

that Canadian citizens in too many cases have little knowledge and appreciation of our system of government, or of those who govern us and of our constitution.

The subsection I propose is designed to provide that the citizen to be shall receive an adequate knowledge of the privileges of citizenship. When I spoke on April 2, following the speech of the minister, I said, as reported at page 513 of *Hansard*, and I ask the indulgence of the committee in referring to what I then said:

Having established the basis of Canadian citizenship and having given a new unity to this country, I suggest that citizenship, if it is to mean what our citizenship does mean, requires that at this time—I referred to this incidentally the other day—we should consider the adoption by Canada of a Bill of Rights.

May I say that my hon. friend the member for Winnipeg North introduced a resolution in the house which did not arrive. I think, at the point where it was discussed.

Mr. STEWART: I dropped it.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: Then I went on to say:

There have been recent infringements upon citizenship by this government which have been a denial of the heritage that is ours.

I pointed out a little later:

The British North America Act contains no personal safeguards against unwise or discriminatory legislation that might be passed by federal governments.

Great Britain has a Bill of Rights, and has had one for generations. I have before me "Selected Documents of English Constitutional History", wherein are set forth the rights that are inalienable under British citizenship; the first is the Petition of Right of 1628; the Habeas Corpus Act of 1679, and the Bill of Rights itself of 1689. All these acts setting forth the rights of British citizenship are part of the law of Britain and, as such, signify and set forth the rights of British citizens. The United States of America has a Bill of Rights, although it is not incorporated in the original constitution. Their Bill of Rights was passed in 1791 by way of amendments to the constitution.

I suggest this, that if citizenship is to mean what we hope it will mean, and what it does mean to us, freedom must flow from it. Freedom itself is immutable, although as conditions change ideas of freedom change. In this country—I am not at the moment raising an issue but am speaking in a spirit of cooperation—there has been continuing over a period of time since 1914 a series of gradual invasions and infringements of citizenship, as epitomized in the Bill of Rights,

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

in habeas corpus, in the Petition of Right and of other rights that are traditional. In this country in recent months there have been invasions of the rights of Canadian citizens which do not require to be discussed at this time. I refrain from discussing them in detail, but these invasions must be guarded against for the future. There has been a trend against freedom for the individual, going back to 1914, when the War Measures Act was passed, which act remained unrepealed. I think the time has come for a declaration on the part of parliament that Canadians possess certain rights under their citizenship; that these rights should not be unfairly or unjustly interfered with, and that, above all, there shall be no suspension, abrogation or temporary diminution or removal of those rights excepting by parliament, to the end that Canadian citizenship will imply and will carry into actuality equality without regard to race, religion or colour. I suggest that Canadian citizenship can be assured of these freedoms and their maintenance only by the incorporation into this measure of certain inalienable rights which have characterized British citizenship throughout the generations.

Without going into further detail in that connection and threshing old straw, the words of my amendment will convey the ideas I have in mind, the rights which should be protected, the rights which, in my opinion, should not be alienated other than by parliament itself, and certainly not by the executive. I therefore move, sir—

The CHAIRMAN: Order. The hon. member should give notice of the amendment, because there is one amendment now before the committee.

Mr. MACKENZIE: By consent.

Mr. MARTIN: He just wants to give it to us so that we can read it over.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: I move, seconded by the hon. member for Kamloops:

That the following words be added to the section as subsection 6: "Such certificate of citizenship shall be deemed to include a Bill of Rights as follows:

1. Freedom of religion, freedom of speech, and the right to peaceable assembly are assured.

2. Habeas corpus shall not be suspended except by parliament.

3. No one shall be required to give evidence before any tribunal or commission at any time if denied counsel or other constitutional safeguards."

The CHAIRMAN: Shall section 10 stand? Section stands.