

*Supply—Citizenship and Immigration*

directly to citizenship. I might as well ask them on vote 1.

I happen to be a personal friend of Roy Thomson, best known today as Lord Thomson of Fleet. He is a natural born Canadian having been born in the city of Toronto. I should like to ask the minister how a natural born Canadian loses his Canadian citizenship when the Queen of Canada sees fit to confer a peerage on him. Do we write him a letter telling him he is *persona non grata* with the Canadian government? Do we ignore him? Or do we refuse to send him \$75 a month after he is 70 years of age? How is a native born Canadian deprived of his citizenship? I have one or two other questions on the same lines. Shall I ask the other questions now?

**Mr. Marchand:** I will take all the questions and answer them together later.

**Mr. Cowan:** Here is another question for you. The king of a European country of great note in world affairs a little while ago conferred the Order of the Phoenix on a well known native born Canadian, Premier Jean Lesage of the province of Quebec. Will Mr. Lesage be deprived of his Canadian citizenship?

Here is the third question. A very close friend of mine who is a naturalized Canadian has been offered a senior decoration by a foreign government and hesitates to accept it because he does not wish to lose his Canadian citizenship. When we deprive a native born Canadian like my friend Roy Thomson of his citizenship because he accepts a peerage from the Queen of Canada, what hope is there of a naturalized Canadian retaining his citizenship if he accepts a foreign decoration from the head of another government? My friend is fearful on this score because he recognizes he is a naturalized Canadian whereas Roy Thomson and Premier Jean Lesage are native born. Which example would we follow, the one set in the case of Roy Thomson or the one set in the case of Jean Lesage, if my friend accepts a foreign decoration this spring?

**Mr. Winkler:** Mr. Chairman, my intervention will be very brief. I should like to call the minister's attention to an article which appeared in the *Toronto Telegram* on December 30, 1965 having to do with a doctor, originally from Hungary and latterly from Austria who became a Canadian citizen on

the basis of his residence here from 1949 to 1959. Because he had been unable to earn his livelihood in Canada he then went back to Austria where he was gainfully employed. I will read part of this article:

A short time ago he applied for a new passport at the Canadian Embassy. He got the passport. But he was told he would lose his citizenship if he didn't return to Canada within 10 years.

Officials here explained that under the Citizenship Act naturalized Canadians had to give up their citizenship if out of the country for more than 10 consecutive years.

The article goes on to quote an authority within the department as saying:

Certainly it is true that in this regard naturalized Canadians don't have the same rights as people born here.

My contention is that we are making second class citizens of people who have come here and been accepted by the Canadian government. The doctor to whom I have referred, Dr. Devladar, is reported as saying:

I am proud of my Canadian citizenship and I don't want to lose it.

Canada is a free country, and very democratic. I can't understand why it is that Ottawa authorities are still clinging to these discriminatory, obsolete regulations.

According to this article the doctor stated that neither the United States nor Australia adheres to similar regulations. The article concludes:

The government apparently has had its own misgivings about the second class status accorded naturalized Canadians.

In Throne Speeches in 1963 and 1964 it promised to introduce legislation giving full equality and rights to all Canadian citizens wherever they were born.

I bring this matter up now because the minister might care to clarify the situation when preparing the white paper or be prepared to give it consideration now during the passage of these estimates. I have had a number of letters from constituents on this point. A number of good and honest citizens who have been granted citizenship through naturalization regard this as an important matter. I have one letter before me now which is relevant to this issue. It illustrates the significance of this matter to good and honest citizens who are making a valuable contribution to this country. My constituent says:

I read tonight with regret in a Toronto newspaper that the government of Canada regards me as a second class citizen. This is because I was born in another country. When I came to Canada in 1928 I came at the direct invitation of a country which was at that time looking for new citizens.