

United States, then the various coloured races may so describe themselves, the Japanese and Chinese being required to describe themselves accordingly. But if under the guise of leading the people of this country to believe that a new Canadian nationality is to be established we continue by the back door to accentuate racial origin, then the act will be meaningless.

Mr. MARTIN: The hon. gentleman has just come back from his holiday, as we all have, and I want him to know that the very pleasant relations which have always prevailed between us continue, in spite of the recess. If I appeared to give another impression, certainly that was not my intention. One of the most encouraging things to me about this bill has been that right from the outset the hon. gentleman, with whom I took the liberty of talking about this matter, spoke of it in such high terms and gave me such support that I would not want that situation to be changed; and I assure him that is exactly the spirit in which I am continuing. Last night I had thought that I displayed very good humour, and I am sorry if that was not so. I want to say to the hon. gentleman that I share with him to the full the desirability of avoiding this business of origins, as he has indicated. Not only have I discussed this matter with the bureau of statistics and the minister under whose jurisdiction that comes; the new census, or for that matter any census, before it is carried out, must be approved by the executive arm of government, so I can tell the hon. gentleman that hereafter the sort of thing he complains about regarding national status, and I think very properly, will not happen.

Mr. STEWART (Winnipeg North): Does that apply to the quinquennial census to be taken this year in the west?

Mr. MARTIN: It applies to every census after the passage of this bill in so far as national status is concerned.

Mr. STEWART (Winnipeg North): There will be one starting in June.

Mr. MARTIN: Yes.

Mr. FLEMING: As the discussion on this section has proceeded I am bound to say it has given me a certain measure of disquiet. I had assumed that this section had been carefully considered in relation to the problem we are now discussing; that is, the relationship of citizenship to racial origin. I entirely agree with what has been said as to the desirability of eliminating, as far as possible, considerations of racial origin, where these have been inimical to the development of a

sense of national unity. I appreciate the suggestion of the Secretary of State that when it comes to inserting such words as "or racial origin" it may be a little difficult to say how far such an amendment might extend, but I had hoped consideration would have been given to that already. We have been told that very careful thought has been devoted to the draftsmanship and the principles of this bill. Census has been discussed. Census is an important question in relation to the matter we are now discussing, but I am not at all sure that it is the whole question. Other situations affecting racial origin could properly be dealt with on the basis of giving an answer in terms of citizenship.

I take it the purpose of this bill is to direct the thought of the people to Canadian citizenship rather than to matters of racial origin. Canadian citizenship is something we are all to have in common, something that will be a binding force in Canada, because it puts us all on a common footing and surely that is what we want. If we do not do it in this bill, I do not know where we are going to do it in relation to carrying that matter of citizenship, the thing we have in common, into those situations where we have not things in common, namely, questions of racial origin.

I suggest that further consideration be given to this section, and that it be held over in the meantime. We may be some time on the other sections. In the interval further consideration can be given to the relationship of section 3, as it now stands, to situations in which a citizen may be required to declare his racial origin. I do not think we should pass the section in the limited form in which it now appears. The words "national status" may have a narrow significance; and if they have, this bill if passed would fall far short of our hopes. If there are complications which the Secretary of State feels cannot be adequately foreseen at the moment in connection with the introduction of such words as "or racial origin" then I earnestly call upon him to postpone consideration of this section until it can be given further consideration. If we do not do something about putting aside considerations of racial origin in this measure, I do not know where we are going to do it. This section must be the place in which it is done. If we cannot foresee all the permutations and combinations which might then arise, I earnestly suggest that the section be held over for further consideration, if the minister will agree to do so.

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]