

*Canadian Multiculturalism Act*

We cannot just sit back and say we have done this kind of thing in law and symbolically. We have to do real things to help multiculturalism. I will give you an example. I do not know what other cities are like, but in Vancouver, English as a second language is the language of the majority of kids in the public schools. That is a difficult situation. It is difficult for the educational system. It may mean that the federal Government, dare I say it, may have some role in additional funding for English as a second language.

**Ms. Mitchell:** It is done now.

**Mr. Waddell:** I know it is done now. I do not think the Government has much of a role right now because education is of course a provincial responsibility. However, we may have to look at it and say the federal Government has to help. If you are bringing in waves of new immigrants you have to help educate them in the English language. Parents want their kids educated in English or French in Québec so that they get into the mainstream of Canadian society. We have to take the measures necessary to help multicultural groups retain their own language as well. We have the Ukrainian dancing groups, theatre groups, culture groups, that we support. We take a different view from the Americans. We do not take the melting pot view, we take a broader view where you can maintain some of your multicultural heritage.

I will sit down now. The Hon. Member for Vancouver East provoked me to speak because she gave such a good speech. I just want to come back to that one point which I would like Canadians to think about. I know it is sometimes very difficult, and I hear it in my community offices, "Why are you bringing all these immigrants in? They are different than we are." You have to look at the advantages of immigration. I think one of the big advantages is, especially with Asian Canadians, that instead of sending the traditional businessman to China to try to get a contract, we can send a Chinese Canadian whose family is there. He might be able to speak the language, has taken courses and brushed up on Cantonese or Mandarin at the Chinese Cultural Centre in Vancouver. That is a forward-looking Canada and that is the way we should look at multiculturalism and immigration.

**Mr. Gordon Taylor (Bow River):** Madam Speaker, I would like to add my support to this Bill and congratulate the Minister on bringing it in. In my view a multicultural Bill has been long overdue in Canada.

I was raised in a cosmopolitan area, probably as cosmopolitan as any in Canada, namely the Drumheller Valley. During my lifetime that area has seen 21 or 25 coal mines, all of which have now disappeared. However, people came from practically every country of the world to work in those coal mines. The wonderful thing about the Drumheller Valley was that these people did not continue to call themselves Ukrainians or Hungarians or Britons, they called themselves Canadians. At the same time they retained their own language, their own customs. I want to pay tribute to those people today.

I want to deal with some specific people, the Ukrainians, for instance. Hundreds of them came to our coal mines. Hundreds of them came in their sheepskin coats and braved the blizzards, the chinook winds, and the droughts. They worked toward a better country. They tried to build a heritage.

• (1610)

Many people do not realize that the Ukrainian people were the first to work on the building of our railways across western Canada. They were later replaced by a large number of Chinese people. The Chinese people were certainly taken advantage of but they remained here. Many of them brought their relatives here and they have become excellent citizens.

Another large group in my area is the Italian community. As a matter of fact, the Italian community is probably the second largest in the Province of Alberta. The Italian group was notorious for bringing their language and customs with them. They still speak Italian in their homes today, but they speak English outside. They endeavour to keep the customs of their homeland.

Another large section is the German community. One of the first things I remember as a young boy during and just after World War I was the antagonism toward those of German descent. I remember my mother saying many times that none of us had any choice as to our nationality, colour, or creed; that it was the way we lived that really mattered. German people suffered a lot of persecution in Canada at that time, but they remained and are wonderful citizens. In my riding in Beiseker and Carbon there are some of the finest farmers in the world. They are doing their utmost to build a great Canada.

In addition to Ukrainian halls in the Drumheller Valley we had a Hungarian Hall. Many people came from Hungary and worked in our coal mines. Some of their descendants now hold high positions throughout Canada. A notable one is the head of the regional office of Parks Canada in Calgary. He came from a wonderful Hungarian family in the Drumheller Valley.

We have the Poles, the Americans, and the Dutch. The Dutch people have made a tremendous contribution too. They are not mentioned often. I attended the golden wedding celebration of a Dutch couple only a few weeks ago. They are symbolic of hundreds of others who have contributed to Canada.

The Spanish, Norwegian, Swedish and Danish groups have also made a wonderful contribution. A chap who originated from Sweden came up from the Dakotas into the Drumheller Valley. He was the first to drive oxen into Canada. There are histories of him throughout the Valley today.

I remember a young Japanese lad who lived in the old Midland Mine. His father was one of the finest citizens I have ever known. He loved Canada and loved our way of life. One of his boys served in the Armed Forces during the war.