

establish what I think is an incontrovertible position, that if you enact section 10 in its present form you are taking from a British subject coming to this land from another part of the commonwealth something which he has at the present time.

Mr. MARTIN: What?

Mr. FLEMING: The right of citizenship after a year. All the rights of citizenship. Yes, his position is the same as that of a Canadian-born subject—

Mr. MARTIN: What right is taken away? Name one.

Mr. FLEMING: The right of citizenship in this country. The minister cannot, simply by saying to me, "Well, citizenship up to this time has been spelled with a small 'c' and in this bill it will be spelled with a big 'C'", answer the point that I am making.

Mr. MARTIN: What right of citizenship is taken away?

Mr. FLEMING: He has every right of a citizen at the present time. He has the right to call himself a citizen of Canada.

Mr. MARTIN: What right of citizenship is taken away?

Mr. FLEMING: He has the right to call himself a Canadian, because he has had all the rights of citizenship in the country. It is true that he was liable to deportation if he was admitted to a mental institution or had committed some offence involving moral turpitude; but he was a citizen and he was a Canadian.

Mr. MARTIN: Will the hon. member permit a question?

Mr. FLEMING: Well, Mr. Chairman—

Mr. MARTIN: We are in committee now. What right of citizenship does this bill take away from British subjects?

Mr. FLEMING: The right of citizenship; that is what. He has the right to-day to call himself a citizen of Canada.

Mr. MacNICOL: After one year.

Mr. FLEMING: After one year.

Mr. MARTIN: What is the hon. member's authority for that?

Mr. FLEMING: Does the minister need authority for that?

Mr. MARTIN: I certainly do.

Mr. FLEMING: Let the minister look at the present legislation. A British citizen coming to this country at the present time has every privilege.

[Mr. Fleming.]

Mr. MARTIN: And he continues to have.

Mr. FLEMING: Including the privilege of the franchise, which any Canadian citizen has had. From this time on, if this bill with section 10, subsection 1, in its present form is adopted, there will be a distinction between a Canadian-born British subject and a British subject coming from another part of the commonwealth. To every intent and purpose, except for the mere trifle of filing a declaration of intention, a British subject from another part of the commonwealth is an alien applying for citizenship.

Mr. LESAGE: Why should he not be considered as an alien?

Mr. FLEMING: If you reduce to the vanishing point the privileges which go with partnership in the commonwealth, if you do not put any store upon the benefits which go with being a British subject in the commonwealth, then all right, do not give the British subject any advantage here. But if it means anything to be a British subject—

Mr. LESAGE: What does it mean?

Mr. FLEMING: If it means anything to enjoy in other parts of the commonwealth the privileges which the laws of the other parts of the commonwealth extend to British subjects, then I say that there is good and ample reason why we should accord a special status to British subjects coming to this country to make this their home, a status over and above that accorded to those coming from alien lands.

Mr. GLEN: Would the hon. member abolish the period for acquiring domicile as a British subject in this country?

Mr. FLEMING: The point which the minister has raised is a quite proper one, if I may say so, and the amendment I intend to move will deal with it.

I have said something about the effects of this bill in depriving a British subject who comes from other parts of the commonwealth of rights which he now enjoys, rights which come to him automatically because he is a British subject, and as introducing a discrimination which I think is bound to create feelings of humiliation. Let us examine what I have suggested in the light of the purposes, as I conceive them, of the five years' residence, to which I referred earlier. I suggested that the reason we want a five-year Canadian domicile in the case of applicants for Canadian citizenship is that we wish to be sure that they have absorbed our ways, that they are capable of fitting in with our democratic conceptions