Act be amended so that in cases where the need is demonstrated time be made available on English or French speaking CBC stations for so-called third language broadcasting.

Why do I say that, Mr. Speaker? There are many radio stations across Canada, especially in western Canada, that might make time available. But very often this time is not prime time, and the financial obligations that have to be met are such as to pretty well exclude the use of these stations by multicultural groups. Volume four of the report on bilingualism and biculturalism, which is entitled

Multiculturalism

"The Cultural Contribution of the Other Ethnic Groups", contained these recommendations:

8. We recommend that the CRTC remove restrictions on private broadcasting in languages other than English and French, except those restrictions necessary to meet the administrative and legal responsibilities of the licensees and those that also apply to English- and French-language programmes.

● (1750)

9. We recommend that the CBC recognize the place of languages other than English and French in Canadian life and that the CBC remove its proscription on the use of other languages in broadcasting.

I suggest to the Secretary of State (Mr. Faulkner), to whom the CBC is responsible, that the necessary amendments to the Canadian Broadcasting Act be made so that time can be made available by the CBC, be it on the English or French stations, to these multicultural groups for the broadcasting of information.

I should like to commend the Secretary of State for embarking on this program, limited though it is, for the development of films of an ethnic nature. This present policy needs encouragement and expansion. I concur with the hon. member for St. Denis (Mr. Prud'homme) that these films should be made in English and in French for the purpose of education and giving a better understanding among all Canadians of the various backgrounds we have, yet common to the Canadian identity we share.

Lastly, it is approximately 100 years since Canada really embarked upon a multicultural program, in the sense that it was approximately 100 years ago the so-called third groups or third forces began to come to Canada. Up to that time, Canada was known to other than the native people as an English and French-speaking country. As these people are embarking today on centennaries, and I could point out various groups, I suggest there is great credit to Canada in that 100 years later, even though these people have learned the English language, primarily for economic reasons, they retained and gave to us some of the culture they brought, for which Canada is the richer.

As we approach this period in time, looking again at what effect this has had on Canada as a country, we should recommend very strongly to the minister and his colleagues that the department of multiculturalism should not simply be considered as a second-rate department, but rather a full-fledged department promoting programs based on the fact that Canada is better off because of the contribution these ethnic groups have made. Once this is done, I am sure a greater understanding will evolve in Canada. I, personally, am convinced that when we consider our various backgrounds it will only be when we understand and communicate with each other that understanding will develop and that we, as Canadians, will recognize our responsibility to foster a Canadian identity in spite of our diversity. Canada is too important to me to be divided by partisan issues on the basis of nationality. Our responsibility is to build a national unity.

Mr. Jim Fleming (York West): Mr. Speaker, I think I overheard someone mention that I have a lucky seven minutes remaining. I will try to be as brief as I can in my remarks as I know the hon. member for Meadow Lake (Mr. Nesdoly) has been trying for sometime this afternoon