

Supply—Citizenship and Immigration

Indians and the general community may be brought into line. But we are bound to have regard, in the light of our responsibility as trustees of this land and, in a measure, as trustees for the welfare of the Indians, to the way in which we can get the best return for the land in question. In approaching this matter we are keeping in mind to the greatest possible extent the interests of the community concerned.

Item agreed to.

Citizenship—

682. Citizenship branch—further amount required, \$145,150.

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Chairman, I have something to say on item 682. If this vote had been passed last night I should not be in a position to say this, but my attention was drawn this morning to the account of a speech made to the Alberta women's conservative association by a Miss Elizabeth Janzen who, I believe, is the national president of the Conservative women's association. As this is a very serious reflection indeed upon my administration of the citizenship branch, and as the estimates of the citizenship branch are under consideration here, I feel I am not in any way trespassing on the time of the committee by bringing this matter to the attention of hon. members. This is what the *Albertan* says:

Miss Janzen brought gasps from the audience when she claimed that new Canadians coming into the country during the rule of the former Liberal government were definitely intimidated. They were "practically told that they had to vote for the Liberal candidate in the community in which they were to live."

Miss Janzen rather regretted this extravagant and utterly false statement, because she is quoted in the *Edmonton Journal* for January 10 as having backed water a good deal. I shall read the first paragraph or two of this quotation:

Miss Elizabeth Janzen, national president of the women's Conservative association who charged last week in Calgary that new Canadians coming into Canada under the former Liberal government were "definitely intimidated" and practically told to vote Liberal, admitted in *Edmonton* Wednesday that "if it was not intimidation, the power of suggestion and thought left that there be no doubt."

The only evidence this lady suggests for this extraordinary and, as I have said, utterly false statement is that in Kitchener she had discovered that the Liberal member was sending letters of congratulation to people who received their citizenship.

I want to say a word about this matter of sending letters of congratulation to new citizens. This came up a great many times when I was minister. The question of obtaining the names of new citizens from the courts

[Mr. Fulton.]

was brought to my attention by hon. members on both sides of the house including, in particular, one who is now an occupant of the treasury benches but who, I am sorry to say, is not here at the moment, namely the Postmaster General. I took the view that the taxpayers' money should not be spent in providing these lists of names—and I think perhaps the hon. member who is now the parliamentary assistant could bear this out—to any members of parliament on either side of the house, but that these lists were public property and that any hon. member who wanted to go to the courts—and this was true of the two courts of federal jurisdiction in Toronto and Montreal—was perfectly at liberty to do so and take the names down; and that a place to sit, a chair and a desk, would be furnished for the purpose of doing this.

Those facilities were available—and I am sure there are several members on the government side today who will corroborate every word I am saying without the slightest hesitation—to hon. gentlemen in any part of the house. I see nothing improper in any hon. member whether he is a Conservative, a Liberal, a C.C.F'er or a Social Crediter, attempting to find out what people have received their citizenship and writing to congratulate those people. After all, our method of choosing members to sit in this house is to try to persuade the electorate—and I see nothing wrong with persuasion—that we can represent them better than somebody else, and in the process it seems to me to be a perfectly proper thing to do.

I think it is really quite shocking to have a person occupying the prominent position this lady occupies in the Tory party going about making extravagant and utterly false statements of this calibre and then adducing as evidence the fact that a Liberal member of parliament sent letters of congratulation to new citizens. I believe no member was more assiduous in doing this than the present Postmaster General. Of course, I do not know whether it paid dividends, but the Postmaster General is still here.

I see absolutely nothing wrong with the practice. If there had been the slightest discrimination as between the parties on one side of the house and the other it would have been a different matter, but there was not. It seems that for the 1957 election apparently the way the new Canadian vote was to be won was by the Prime Minister getting up and saying to the ethnic press association, as reported in the *Globe and Mail* of April 27, that his party if elected was going to bring in immigrants at the same rate as they were brought into Australia,