

appropriate. It talks about the Chinese and Japanese, the Oriental Canadians who for so long were discriminated against in such a gross manner in Canada and in almost all western countries.

● (1730)

I have had the honour of visiting that part of China from where most Chinese Canadians come. There is an interesting feature about those who have come here from China. Until recently, most came from the province of Canton which has 100 counties. That province has the same population as Canada. Until recently, 90 per cent of those Chinese who came to North America came from only one out of the 100 counties, the county of Toishan.

That place is not far from Hong Kong. However, it involves a rather difficult sea voyage. When I visited the county of Toishan four or five years ago, I was taken to a village. There are 450 people who live in that village, and 453 from that village who now live outside China. It was interesting to see photographs in the houses in that small village in rural China showing relatives standing outside their house in Don Mills, Ontario, in a Canadian winter.

The story of the trials of those Chinese who emigrated to Canada starting in the mid-nineteenth century is incredible. There were many acts of discrimination against them, particularly in British Columbia. I do not think any other areas has quite as bad a record.

The poll tax in British Columbia and the race riots around the turn of the century were not very inspiring. I know the situation has changed dramatically. As I say, it was a sad story.

Approximately two weeks ago a man who has lived in Canada for 77 years visited my Toronto office. He is now 97 years old and still has his certificate from when he had to pay the poll tax. Fortunately, he got back in before the cut-off in 1922 from one of his visits to China. Because of the exclusion act, he was not able to bring over any of his family. At 97 years old, he lives alone in Toronto. Most of his family in China have died. It is not very nice to see those certificates from our past. That man had a special passport that was not given to any Canadians other than those of Chinese background.

The hon. member spoke about the tremendous contribution the Chinese had made to Canada. The Chinese community is going through a tremendous growth period in Canada. It is making an enormous impact for the good on our multicultural country.

It is with sadness when one looks over the past year at an advertisement that appeared in *The Globe and Mail*, paid for by the National Citizens Coalition. It concerned the Vietnamese refugee situation. It was nasty and provoked a racist reaction against people of Oriental background. That was followed by a program on "W-5", which our Minister of State for Multiculturalism (Mr. Fleming) worked very hard to resolve. We are very happy that CTV made an apology.

Canadian Culture

Mr. Paproski: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I just want to say to the hon. member that it was the multicultural minister of the day who solved that problem.

Mr. Stollery: I am not going to get into an argument with the former minister of multiculturalism. I do not care which minister solved the problem. I hope he had some role in resolving it before his government was defeated in December. However, as the actual apology was not delivered until a couple of month ago, it would be technically difficult for him to have had as much a role as he would like to imagine. However, I do congratulate him. I am sure he worked very hard to correct the implications in that program.

The motion before us gives us, as members of the Canadian House of Commons, an opportunity to express our dismay at the discrimination against these people. I hope we are not looking at a new period of discrimination. I do not think so. We have to be positive. As members of Parliament, we must protest against this kind of discrimination starting once more.

Again, I wish to take this opportunity to register my disgust at some of what has gone over the airways in the past year, as well as the advertisement sponsored by the National Citizens Coalition, implying that those of Oriental background would not make as good immigrants to Canada as anyone else, even though we are supposed to have a non-discriminatory policy. Generally speaking, we do have a non-discriminatory policy. I thank the hon. member for giving us this opportunity to say a few words on this subject. It is immensely interesting and complex, and I thank him for once more bringing it to our attention. We on this side will certainly support the motion.

Mr. Gordon Taylor (Bow River): Mr. Speaker, I will certainly complete my remarks well within the time allotted because I too would like to see this motion voted on and passed. I cannot let the opportunity go by without paying tribute to those Canadians of Chinese origin. The motion mentions their contribution to the mosaic.

● (1740)

I would like to thank the hundreds of Chinese people who came to this country in the early years. For many years they were the only ones who operated restaurants in our small towns, and laundries in small and larger towns. I do not know what we would have done during the hungry thirties for a cup of coffee in many places in this country had it not been for the Chinese people. There are many stories told about Chinese restaurants, but most people in their hearts really appreciated what the Canadians of Chinese origin did with regard to feeding the rest of us during those hard years.

The attributes of the Chinese people are qualities for which we should all be grateful. I go as far as to say we can all learn from them. They are hard workers; they do not expect hand-outs from government. They work hard and try to earn their keep. They want to contribute to their country and they want a good life for themselves. I congratulate them for that. Another attribute is respect. I do not know any race of people which shows greater respect for the aged, for parents, grandparents,