

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. Golding): Shall section 27 carry? Carried.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: No, Mr. Chairman, I want an answer.

Mr. MARTIN: What answer does my hon. friend want? I told him I would put the question to the Department of Justice and when that legal opinion is prepared it will be given to the committee, but I am not the Minister of Justice.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: I agree with the hon. member for Lake Centre and the hon. member for Vancouver East, for a change, because to my way of thinking one does not need to be a lawyer to understand what this means. If you give a man all the rights of citizenship you cannot move him from one province to another or do anything at all with him; and why should you? I will go this far; why should you, even if he is a Jap or anybody else? If he is a Canadian citizen he is entitled to every right as a Canadian citizen as far as I am concerned. The hon. member for Vancouver East did not expect me to say that. I do not think there are any ifs, ands or buts about the matter. I am no lawyer; if I were I would rather hope to be a defeated candidate and be made a judge.

Mr. MacINNIS: That would be another poor judge.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: I just agreed with you, and I expected something a little kinder than that. I think the minister should give us something definite on this matter, or he should not bring in such a section. Why are we going to all the expense of taking the matter to the privy council? I never saw a lawyer work for nothing yet.

Mr. FULTON: What are we doing in this house?

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: We are just wasting our time talking about that, without knowing if this is to be the law. Will the minister definitely say that the Department of Justice, or whoever passes upon these things, has stated that these orders in council will stand?

Mr. MARTIN: I can only repeat what I have said already, that I am not the Minister of Justice. Last night the hon. member for Lake Centre asked if I would request the law officers of the crown to give an opinion, and I have done so. They will give their opinion to the Minister of Justice at the first opportunity, I presume, but I am not the minister of that department, and it would be wholly presumptuous on my part to give an

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

opinion. We have to rely upon the law officers of the crown, and their opinion will come in due course.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: Then will the minister hold over this section for the time being? I do not think he had any right to bring it in before obtaining an opinion from the Department of Justice. Will he hold this over until we know where we stand legally? Apparently the Minister of Justice has no knowledge whether or not it is legal, and I think the minister should have found that out before proceeding with the bill.

Mr. MARTIN: I cannot agree to hold over this section, because it has nothing to do with the matter referred to by the hon. gentleman. This section stands by itself, and this has been the law of the land for over thirty years. It is not introducing anything new, and has nothing to do with these deportation orders.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: The hon. member for Lake Centre says it has.

Mr. MARTIN: Surely the hon. gentleman will not always rely upon what the hon. member for Lake Centre says.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: I would rely on the legal advice of the hon. member for Lake Centre as against any legal advice you have in your department, when you bring in this sort of thing.

Mr. COLDWELL: Can we not get away for a few minutes from the matter which seems to be bothering a few of the hon. members from British Columbia? It seems to me we have before us a statute we are being asked to pass. I am entirely out of sympathy with the point of view that has been expressed. I believe anyone, of whatever colour, race or creed, who is a citizen of this country should be accorded all the rights of citizenship that every other citizen enjoys, and that there should be no discrimination whatsoever. We have had a long discussion about the Japanese in British Columbia. We have before us a bill by which we are trying to establish the rights of Canadian citizens, whether they are of this colour or that, of this religion or that, of this tongue or that. Why not consider it quite apart from the question of whether it will affect a particular group in a particular section of this country, and then, if necessary, let the courts decide that issue, as we do in connection with other legislation? I am no lawyer, but personally I hope this will give equal rights to all people in our country when we accept them as citizens in our midst. I say that because we are trying to practise what we preach. The other day I was delighted to