

they lived in another country would deprive them of their Canadian citizenship which they prize very highly. Will it be sufficient for them to come occasionally to Canada to keep their own citizenship, or will they have to live for a certain time in Canada to be considered any longer as Canadian citizens?

Hon. Miss LAMARSH: Senator, section 4, which you will find on page 2 of the English copy of the bill—I do not have the French copy with me—provides that the citizen, other than natural-born, will no longer lose his citizenship if he lives outside the country for more than 10 years.

Senator POULIOT: A short visit to Canada will be enough for them to keep their Canadian citizenship.

Hon. Miss LAMARSH: It does not matter whether he makes a short visit or not. He will not lose his citizenship because he is out of the country for more than 10 years.

Senator McDONALD: What about the natural-born Canadian citizen?

Hon. Miss LAMARSH: He cannot lose it if he is native born anyway. Up to now the situation has been that if he was naturalized and went abroad for more than 10 years, he could lose his citizenship, but now that is changed under this act.

Senator ISNOR: Does the same system follow throughout the whole of Canadian citizenship courts?

Hon. Miss LAMARSH: No, sir. In parts of the country the matter of citizenship is handled by county court judges. In special places we have citizenship judges, most of whom are appointed for a term, although some are appointed at pleasure.

We have increased the number of citizenship judges of late. We have 13, I understand.

Senator ISNOR: I wanted to put that on the record, because in Nova Scotia we have not experienced the situation mentioned by Senator Willis in his criticism of the judges. We think highly of our judges in Nova Scotia. I have in mind particularly Judge Allie Ahern, who was recently appointed. She has already gained a reputation for herself in her fine manner of handling cases, and she does give instructions to those who come before her seeking citizenship papers.

Hon. Miss LAMARSH: I agree with Senator Willis and with everyone else that the greatest single quality for a citizenship judge is compassion.

Senator ISNOR: Yes, that is why I want to take exception to the remarks, in so far as Nova Scotia is concerned, and particularly so far as Judge Ahern is concerned. She does an excellent job.

Hon. Miss LAMARSH: I rather think that Senator Willis' remarks were about non-citizenship judges; that is, about regular federal judges doing regular federal work.

Senator ISNOR: Perhaps he has in mind the Province of Ontario.

Hon. Miss LAMARSH: Some judges consider it an irritation and an abomination. They do not want to do it. Therefore, where possible, we are moving to put in people whose principal concern is the question of citizenship.

The CHAIRMAN: Senator Isnor, you have certainly succeeded in getting it out of Nova Scotia in any event.

Senator ISNOR: Thank you.

Hon. Miss LAMARSH: I am very pleased with Judge Ahern, for whose appointment I was responsible. If I may say so I think it augurs well for the appointment of more women in this particular field.

Senator SMITH (*Queens-Sherburne*): Mr. Chairman, may I ask why we do not have all citizenship courts similar to that court in Nova Scotia to which Senator Isnor referred? Perhaps Judge Ahern is an exceptional person, but I endorse what he said about her. She is a wonderful person who has performed her functions in a manner I