

Mr. POULIOT: I agree to a certain extent with the principle which the minister has just enunciated, but the same principle should apply to all those who are described as ordinarily resident in Canada. Although it is not so provided in specific terms, the mobilization act is not applied to those young men, refugees and others, who are British citizens but are not domiciled in Canada; in other words, they are here only for the duration of the war. I do not see why those people should have the right to vote if they are not themselves to be subject to conscription. It is the rule with all military boards not to put these British subjects into the Canadian army by virtue of the mobilization act. Therefore, how could they have the right to vote to send others overseas by virtue of any conscription law? That would be most unfair. I have already spoken on this subject on other occasions, and I now bring it to the attention of the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State who, I hope, will reach the same decision with regard to these refugees or British citizens temporarily resident in Canada as they do with respect to Mennonites, Doukhobors and conscientious objectors. I hope that the section will be made to apply to them so that they will have the right to vote only if they are to be available to the army. I should like to have an answer from the minister.

Mr. McLARTY: I did not quite catch the remarks of the hon. member for Témiscouata. I am afraid that it would be extremely difficult for me to amplify what I have already said on this particular section. It is not that I wish in any way to evade an answer, but I find that it is a little difficult for me to give one.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: In his explanation of the rights of conscientious objectors, Doukhobors and Mennonites the minister made the statement that while they are not required to give military service they are required to give a like amount of service of a non-military character. I would point out that that is not my interpretation of the regulations, as I read the regulations, those who are conscientious objectors, Mennonites and Doukhobors enjoy a higher right of citizenship than do any other British subjects in Canada in that when they are called up under the mobilization act they are required to serve, building roads and the like, for a period of not more than four months and then they are through, although all others who are called up to serve in the military forces have to serve for the duration of the war. As a matter of fact, that very circumstance is causing a great deal of difficulty

throughout western Canada in that conscientious objectors, by serving for a few months in a camp or in one of the national parks, have finished their service to the state for the duration of the war, whereas the man who is not a conscientious objector must serve as long as the war lasts.

Mr. POULIOT: I should just like to make this clear. The mobilization act, of course, applies to all British subjects in this country except those who are not ordinarily resident in Canada, which means that those who are domiciled here are subject to conscription and those who are here but not domiciled in Canada are not subject to conscription. That is the real distinction that exists, although the language of the statute itself is rather vague. My point cannot be evaded. It is just as clear as crystal or spring water. It is that when these young blokes of military age come here to get away from their own country or from any theatre of war and be secure in Canada, I do not see why they should have the right to vote to send others to fight overseas in their stead. That is my point.

Mr. MacNICOL: Mr. Chairman—

Mr. POULIOT: I would ask my hon. friend the member for Davenport to sit down and wait until I am through.

Mr. MacNICOL: I was going to ask, Mr. Chairman, if "blokes" is a proper appellation to apply to people coming here from England to train for service.

Mr. POULIOT: I am fond of cockneys but I do not like blokes. I have no objection to giving shelter to any man who needs it, but on the other hand I do not want our Canadian citizens to be controlled by those who are afraid to defend their own country, and who come here for shelter and are given the privilege of citizenship, when they are not at the same time willing to assume the obligations and duties of British subjects. That is my point. To allow them to vote would be unfair, and I know I can rely on my leader the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State to take time to weigh this consideration. You cannot have a two-way policy, a policy of good citizenship for the men who are willing to fight for England, and another policy for those who do not want to fight for their country and come here for shelter. It is time that this should come to a stop, and I rely on the fairness of the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State, and their colleagues to settle the matter in justice to the parties concerned.