

*Nationality of Married Women***CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION****MOTION TO APPROVE CONVENTION ON NATIONALITY OF MARRIED WOMEN**

Hon. Ellen L. Fairclough (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration) moved:

That it is expedient that the Houses of Parliament approve the convention on the nationality of married women done at New York on February 20, 1957, and that this house do approve the same.

She said: Mr. Speaker, I need not say more than a few words in support of this resolution. As hon. members will appreciate immediately, the convention on the nationality of married women is an especially forthright, commendable and timely document that should win the spontaneous approval of the progressive countries of the world. The convention contains only three substantive articles which are, however, of considerable significance in their recognition of the autonomy of married women with regard to citizenship. I think, Mr. Speaker, I might read them into the record:

Article 1

Each contracting state agrees that neither the celebration nor the dissolution of a marriage between one of its nationals and an alien, nor the change of nationality by the husband during marriage, shall automatically affect the nationality of the wife.

Article 2

Each contracting state agrees that neither the voluntary acquisition of the nationality of another state nor the renunciation of its nationality by one of its nationals shall prevent the retention of its nationality by the wife of such national.

Article 3

1. Each contracting state agrees that the alien wife of one of its nationals may, at her request, acquire the nationality of her husband through specially privileged naturalization procedures; the grant of such nationality may be subject to such limitations as may be imposed in the interests of national security or public policy.

2. Each contracting state agrees that the present convention shall not be construed as affecting any legislation or judicial practice by which the alien wife of one of its nationals may, at her request, acquire her husband's nationality as a matter of right.

As will be apparent, the general purpose of the convention is to ensure that the nationality of a married woman will not be affected automatically by her marriage to a national of another country, by the dissolution of such a marriage or by a change in the nationality of her husband. If she wishes to retain her nationality she will be free to do so. On the other hand, if she chooses to acquire the nationality of her husband the naturalization procedures will be eased in her favour. Yet the contracting states are free to determine how this easing of procedures is to be done, within the limits of national security and public policy.

Mr. Howard: I do not imagine you would either, but the question could be dealt with through the process used in establishing arbitration boards in settling disputes, in expropriation questions and things of that nature. If that is the process to be used, it provides a solution.

Schedule agreed to.

Appendix agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill reported, read the third time and passed.

INDIAN AFFAIRS**LEGISLATION TO CONFIRM CANADA-NOVA SCOTIA AGREEMENT RESPECTING RESERVES**

Hon. Ellen L. Fairclough (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration) moved the second reading of Bill No. S-25, to confirm an agreement between the government of Canada and the government of the province of Nova Scotia respecting Indian reserves.

She said: His Excellency the Governor General, having been made acquainted with the purpose of this bill, has given his consent as far as Her Majesty's property rights are affected that the house may do therein at it thinks fit. I could make similar remarks on this bill to those I made on the bill which has just been adopted by the house. The situation is exactly the same. If hon. members agree, I think I might just ask if there are any comments.

Mr. G. R. McWilliam (Northumberland-Miramichi): The minister has just said that this bill is similar to Bill No. S-6 which just passed second and third reading, and that she did not think it was necessary to make any statement on the bill. I quite agree with that sentence. For the same reason I feel that there is not much more that can be added by me on this bill in addition to what I said on Bill No. S-6. However, I wish to say that the official opposition supports the passage of this bill. I note that once again the same phraseology is used with regard to the settling of outstanding problems. However, as the minister said previously—and as I agree—this is not a very serious thing, and we have no objection.

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, this affords me the opportunity to make probably the shortest speech I have made yet. We support this bill.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time, considered in committee, reported, read the third time and passed.