

*Supply—Citizenship and Immigration*

I went to church, and I worked the rest of the day. I work all day Saturday, and I do not always keep a record of whether it is Friday, Saturday or any other day. I was completely surprised when Your Honour left the chair and informed me that the hour for private bills had arrived.

I do not know that I need to go any further with what I was saying. I should like to ask, however, whether or not any effort has been made to bring to the attention of our Canadian people, particularly those in our universities, theological colleges and other schools, the seriousness of the responsibility that is theirs. I do not think it is a government responsibility necessarily, but it is a responsibility that every individual, as a Canadian citizen, should take upon himself. The citizenship and immigration laws throughout the world are extremely complicated. They are not uniform, and people are not always cognizant of those things.

I recall that during the war I was a member of the committee on defence regulations. It may not have been that committee, as I am trusting to my memory. I believe that Dr. Coleman or some official from the state department or immigration department was a witness at the time, and he told the committee that the immigration or citizenship laws of the various nations were not uniform. He gave an illustration to show that it was possible for a person to be a citizen of about seven countries at the same time. That seems almost incredible, but it was an illustration of how complicated the citizenship laws of the different countries were. They were not uniform. I am not blaming anyone for that. It just cannot be helped, but I believe the citizens of our country should know that. They should be told that when they go abroad to study they should have their citizenship papers, their birth certificates and everything else in order before they make a move.

I am wondering if the department could not do something toward informing the people of this situation. I know the department has published small booklets on citizenship and they are very fine booklets. I have given some of them to students at times, but I think they are published primarily for the information of immigrants who come to this country. I am wondering if it would not be a good idea to have some display advertising occasionally in some of our daily newspapers and the more widely circulated magazines. These advertisements could be in a sort of interrogative fashion. They could ask, how do you know you are a Canadian citizen? Have you got your certificate? Are you going abroad? If so, make sure that you have proof of

citizenship. Something of that sort might be helpful. I am passing these suggestions along to the minister for what they are worth.

**Mr. MacLean (Queens):** There are a few remarks, Mr. Chairman, I should like to make on this item. I have noticed that most of the speakers thus far have put the emphasis on immigration, and I think rightly so. However, there is one suggestion I should like to put on the record concerning citizenship. As has already been said, the department has published an excellent series of little booklets. I was especially struck with the value of one entitled "Our Government", which describes how we as a people are governed at the federal, provincial and municipal levels. I suppose it is a booklet gotten out primarily for immigrants coming into the country, but it is something that would be of great value to many native-born people.

As to the processes of our government and what democracy means, and as to the need for preserving and hanging on to what we have in that regard, the ignorance of the Canadian people is abysmal, in some cases at least. I would suggest to the minister, if it has not already been done, that consideration might be given to sponsoring a film to be made by the national film board and following closely that little booklet called "Our Government". I think such a film would be of great value to the Canadian people in general. That is something that has perhaps already been done or is being considered; but if not, I think it might be worthy of consideration.

That is all I have to say on the question of citizenship, Mr. Chairman, but there are some remarks I should like to make with regard to this vast and thorny problem of immigration. I sympathize with the minister when he finds himself confronted with this problem because it is of vast importance and significance. I say that not because I think it is, in a selfish way, something that concerns us as a nation, and that in some way we would be better off if we let people come in or if we kept them out or if we let certain groups come in and kept others out. It is a greater question than that. After all, here we are, about 14½ million people, sitting on a vast area of this earth's surface which is blessed with a great abundance of minerals and forest wealth and great areas of fertile soil. If we ourselves do not voluntarily do something about sharing this abundance with the populations of the world, the time may not be far away when we shall be forced, by drastic means, to share our vast natural