

*Supply—Citizenship and Immigration*

been turned down because at the age of 18, some 15 years earlier, he had belonged briefly to a fraternal organization which has been classified as being sympathetic to the communist party. I am not going to discuss now the question of whether it was properly classified.

I made representations to the minister about the case. I submitted to the minister letters from people who had known the young man in recent years in which they made it very clear that for a number of years he had not had any sympathy with communist ideas. The former minister considered the matter. It was still being considered when the present minister took office. I am happy to thank the former minister and the present minister for the fact that this young man was granted Canadian citizenship. But, Mr. Chairman, surely it is not important whether a particular member of parliament, no matter to what party he belongs or where he may sit in the house, who has a problem brought to his attention, gets a favourable decision from this minister or any other minister.

**Mr. Winch:** I will give you all my cases from now on.

**Mr. Orlikow:** I am quite happy to have the hon. member for Vancouver East look after his own cases. It seems to me that the right to citizenship is a very important right and that there are principles involved which we need to look at very carefully in the light of present conditions. I am not certain that the government would accept the fairly radical proposal made by the hon. member for Greenwood a few minutes ago, that a person should be presumed to be innocent until the people who accuse him can produce evidence that he is guilty. I know this is a cardinal principle of British justice, but it is one which it seems to me we ignore more and more as the years go by. But it does seem to me that a number of very simple principles should be embodied in our citizenship law and regulations, and applied in the administration thereof.

It seems to me that a person who applies for citizenship and is turned down should, as a most elementary form of justice, be given the reasons why his application has been turned down. I know that sometimes security matters are involved, and I am not saying that I agree with some people who have said that not only should the person be given the reasons why he has been turned down but he should have the right to be confronted by

his accuser. I think members of the house will know that I have some slight reservations about the work of the R.C.M.P. in certain fields, but obviously if they or any other security agency have secret sources of information it would be ridiculous to expect them to come forward and confront the person who is having difficulty.

But I see no reason, Mr. Chairman, why a person who is being turned down for citizenship ought not to have the right to be given a general reason, because there have been cases in which mistakes were made. There have been cases of mistaken identity and cases where important changes in a person's thinking, for example, have taken place. Unless a person knows the reason he is being turned down, he cannot correct the misinformation upon which the department or the minister may be basing a decision.

In addition to that, Mr. Chairman, it seems to me that there ought to be an appeal procedure. This appeal ought to be to people who are not employees of the department, people who are separate from the department, and possibly people who have legal training. These people could look at the particular question in an impartial manner. I think it is only natural when a case goes step by step through a department for the departmental officials to lean rather heavily in favour of people who are working in the same department. It seems to me that there must be an independent tribunal established to hear cases, to get all the information and make a decision on that basis.

I should like to discuss one other point which I raised last year and which I know has been raised by other members. I do this despite the fact the people about whom I am going to talk have not come to me. I represent a constituency which, for many years, has had a large percentage of people who voted communist. It is a constituency in which a high percentage of people have come from eastern countries. They do not come to me very often with their problems because most of my political life, Mr. Chairman, I have been fighting communists. I do so now and I am sure that I will continue to do so in the future. I know that many of them in Winnipeg, in Toronto, in Port Arthur and other cities, having been here for more than 20 or 30 years, have applied for citizenship repeatedly and have been turned down. This simply results from the fact that they are, or even worse, Mr. Chairman, that they were at some point 10 or 15 years ago, members of the communist party or members of organiza-