

Supply—Citizenship and Immigration

tions close to the communist party, like the Ukrainian farmer-labour temple association—I think it is now called the workers benevolent association.

It seems to me ridiculous that we take this view. I am not thinking now of people who may be leaders in the communist party, because I am sure that the leaders of the communist party in Canada are all people who are citizens of or who were born in Canada. If a person were a member of the communist party 10 or 20 years ago, an ordinary person living in a city or town in Canada, and we turn him down for citizenship solely for that reason in 1964, it seems to me we only do so because we have very little faith in the basic strength of our democratic institutions. It seems to me ridiculous that this should continue. I urge the minister to give serious consideration to changing the standards or the principles which he uses in deciding this kind of thing.

I am not going to mention any names because they did not ask me to intercede for them. However I am thinking of two very prominent scientists, one in an eastern city and one in a western city. I am not going to be any more specific than that. They are eminent in their field and are doing very important scientific research which is very heavily subsidized by Canadian government agencies. They have been in Canada for much more than the required period of time and were landed immigrants, but up until this time have not had their applications for Canadian citizenship approved. Now, Mr. Chairman, I think that this is, to say the least, pretty shortsighted thinking on the part of the department. It seems to me that if we are going to live by those principles of democracy in which all of us in this house profess to believe, we ought to have confidence that our democratic way of life has the strength to stand up against a few who may be in this country who do not believe in it, but who believe in a different kind of society.

I noticed the hon. member for Regina City asked some questions about a professor from the Soviet union who is teaching this year in, I think, Regina college. The *Winnipeg Free Press*, with which I do not often agree, had a very good editorial in which they discussed this matter and in which they pointed out, I think rightly, that one professor who happens to be a communist from the Soviet union will surely not poison the minds or change the minds of many Canadian university students. I think the same thing applies with regard to citizenship, Mr. Chairman. I do not believe

[Mr. Orlikow.]

that if a few communists or ex-communists who are not citizens, who have been in Canada a long period of time, apply for citizenship which everybody undoubtedly gets unless he has committed a serious crime, they are going to hurt our democratic society. I would urge the minister to give serious consideration to rethinking and changing the policy which we have had in this country for many years.

Mr. Olson: I only want to take a couple of minutes of the committee's time to draw again to the attention of the minister a problem that has been discussed at length by the hon. member for Winnipeg North. I do not advocate that there should be such a change in security regulations, that is regulations respecting security in Canada, that we do in fact take action that we may regret later. I do believe there are some cases, and I have one in mind, in which there has been injustice done in rejecting the application for citizenship. I simply cannot find justification for the grounds which may have been used in rejecting the application for citizenship. I should like the minister to know I have written him again today a private letter giving the name and some of the conditions, as I see them, connected with this application. I also want him to know this application for citizenship has been approved for the fourth time by the district court, and I hope he gives it reconsideration and, perhaps, a favourable response.

One thing I fail to understand in rejecting this kind of application for citizenship is that if this particular individual were doing something against Canada's national interests, there are provisions in our laws whereby we could deal with him effectively whether he is a citizen or not. Some of these people have been in the country for 30, 35 and 40 years, and if through that period of time there has been no record of engaging in subversive acts and there is some question as to the validity of the substance of the allegations, this should be taken into consideration.

Mr. Churchill: Mr. Chairman, I did not intend to intervene in this debate, except I heard the hon. member for Winnipeg North make a statement to which I hope the minister will reply. I do not want to misquote the hon. member for Winnipeg North, but I understood him to say that no serious damage would result if a university professor, who was an avowed communist, poisoned the minds of a few students under his direction.