

I suggest to the Secretary of State that when this bill becomes the law of the land and we confer on these people the rights and privileges, the duties and responsibilities of citizens, we and those succeeding us as a government must also consider that there is a duty, a responsibility upon us to see that those rights and privileges are not violated. I say that with all the power at my command.

I have throughout these years constantly endeavoured to impress upon the people I meet the fact that we all have our duties and responsibilities, and I have placed greater emphasis on the duties and responsibilities than on the rights and privileges. I appeal for assistance to get this message across, assistance to have it recognized that as a government we also have duties and responsibilities.

Mr. STEWART (Winnipeg North): May I ask the Secretary of State why, in line 9, a change has been made from the previous legislation, the word "political" having been left out? Previously the section read: "A Canadian citizen other than a natural-born Canadian citizen shall, subject to the provisions of this act, be entitled to all political rights, powers and privileges."

Mr. MARTIN: The reason is that it was misleading. Many people who were naturalized thought that because the word was there it gave them the right to vote at once in any province, municipality, and so on, and the department was flooded with letters, on occasions of provincial elections, from people wanting to know why they had not the right to vote. They had become naturalized citizens, and they could vote provincially when they had acquired the right by having complied with the requirements of the provincial act. There was objection also that the word "political" tended to be used, not by anyone in this house but by some people, as a sort of stick over the heads of prospective citizens of Canada. Individuals hear that someone is going to apply for naturalization and they go to him and say: "If you do not, you are going to be deported," and so on. We have given consideration to the matter and believe it would be more desirable and less misleading to leave the term out.

Mr. COLDWELL: Is not the proper word "all"? Delete the words "political rights" and so on and say "all".

Mr. MARTIN: All rights.

Mr. COLDWELL: I think that would be wider.

Mr. MARTIN: But political rights do not include all rights. All this section says is that

[Mr. Burton.]

once a person becomes naturalized in this country he has all the rights of a natural born citizen. That is strong and in a proper sense less misleading.

With reference to the remarks of the hon. member for Humboldt, I thank him in the name of the government for what he said about the measure. It is desirable that a measure of this kind should have wide support in the country and in the house. This bill has received the kind of support from all parties which will ensure its being a useful instrument in our national life. I fully concur in what he said about naturalized Canadians and I expressed that concurrence in the statements I made on first and second readings and in my reply on second reading. I have pointed out that the people who come to this country from other lands, regardless of their ethnical origin, must be received by us as equals once they are taken into the Canadian family. They are part of this community, helping to build it up, and they must be treated as such. At the same time we must call to their attention the fact that there are obligations which all of us, naturalized and natural born, must assume. There are also privileges and rights which are sacred and powerful, and which we want these people to enjoy. Therefore I fully concur in what the hon. gentleman has said, and I join with him again in paying a tribute to the people of his constituency and the constituencies of all hon. members. Certainly in my own constituency I have many excellent people who have come from other lands, Europe and elsewhere; who have merged themselves into Canadian life, and whose sons and daughters are a great credit to the country. I always think of a certain young girl as a good example. Before I became Secretary of State, and when I first became a member of parliament, I took from my own community as my secretary a young Polish girl who now has an important position with UNRRA. She was not born in this country, but she went to the schools in Windsor. Her father and mother had been born in Poland. She won prizes at the high school. She lived in this vicinity for eight years and many here knew her. She was an outstanding person. She is simply one of many such people throughout this country who are a great credit to Canada, and everything that we can do to see that the status they have acquired is recognized by all groups will be done by this government in the administration of this act.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: This section makes a profound declaration. It declares that—

A Canadian citizen other than a natural-born Canadian citizen shall, subject to the provisions of this act, be entitled to all rights, powers and