

*Supply—Citizenship and Immigration*

permeated all the activities of the department. The only person who could change it is the minister. I hope he has the desire to make these alterations. I hope he will announce at some early date in the future that the policy and the real practice in his department will be to treat all people of whatever origin on the basis of equality. If this were done it would not be necessary to go through the same discussion in later years that we have had this afternoon.

**Mr. Orlikow:** I tried to follow the explanation of the Minister of Justice as to what took place in the Bergsma case as well as a non-lawyer can. May I express the hope that Bergsma will take the necessary steps to acquire citizenship. I am concerned about the possibility that the same thing will happen again in the future and I wonder whether the minister will consider issuing a directive to the citizenship courts making it clear that the question of the religion or non-religion of an applicant is not a factor in reaching decisions as to citizenship, and second that it should not enter into a formulation of character.

**Mr. Barnett:** Mr. Chairman, I would have been interested to hear the minister make some comment on the matters just raised by the hon. member for Skeena and the hon. member for Winnipeg North. However, apparently he does not wish to make a reply at the moment. I would like to recall to the minister's mind that when these estimates were previously under consideration I asked him a question concerning the part of the vote which I pointed out has the high-sounding title of grants for citizenship promotion. I mentioned then that it is proposed to increase this grant to \$75,000 from the previous year's \$37,000. I asked the minister whether this was the item in which was included provision for grants toward the establishment, maintenance and operation of Indian friendship centres; and if so, how much of it was proposed to be allocated for that purpose, and what amounts and in what ways other expenditures in the promotion of citizenship were to be made under this grant.

I did express the view that it did not seem a very large amount for the most important purpose suggested in the description of the vote. The minister said he did not have that information available at the time but that he would get it for me. I am wondering whether he has it now.

**Mr. Tremblay:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, I have the information for which the hon. member

asked last time. This sum of \$75,000 is requested to provide: (1) \$30,000 in sustaining grants to major national organizations working in fields most closely related to the aims of the citizenship branch, namely the Canadian citizenship council and the Indian-Eskimo association of Canada; (2) \$20,000 for the payment of grants to voluntary organizations in the field of citizenship promotion; and (3) \$25,000 for the support of community projects, mainly friendship centres, related to the integration of Indians off the reserve.

This sum does not include the work undertaken by the citizenship registration branch to promote citizenship with regard to newcomers to Canada and their application for citizenship papers, nor does it include the language and citizenship classes available in many evening classes throughout Canada.

**Mr. Barnett:** In that connection, Mr. Chairman, could the minister explain to us where in the estimates we find the amounts which are spent through the registration branch in these other fields of citizenship promotion that he mentioned? Is this specifically set out, or is it merely part of some other general vote?

**Mr. Tremblay:** There is no specific item on that, Mr. Chairman. It is the responsibility of each citizenship court, and it is under the item concerning citizenship courts.

**Mr. Barnett:** I should like to ask the minister a further question, Mr. Chairman. He mentioned, if I heard him correctly, that the allocation out of this amount of \$75,000 toward the functioning of Indian friendship centres was \$25,000.

**Mr. Tremblay:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, it is \$25,000.

**Mr. Barnett:** I should like to ask the minister whether this amount of \$25,000 is designed merely to cover the federal assistance toward existing friendship centres, or is there any provision in this amount which would allow grants to be made toward any new centres which might be developed during the period of the fiscal year which this item covers?

**Mr. Tremblay:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, we have a certain amount that is not allocated to friendship centres which exist, and we have provision, if there are new requests, to give grants to such projects.

**Mr. Orlikow:** Mr. Chairman, the minister has not answered—or if he did, I did not understand the answer—the questions asked with regard to the Bergsma case. I did not