

*Manpower and Immigration Council*

him to this country, was about 11 when the father and mother applied for Canadian citizenship.

Only last year this boy, now a man of 34 and residing in York-Humber, who is married and has a family, had reason to approach the Supreme Court of Ontario with regard to a slight change in name. When the application was made through his lawyers, he was asked if he were a Canadian citizen. "Certainly," he said, "I am a Canadian citizen." They asked him to produce proof he was a Canadian citizen—and I make no apology for talking about citizenship at this time, because this man was an immigrant during the time of which I am speaking, he has only been a citizen for about three weeks. As I have said, his reply was, "Certainly, I am a Canadian citizen." The law courts asked him to produce evidence. Of course he was supposed to get his father's citizenship papers. Fortunately he was able to do so because his father is still living about a quarter of a mile from the northern boundary of York-Humber. He lives in the riding of York West. The interesting fact is that when the father's Canadian citizenship certificate was produced, the department was asked if this gave the son Canadian citizenship. The father had been granted citizenship in 1947. Lo and behold, we were told, because I checked the certificate with the department myself, the boy was not a Canadian citizen. His name did not appear on the certificate issued to the father in 1947.

This strikes me as ridiculous. This boy was 11 years old when his father applied for Canadian citizenship. I was told that the boy was being protected by the Canadian government because if he did not want to become a Canadian citizen when he was 21 he did not have to be a Canadian citizen. He could retain the citizenship of his birth. Surely when a boy is a minor and the father and mother apply for Canadian citizenship it should be granted to the minor in the family as well as to the mother and father who have made the application. After all, the minor could not apply at that time.

I have a brother who was born in Springfield, Massachusetts, when my mother and father were there in 1904. I can assure you that this brother of mine never applied for Canadian citizenship in this country. They returned to Canada when he was eight or nine months old and he simply grew up as a Canadian. When he became of age, he voted as a Canadian. I have never found any immigration or citizenship official chasing him

around to say that his name does not appear on his father's or mother's birth certificate and therefore he is not a Canadian citizen. Why should this boy, who was brought from Europe, be forced to apply on his own behalf to have Canadian citizenship granted to him?

I regret to advise you that this man has been employed for the last several years with an aeronautical engineering firm which has government contracts for the defence department. Since he has access to what they call classified information, he was checked out twice by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police as to his loyalty to the country. My regret in this matter is that although he was not a Canadian citizen he was passed by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police on two occasions as being a loyal Canadian citizen and a British subject.

Well, when this matter was drawn to the attention of the immigration department, because he was only an immigrant, and to the department of citizenship when we were applying for citizenship, I must say we got immediate and speedy action. I was at the citizenship court hearing of the application and I do not believe it took more than 90 seconds. I am happy to say he got his citizenship papers. Why is there a regulation to the effect that minors are not Canadian citizens unless their names appear on the father's or mother's citizenship certificate? If their names do not appear, those children remain citizens of the country in which they were born until they are 21 years of age and make the decision for themselves. In my opinion, this is something that should be cleared up by the Department of Manpower and Immigration, without waiting for this advisory council. Surely we do not need to have an advisory council to indicate the injustice of that situation.

Another matter I should like to draw to the attention of the minister and the department—and I hope he will draw it to the attention of the advisory council for some advice, if the department cannot make up its own mind—concerns an article that appeared in last Saturday's Toronto *Daily Star*. The point I want to emphasize relates to what used to be called an illegitimate child, but I thank God that some years ago the province of Ontario had enough intelligence and spirit of compassion to prompt it to change the birth certificates of children, so that there are no more illegitimate children born in that province. There may be illegitimate parents, but how can there be illegitimate children?