

There is no provision in this section for a man renouncing his Canadian citizenship; he cannot renounce his Canadian citizenship. There are cases where a person in Canada may wish to renounce his citizenship and certainly should be allowed to do so, but there is no provision for that.

I repeat again that a Canadian-born person who serves in the armed forces of any other nation should lose his citizenship by so doing. Let us not be carried away and be too free in giving our right of citizenship. We must be careful to draw the line somewhere. People who serve in the armed forces of another country are not entitled to retain their Canadian citizenship. I would ask the minister to let this section stand.

Mr. MARTIN: I suggest that we let section 17 stand, that is the section which concerns dual nationality; and let section 16 pass.

Mr. GREEN: Section 16 also concerns dual nationality.

Mr. MARTIN: No.

Mr. GREEN: Oh yes, it does, and it concerns this question of serving in the armed forces of another nation.

Mr. MARTIN: Section 17 is the one, if my hon. friend will look at it carefully.

Mr. REID: I think section 17 covers that.

Mr. MARTIN: I have no doubt of that, and I am willing to let section 17 stand if we can pass section 16.

Mr. GREEN: Section 17 applies only to a minor.

Mr. MARTIN: Section 17 applies to a man of the full age of twenty-one years.

Mr. GREEN: Section 17 applies only to a person who during his minority becomes a citizen of another country, and section 16 applies to a person who has attained his majority and goes abroad.

Mr. MARTIN: If he acquires another nationality after his majority he loses his Canadian citizenship under section 16. Section 17 is the one.

Mr. GREEN: No; section 17 applies only where he gets dual nationality as a minor.

Mr. MARTIN: A person under this bill cannot get dual nationality until after attaining his majority. You have to elect under this bill.

Mr. GREEN: I suggest that the two sections are tied up together and that both should be allowed to stand for further consideration.

Mr. MARTIN: I am prepared to let section 17 stand, but I do not think section 16 applies to the problem.

Mr. GREEN: The minister should not try to force through section 16 without giving further consideration to the suggestions that have been made.

Mr. MARTIN: I have given very full consideration to section 16. I am prepared to let section 17 stand. I am satisfied beyond any doubt that section 17 applies and I am prepared to give further consideration to it. I shall have to consider what should be done in the case of persons who serve in the armed forces of another country when Canada is at war. I do not think section 17 covers the point my hon. friend has in mind. If we let section 17 stand, before I undertake to say what I shall do about it, I would want to say something after we pass section 16.

Mr. GREEN: One question that arises under section 16 is the right of a person in Canada to renounce his citizenship. There is no provision in this bill for the renouncing of citizenship, and there should be.

Mr. MARTIN: That is dealt with in section 16.

Mr. GREEN: That only concerns a person outside of Canada.

Mr. MARTIN: The persons the hon. member is talking about are outside of Canada.

Mr. GREEN: There should be a provision whereby a person within Canada can renounce his citizenship.

Mr. MARTIN: I cannot agree to that.

Mr. GREEN: There is a provision of that kind in the United States.

Mr. MARTIN: That does not make it right. I know that the United States has such a provision, but you will not find that provision in any country in the British commonwealth. The United States have had considerable difficulty with this whole question of men serving in the armed forces of another country. As I told the house the other night we have had discussions with United States officials and authorities on this very subject both here in Ottawa and elsewhere, discussions in which I along with some of my officials participated. As a member of the government I naturally hesitate to say certain things in public, but I will go this far and say that the United States have had very considerable difficulty with this provision. For instance,