

Minnesota Radio Tape for Week of May 4, 1964

For Broadcast Week of May 9, 1964

Ladies and gentlemen . . . this is Senator Humphrey speaking to you from my office on Capitol Hill in Washington . . .

Today I want to tell you about a Minnesota lady who lived through nearly 20 years of fear and worry . . . all because she was afraid there was nothing she could do to become an American citizen. I am pleased to report that this story has a happy ending. On May first Mrs. Ben Schultz of Minneapolis took the oath of allegiance and now--52 years after coming to this country from Poland--she is enjoying her new status as an American citizen.

Not only is the story of Mrs. Schultz inspiring and heart-warming . . . it also points up how easily problems can be worked out for other Minnesotans who assume for years that they are American citizens and then discover that because of some technicality or misunderstanding they are aliens.

The story of the citizenship problems of Mrs. Schultz began ~~beginning~~ in 1912 when she and her husband came to this country from Poland. He was naturalized a few years later and she assumed that his adoption of American citizenship had changed her status as well. This is a common mistake. It wasn't until many years later that she discovered she still was an alien.

Widowed and semi-invalid in recent years, she worried more and more about her status. She feared she could not learn the American history required to pass the test for citizenship.

She was afraid she would be deported to Poland. . . and wondered who would take care of her if that should happen. Fear gripped her every January--the month when all aliens are required to file an annual registration form.

Her family became concerned when the anxiety began to affect her health and wrote to me for help. Could any special citizenship arrangements be made, they asked, taking her condition into account?

I wrote to Mrs. Schultz and encouraged her to visit the Minneapolis office of the Immigration and Naturalization Service. I also sent her some literature . . . and urged her to study it in preparation for filing a petition for naturalization.

Candidates for citizenship are required to have a general knowledge and understanding of the history and government of our country. But these requirements are not difficult or arbitrary. The people at the Immigration Service are helpful and considerate.

Mrs. Schultz visited the immigration office, studied ~~minn~~ the literature, filed her petition in Federal Court in Minneapolis, and came through with flying colors.

Both her joy and that of her family were reflected in the letter I received a few days ago from her family.

"We want to thank you wholeheartedly for all your help," they wrote. "Finally, for the first time in 20 years, she has peace of mind, and has been smiling ever since. This has been the main thing in her life. Her transformation is unbelievable."

Other requests for help in recent years suggest that the citizenship problem comes as a surprise to many Minnesotans. They discover for the first time that they are aliens when they try to get a passport, make a veteran's claim, or file some other kind of official application.

Many assumed they were included in citizenship petitions filed by their husbands. Others came to this country as children and assumed they became citizens when their parents were naturalized. When they discover that they technically are aliens--but have not registered each January as the law requires--they are afraid they'll face some serious penalty.

But it isn't necessary to worry about problems in changing this alien status. . . . the government and the Immigration Service have a heart. For persons of good character and long residence the procedures for registering as an alien . . . and later for filing a citizenship application . . . are not complicated. Anyone with a will to become a citizen, good character, and ~~maintain~~ sufficient time as a ~~manish~~ resident can make it.

As for Mrs. Schultz, I'm touched by how much being an American citizen has meant to her. Some of us who have our citizenship by birth are inclined sometimes to take it for granted. I thank Mrs. Schultz for reminding me how good it is to be an American citizen . . . thank you.

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Ladies and Gentlemen. . .

This is Senator Hubert Humphrey, speaking to you from my office
on Capitol Hill in Washington. . .

Today I want to ^{TELL YOU ABOUT} ~~report the story of~~ a Minnesota lady who overcame a
great fear. ^{an American} This fear had prevented her (for years) from becoming ~~a~~ citizen
~~of the United States~~. But a few days ago, on May 1, Mrs. Ben Schultz,
of Minneapolis, took the oath of allegiance to the United States. Shortly
before she had ^{required} ~~passed the tests which permitted her~~ to take out citizen-
ship papers. Not only is the story of Mrs. Schultz an inspiring and indeed
a heart-warming one. I hope it will encourage others who may be in a
similar situation to take hope in the task of gaining their citizenship.

Mrs. Schultz came to the U.S. 52 years ago. She was a citizen of
Poland, as was her husband. Her husband ^{was} ~~became~~ naturalized in 1923.

Mrs. Schultz thought--erroneously--that she was ~~covered~~ included in his
citizenship. In latter years she became aware that she was an alien.

~~For many of these years she has been~~ ^{now} widowed and semi-invalid, ~~she~~
worried greatly about her alien status and ^{it was} affected (her health) She
feared that she could not learn the American history required to take
the test, ~~for citizenship~~. She was afraid she would be deported to Poland.
She wondered who would take care of her. Fear gripped her severely every
January--the month in which all aliens are required to register annually.
~~Announcements on television and in the newspapers, telling all aliens~~
~~to report, were most upsetting.~~

Her family wrote to me for possible help. Could any special
arrangements be made, taking her condition into account?

The U.S. ~~government~~ has laws which require a candidate for citizen-
ship to have some knowledge of American history and to know some of
the fundamentals of American government. The Immigration and Naturalization
Service cannot waive these laws. But the laws ~~of the government in this~~
~~and~~ are not harsh ones. The people at the ^Immigration ^Service in
Minneapolis--or anywhere else in the United States for that matter-- ~~try~~
^{are considerate and helpful.}
~~to help people, not hinder them.~~

I wrote to Mrs. Schultz and told her this. I encouraged her to
visit the Immigration office and I also encouraged her to study a booklet

which I sent and which contained the basic facts ^{she} ~~one~~ needed to know.

Still ~~however~~, ^{however} the important step [^] was up to Mrs. Schultz. ~~As I have~~
~~indicated~~, [^] She passed with flying colors.

Both her joy and that of her family are reflected in a recent letter from her daughter-in-law who writes: "We want to thank you wholeheartedly for all your help. Finally, for the first time in 20 years, she has peace of mind, and has been smiling ever since. This has been the main thing in her life. Her transformation is unbelievable."

~~I did not do very much but~~ ^{very happy} I was ~~glad~~ [^] to be of encouragement to Mrs. Schultz to win her own battle, which she did.

From other cases which come to my attention, I have reason to believe that ^{many} ~~a number~~ of persons ~~may be~~ undergoing unnecessary worry and torment about their citizenship. Some individuals ~~for example~~ were brought to this country as small children. They thought their citizenship was cared for by their parents. They do not discover that it wasn't until they try to get a passport, or make a Veteran's claim, or make some other official application. When some persons discover that technically they are aliens, but have not registered annually as such, as the law requires, they are fearful of doing so. They believe some dire penalty will be

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incurred. Older persons ^{especially} ~~in particular~~ worry.

This is unnecessary. The government of the U.S. has a heart. For persons of good character and long residence it simplifies the procedure.

It has back-registration forms. It helps people, not hurts them. If

~~/ou/ov/of/ny/such/individuals/who~~ an individual has a will to be a citizen, ^{has a} ~~and~~ good character, and has lived among us, he can make it.

Returning to Mrs. Schultz, I was touched by how much being a U.S. citizen meant to her. Some of us who have our citizenship by birth, are inclined at times, I believe, to take it for granted. I thank Mrs. Schultz for reminding me how good it is to be an American citizen.

Thank you.



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