

Adjournment Debate

payment of fines for 1978. He became a citizen on June 17, 1981. It is very difficult to understand how residency could have been intended or met under these circumstances.

In a letter dated March 23, 1983, from Nevada State Senator Bill Hernstadt to the Florida Parole Commission, he stated that he objected to Mr. Jaffe's release on parole based on his previous experience with Mr. Sidney Jaffe in Nevada. He said:

In my opinion, he has an almost congenial compulsion to steal from customers, shareholders, friends and associates for his own selfish ends.

—Sidney L. Jaffe is a congenital thief and his white collar crimes can wipe out a family's savings just as completely as a hardcore criminal with a firearm. If you do release him he will return to Canada, sail his yacht at the Toronto Yacht Club, and laugh in the faces of his thousands of victims who are paying for his luxurious and glamorous lifestyle.

The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Mulroney), in speaking in his first speech in the House of Commons spoke of the value of Canadian citizenship or what the value of Canadian citizenship should be. He rose in the House in October, 1983, and gave a glowing maiden speech in which he talked about the quality of Canadian citizenship. He said "We have come through so much together—against overwhelming odds—that our citizenship has become a privileged symbol in our lives." He went on to attribute our respect for the rule of law and our respect for neighbour and property as a cornerstone of our valued citizenship. How sad it is to see this citizenship besmirched.

In the United States, circuit court Judge Perry said:

In Canada, Jaffe is hailed as a fellow of the Yacht Club, a patron of the ballet, in Canada he's hailed as Joe Nice Guy. But in the U.S., Sidney Jaffe is nothing but an economic predator. Mr. Jaffe is plain and simply a crook and he didn't get a damn thing he didn't ask for . . . He's guilty as hell.

I am quoting a judge of the United States court.

In the Canadian courts, just after Christmas, Judge Di Cecco said he was fed up with Mr. Jaffe's "skating" in the witness box and that it had become abundantly clear that there were gaping contradictions in Mr. Jaffe's testimony. He then went on to warn Mr. Jaffe's lawyer that Mr. Jaffe should be notified regarding his potential for perjury.

Mr. Jaffe's lawyer in the United States court said:

Jaffe (would) use his influence to stop the Canadian criminal prosecution of Putnam County public officials resulting from the kidnapping.

Mr. Jaffe claimed that his influence was with the Canadian ministry of External Affairs.

What does all of this add up to? To me it indicates that amendments to the Citizenship Act in 1975 were inadequate and inappropriate, injuring and cheapening the value of Canadian citizenship. The currency of Canadian citizenship has been debased to a level of Canadian passports known internationally amongst criminals and terrorists as flags of convenience to travel internationally and carry on with their scurrilous deeds. The Citizenship Act, its regulations and administration disgrace hardworking Canadians who worked for five and three years to qualify for something they felt had high value, Canadian citizenship. It is now debased. It is now no more than a flag of convenience.

● (1815)

Where was the investigative process of the Citizenship Court in this case? Where was the investigate process of the Justice Department in that in spite of the overwhelming volume of court and public documentation available the Minister of Justice proceeded with Mr. Jaffe's defence without apparent in depth knowledge of Mr. Jaffe's character and background as identified in the documents I have mentioned?

Will the Minister attempt to protect Canadian citizenship laws by prosecuting under the Citizenship Act with the same zeal that he has prosecuted for the protection of Canadian sovereignty? Or, in fact, is there something behind the allegations of influence? Will the Minister identify with whom and where in the Justice Department or the External Affairs Department does this alleged influence lie?

Mr. Jaffe is not the problem. It is the system and his manipulation of the system that exposes the system's inadequacy and therefore the inadequacy of the law and of the political and governmental system that administers and creates it. The Minister may wittingly or unwittingly be co-conspiring to make the law and Canadian justice not only appear to be but in fact to be an ass. Mr. Jaffe gained citizenship, a citizenship of convenience. At the same time we find that the reigning world champion bobsledder, a Canadian immigrant, comes to Canada, works to become an Olympic athlete, a champion for Canada, yet because he is competing for Canada for gold he cannot gain Canadian citizenship on the same basis. I conclude with the question, why is it that our Olympic athlete cannot gain citizenship on the same basis as Mr. Jaffe? Does he not have influence?

Mr. Al MacBain (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, on December 19, 1983, the Member from Fraser Valley West (Mr. Wenman) asked questions concerning the case of Sidney Jaffe, the man seized forcibly by bounty hunters in Toronto on September 23, 1981 and taken to Florida to face trial on charges under the Florida land sales practices statute.

The Metropolitan Toronto Police investigated the case and in late October, 1981 laid charges of kidnapping against two bounty hunters.

Mr. Wenman: That is not the question.

Mr. MacBain: Their extradition was subsequently requested by Canada and both were subsequently surrendered to Ontario law enforcement authorities. The kidnapping prosecution is being conducted by counsel on behalf of the Attorney General for Ontario.

The Member for Fraser Valley West, with specific reference to some letter dated December 22, 1981, from Jaffe's Florida lawyer to the Assistant Attorney General of Florida stating that Jaffe would use his influence to stop the Canadian criminal prosecution, asked about the nature and extent of Mr. Jaffe's alleged influence. He asked further to what extent officials of the Canadian Government have been protecting Mr. Jaffe from due process of United States laws.