

Mr. McMASTER: I do not think we should entirely do away with this question of racial origin, though I cannot see far enough ahead definitely to say so. I am of Scotch descent and I am proud of it, but I cannot think of any race whose people need be ashamed of their origin. They can all be proud of it; and I do not believe any member of any race who is not proud of that race will ever make a good Canadian.

Mr. FULTON: Carrying on from where the hon. member for High Park left off, I agree with him one hundred per cent; but what we are trying to do here is to make every Canadian proud of his Canadian citizenship. I think perhaps the trouble is that hon. members are not fully aware of what the hon. member for Lake Centre had in mind when he brought up this question of racial origin. If in the returns that we are required to make we perpetuate the racial origin, as that term is now understood, then we are making it impossible to be proud of being Canadian citizens and of being Canadians. I have here a page from the instructions to the census takers, issued at the time of the last census. The hon. member for Montmagny-L'Islet brought to the attention of the house the fact that when he went into the United States the other day they asked his racial origin. He replied "white", and that was accepted. If that were all that was implied in connection with racial origin I should say it would be satisfactory. But the heading on page 44 of these instructions to census takers is, "Column 25—racial origin." If you look at the census form, column 25 is subjoined to column 24. Column 24 is headed "Nationality or citizenship", and column 25 is headed "Racial origin". Then on page 44 the instructions go on to say:

(1) What is racial origin? The word "race" signifies "descendants of a common ancestor."

(a) It is imperative to understand that a person's racial origin and nationality very often are different, for instance, the Canadian nationality comprises many different racial origins, e.g., English, French, Irish, Scottish, Welsh, Italian, German, et cetera.

That is what the hon. member for Lake Centre is talking about when he speaks about racial origin and the desirability of doing away with that in our census regulations.

(b) The name of a country from which a person came to Canada gives no indication of that person's racial origin, e.g., a person may have come to Canada from Austria, but may be Polish or German or Italian, et cetera . . .

(c) The word "Canadian" does not denote a racial origin, but a nationality; the same applies to the word "American."

Then I see this in paragraph 2:

(2) What determines racial origin? As a general rule a person's racial origin is to be

traced through his father, e.g., if a person's father is English and his mother French the racial origin shall be entered as English, while a person whose father is French and whose mother is English shall be entered as French, and similarly for other combinations.

Racial origin, as so far understood in our departmental instructions, is taken to mean the country of origin of a person's father. We do not want that perpetuated. From now on a person is a Canadian, and if his father was a Canadian his racial origin is Canadian. If the hon. member for Eglinton is agreeable I do not think the matter should be left over. It should be settled now. If the minister will consider the point of view to which I have just referred, I believe he will agree that it is not sufficient to say that departmental instructions will be altered. We would like to see the alterations written into the act itself, and to help him do away with the distinction as to race in our new Canadian citizenship.

Mr. LESAGE: One very easy way would be to correct the census regulations so that they will give the true definition of racial origin, in contrast with the country of origin of ancestors. There is a difference between the country of origin of ancestors, and racial origin. That should be in the census regulations, and not in Canadian citizenship law.

Mr. FULTON: Why?

Mr. LESAGE: That is the law dealing with nationality. It does not deal with racial origin, or with racial origin of forefathers. We are now talking about citizenship, and if there is a question on the census form dealing with racial origin, and if such definition of racial origin is not correct, it should be changed there. We have no business to change it in a law dealing with citizenship.

Mr. FULTON: That is what we are trying to do.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: I do not think the hon. member for Montmagny-L'Islet has read the section, because section 3 says:

Where, under any act of the parliament of Canada—

Mr. LESAGE: No.

Mr. MARTIN: The words from "under" to "such act" have been deleted.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: Regardless of the omission, there is no difference in the import. It says that where under an order or a regulation made—

Mr. LESAGE: No, no.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: This is what it says:

Where a person is required to state or declare his national status—