

## THE SENATE

### THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON BANKING AND COMMERCE

#### EVIDENCE

OTTAWA, Thursday, April 20, 1967.

The Standing Committee on Banking and Commerce, to which was referred Bill S-59, to amend the Canadian Citizenship Act, met this day at 9.30 a.m. to give consideration to the bill.

Senator Salter A. HAYDEN in the Chair.

The CHAIRMAN: Honourable senators, we have before us for consideration this morning Bill S-59. May I have the usual motion for the reporting and printing of the proceedings?

The committee agreed that a verbatim report be made of the committee's proceedings on the bill.

The committee agreed to report recommending authority be granted for the printing of 800 copies in English and 300 copies in French of the committee's proceedings on the bill.

The CHAIRMAN: Honourable senators, we have the minister with us, and I expect she will make a short statement.

**The Honourable Miss Judy LaMarsh, Secretary of State:** No, I have no general statement to make, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: Then maybe we can do a little general questioning of you. With the minister are appearing: Mr. G. G. E. Steele, Under Secretary of State; Mr. W. R. Martin, Registrar of Canadian Citizenship; and Mr. O. A. Martin, who is the Assistant Head, Examination Division.

Senator CROLL: May I ask the minister a question?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes.

Senator CROLL: What is the incidence of people who do not take out Canadian citizenship papers who might be eligible on the basis of the five-year period?

Hon. Miss LAMARSH: Senator, we cannot answer that exactly. I was asking that very question just before we started, and I am told that in 1961 the census indicated it was more than one million people; but even that does not indicate how many of those might not yet have been eligible to apply for citizenship; and, of course, of that number many will have left and many new ones come in. We have no figures which indicate how many people have become landed immigrants and are continuously here until such time as they apply.

Senator CROLL: It seems to me there must be some department where a record of the number of people who have been here more than five years is kept, assuming they are eligible and are qualified for citizenship.

Hon. Miss LAMARSH: I recall the immigration officials giving evidence in the other place where the question of the brain drain came up, and they said they keep no figures of those leaving the country. So, unless we have some system of national card carrying or checking in, there is no way of telling in the population from time to time how many are qualified for citizenship or how many have not yet qualified.