

*Supply—Citizenship and Immigration*

wrong in being so ready to agree to something because it seemed the agreeable thing to do.

When I initially posed my question I did not indicate, or at least I did not intend to indicate, that the delays in transmitting certificates of citizenship to people of Chinese origin were based on an attitude of racial discrimination. What I said was that in the past there has been racial discrimination as the announced policy of the hon. gentleman's party, especially in 1935. Governments in the past have had an attitude toward people from Asia which is based purely on racial discrimination. Because this has existed in the past and was publicly announced as the declared policy of my hon. friend's party, albeit some 30 years ago, this is why Chinese people have the difficulties they have today in immigration matters and also in the granting of certificates of citizenship.

However, I do not imply that there does exist today an attitude of racial discrimination, and that this is why the certificates were being delayed in their transmission. It is merely the result of racial discrimination as the announced policy of my hon. friend's party some years ago, and also the result of the continued discrimination which exists in the citizenship regulations which the hon. member for Greenwood and others in this party have pointed out a number of times in the past.

**Mr. Winch:** May I say how pleased I am to hear the minister state a few moments ago that he hopes that marked improvements are going to be made in all phases of the granting of citizenship certificates. I sincerely hope that these marked improvements will be speedily brought into effect and that the first ones to be dealt with will be the cases he has been holding up which I have brought to his attention over the months.

**Mr. Barnett:** Mr. Chairman, like the hon. member for Vancouver East I was very interested in the announcement of the minister that some changes are going to be made with respect to the approach toward citizenship applications. I would pose to him what might be described as a theoretical or hypothetical question.

**Mr. Howard:** You will get a hypothetical answer.

**Mr. Barnett:** Let me tell the minister that I will refer him to an actual situation regarding a citizenship application with which I had the unhappy experience of dealing a number of years ago when one of his

predecessors was in office. I should like to ask the minister, if this case were brought before him today, what would be his attitude toward it.

This case is one where a woman had applied for Canadian citizenship. She had come to Canada as a young woman with one child from a part of the world which now is known as Yugoslavia. Her husband had preceded her here and after he had become established to the point where he was able to do so, he brought over his wife with their first child who had been born after he had come to Canada. The rest of their family were all born in Canada. The husband had applied for and had been granted Canadian citizenship. Under the mistaken assumption that when he became a Canadian citizen she also became a Canadian citizen she had never made any formal application for citizenship. All her children are Canadians. The point in time was reached when she had grandchildren who are Canadians. Yet when she discovered that actually she was not officially a Canadian she made application, and her application was rejected, not once but two or three times. In each case she had to wait for a two year interval to elapse before reapplying.

I should like the minister to tell us whether the change in attitude which he has indicated will take place will be such that this woman, the only member of the whole family not a Canadian and who has spent two thirds of her life in Canada, will have no difficulty in getting her citizenship certificate.

**Mr. Tremblay:** I will be very glad to take a decision in this case on Monday, Mr. Chairman.

Item agreed to.

## Indian Affairs—

15. Administration, operation and maintenance including expenditures on works on other than federal property, grants and contributions as detailed in the estimates, recoverable expenditures under agreements entered into with the approval of the governor in council with the governments of the provinces and territories and with local school boards in respect of social assistance to persons residing on Indian reserves other than Indians and the education in Indian schools of children other than Indian children, and to authorize the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration to provide, in respect of Indian commercial activities, for the instruction and supervision of Indians, the furnishing of materials, the purchase of finished goods and notwithstanding any other act, the sale of such finished goods, \$47,742,400.

**Mr. Howard:** Mr. Chairman, I think we should call it six o'clock. This is a most im-