

identification. As you know, a social insurance card is now necessary. I think the same thing should apply to immigrants. I have in mind particularly the Chinese immigrants and the trouble you have had with them during the past two or three years. If they had identification cards I think it would save an awful lot of trouble. I am wondering if you could not give that further consideration.

Hon. Miss LAMARSH: When you refer to the trouble over the last few years, I take it you mean people who came here saying they were someone else?

Senator ISNOR: Yes; there were over 2,000 of them.

Hon. Miss LAMARSH: That is an immigration matter, of course; and they came into the country as someone else—their names were changed before they came here.

Senator ISNOR: Yes, you are right.

Hon. Miss LAMARSH: So that I am not sure that a card would have helped. They changed their identification before they came in, not after.

Senator ISNOR: In some cases parents brought in impostors and called them their sons and daughters, and so on. Some landed in Vancouver, and others came to Nova Scotia and then took residence elsewhere. If they had an identification card I think it would be very easy to follow them and make it far easier later on.

The CHAIRMAN: At that stage it would have to come from the Immigration Department.

Senator ISNOR: As a starting point.

The CHAIRMAN: Starting with immigration—with the Immigration Department.

Hon. Miss LAMARSH: We do not hear of anyone until they made application for citizenship, and the minimum time was five years after they came here.

Senator ISNOR: In other words you do not know any of these persons I have in mind until they have applied for citizenship?

Hon. Miss LAMARSH: That is correct; and even if they had a card, presumably that card would be in the false name given them before they entered.

Senator ISNOR: But if they presented that card at the time you looked into their case in order to give them their proper name, would it not be of valuable assistance to the department?

Hon. Miss LAMARSH: There is no investigation procedure.

Mr. W. R. MARTIN: Oh, no. The person must satisfy the court.

Hon. Miss LAMARSH: We do not have any RCMP surveillance or anything of that kind between the time of landing and application for citizenship. There is no procedure when one applies whereby we check their bona fides, other than the appearance before the citizenship judge or a regular country judge who interrogates them.

Senator ISNOR: We have experienced a lot of trouble, particularly in the past three years, in connection with the Chinese people. Perhaps it is their own fault because they did not register properly, but I do think that a card would have helped very much.

Hon. Miss LAMARSH: It would have to be a card issued to them as immigrants by the Immigration Department.

The CHAIRMAN: That is right.

Senator ISNOR: In any event, I put that suggestion forward in order that perhaps you will bring it to the attention of your colleagues.

Senator SMITH (*Queens-Shelburne*): They do have a card issued to them, do they not?

Hon. Miss LAMARSH: Yes, as a landed immigrant; something that they can use for proof of entry.