

Senator CROLL: Yesterday in the Joint Committee on Immigration I asked the question of the minister, who said he felt sure I would get the answer from you today. Well, he did not quite put it that way, but said that the Citizenship Branch probably would provide me with the information.

The CHAIRMAN: There is this though, I understand from Mr. Martin that there was an item when the census taking was last done under "Nationalities other than Canadian," and they have a figure for that which might be of some help.

Senator CROLL: Well, what would that figure be?

Mr. W. R. Martin, Registrar of Canadian Citizenship: In the census of 1961 the number of people in Canada who gave their nationality as other than Canadian was about 1.05 million.

Senator CROLL: Our population in 1961, as compared to now, was what?

Mr. W. R. MARTIN: The population now is—

Senator CROLL: Twenty million?

Mr. W. R. MARTIN: Yes, 20 million.

Senator CROLL: Is this compared to about 18 million in 1961?

Mr. W. R. MARTIN: Yes, about 18 million at that time.

Senator CROLL: So, it is two million as against that.

Mr. W. R. MARTIN: Yes, but since 1961, of course, many immigrants have come here, some of that number of 1.05 million have died or have left or have taken out citizenship, but many people who were asked that question probably did not know whether they were Canadians or not.

Senator CROLL: That is just my point. Madam Minister, what do you do to indicate to these people that becoming a citizen is a very easy process, and that they ought to be citizens; that it is to their advantage? Is there anything that you can do in that respect?

Hon. Miss LAMARSH: We give them encouragement and assistance. Many groups in the community, such as the I.O.D.E. and immigrants' aid groups, make a point of digging out immigrants who have not bothered to apply for citizenship, or who do not know how to apply. It has been my experience, as I am sure it has been yours, that many people who gravitate to communities of their own ethnic background learn very quickly how to take out citizenship from the others who have done it.

There is also a publicity campaign, of course. There was a new one started just this past year. These are advertisements in the ethnic press which urge people to come forward and obtain their citizenship. Mr. Martin might explain the line that was followed in this new advertising. It took a sort of "carrot on a stick" approach, and pointed out to people that certain benefits accrue only to citizens, and also some of the disadvantages of not being a citizen.

Senator BROOKS: Citizenship is not new to Canada. Having regard to the background of people who have come to Canada in previous years, I wonder if you could tell us just what percentage of them wish to retain their citizenship in the country from which they came, and do not wish to become Canadian citizens. Would those people amount to 5 per cent or 10 per cent?

The CHAIRMAN: The figure from the 1961 census indicated there were over a million persons of a nationality other than Canadian. I think you could probably take that as being the figure today. You might assume that some of these people have died since and other people have left, but their number will be balanced off by the people who have come in since. I would think that that figure would persist today, and it would be of the order of 20 per cent.