

Mr. W. R. MARTIN: We think that that figure is bit low, but we have no way of knowing exactly what it is.

The CHAIRMAN: I have had the idea for some time that there is a certain amount of temerity in a lot of people. They hear by word of mouth that this examination that they have to go through in order to obtain their citizenship is a terrific thing. I am wondering why you do not reverse that procedure, and publish what I would call the examination paper, and send it to everybody who is eligible so that they may prepare themselves, and know exactly what it is you want them to do.

Mr. W. R. MARTIN: We are attempting to engage in a little more publicity by way of advertising in the ethnic press.

The CHAIRMAN: But, you know all the people who are applying on a particular day.

Mr. W. R. MARTIN: Yes, we know that.

Senator CROLL: What we are going to need in the very near future, judging from the very enlightened immigration procedures that have been announced by the minister, is some sort of program that will advise immigrants of the advantages of being a citizen. A citizen has more rights than a non-citizen. A person comes in with an application, and everything looks fine, but then he discovers this has held him back, and it is a year before it can be corrected. There is nothing you can do to correct that for a year. This is the applicant's own fault, but nevertheless he blames everybody but himself, and things change on the other side or on this side. The result is that you have a bit of a mess.

It seems to me that this would be a great opportunity for your department in its advertising to indicate the advantages of being a citizen, particularly to a person who has in mind bringing over members of his family. You may find that they will come forward more readily than they have in the past.

Senator MOLSON: May I ask the minister if it would not be an advantage if we had a greater knowledge of the one million-odd people of other nationalities who are in this country? I cannot help but contrast the situation here with the situation in the United States where they seem to keep a relatively close tab on people who are non-citizens. We do not seem to have any knowledge or, at the most, very little knowledge of these people.

Hon. Miss LAMARSH: It is my recollection from my professional days before coming into the House of Commons, that aliens in the United States have to register every year. They have to send in a card saying where they are. This country has never been one that relied on regimentation outside of wartime, even though this would apply to people who have not the rights of citizens. You would have to do something like that. I cannot think of any other way of keeping track of them. You would have to make the omission to register annually a criminal offence.

Senator BROOKS: Whether you become a citizen or not is entirely voluntary in Canada. It is thought that pressure should not be put upon people to become citizens.

Senator BAIRD: Are not these people given a registration card?

Hon. Miss LAMARSH: They get a little card which has "Landed Immigrant" stamped on it.

Mr. W. R. MARTIN: It is an immigration card.

Hon. Miss LAMARSH: The Immigration Department knows the address to which a person is going, but that does not say that he is going to stay there.

The CHAIRMAN: But you do issue a card saying "Landed Immigrant". Do you not keep a record?

Mr. W. R. MARTIN: The immigration people do.