

Panel Discussion: What is a Canadian?

Moderator: David Matchett [DM]

Panel: Bill Humber [BH], Scott Crawford [SC]

BH: Canadian nationality law (I'm looking at Wikipedia for this) is promulgated by the Citizenship Act since 1977: "Canadian citizenship is typically obtained by birth in Canada on the principle of *jus soli*, (which if you're a lawyer or a Latin scholar must mean something; it doesn't mean anything to me) or, birth abroad, when at least one parent is a Canadian citizen, or by adoption by at least one Canadian citizen, under the rules of *jus sanguinis*, which I'm sure is some kind of Italian delicacy. It can also be granted to a permanent resident who has lived in Canada for a period of time through naturalization..." Nor did we have a naturalization law until after the Second World War. Before that, you were essentially a British citizen, with some characterization of you (who you were and what you were) obtained at that time. So that makes everything...if that wasn't unclear, now it's clear as mud. I don't know where we go from that point of view. I once said to someone "My definition is fairly catholic", and people said to me "Goody Rosen was Catholic?" I said "No, no: small c catholic." I'm prepared to accept a wide variety of definitions of what constitutes Canadian identity. The simplest definition is the person was born in Canada. And unless they renounce their Canadian citizenship, which Ted Cruz apparently did, they're a Canadian; I don't care what they say. I don't care what they think they are; damn it all, they're a Canadian. The other side of the definition is, and I remember Colm Toibin, I'm not sure how you pronounce his name, Colm Toibin, an Irish writer (I think he wrote **Brooklyn**, if I'm not mistaken, which has nothing to do with baseball): his definition of Ireland, to him, was "those eleven men in green playing footie, that was me Ireland", he said. And what he was basically saying, the soccer definition, and we I think came to that earlier, was as long as you have a grandparent that was from this nationality you could play for that team's national soccer team if you so choose. I'm not sure I'm prepared to go that far. But it certainly seems to me that you are Canadian, regardless of where you were born, if you had a parent or parents that were Canadian. And that, by definition, allows you to have been born anywhere in the world, as long as you had a Canadian as a parent who had

Canadian citizenship, allowed that to be bestowed on you. Now, I'm not saying that definitively, I'm not a legal expert, I'm not a naturalization expert, but it does give room to have a pretty broad category of individuals. So maybe I'll stop there, and we'll go from there.

SC: These are my binders that I work on at the Hall of Fame. I thought they were right. There's a lot of paper, a lot of research done over the years I've been here. Basically, I have all the "Canadians" on the list, minus several "Canadians" that could be new to the list, and just breaking down all their different stats....As Dave mentioned, obviously there's...the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame, our rules aren't necessarily "you have to be born in Canada or you're out", you know, you're not in. As we saw, early in the Hall of Fame years there were a few non-Canadians put in the Hall of Fame that maybe we thought were born in Canada or raised in Canada. I mean, 70% of our inductees (I call them) are Canadian, and the other 30% are some of the all-time great Blue Jay/Expo individuals, no matter where they're born. It's unique; it's great that there's this talk about who's Canadian and who's not. It keeps the Americans on their toes. We know a lot about baseball, and I think it's a great conversation. I mean, just recently, and this just happened last week, SABR announced that there's a new Canadian, a fellow named Ed Smith, who was born somewhere in the States until last week, was born in Sparta, Canada, on November 2, 1863, and died in St. Thomas, Ontario on June 5, 1948. So the numbers keep growing; no matter what numbers we use, they keep growing because the research keeps going. As you [DM] mentioned, George Wood, who's now in our Hall of Fame: he played 1200 games in the big leagues, was on Spalding's World Tour, and no-one even knew he was Canadian until just a few years ago. It's very unique. Now Ed Smith here only played 9 games in 1884 with Baltimore, so it's not quite as exciting as George Wood when he was found. But it's still another Canadian to play major league baseball. That's pretty cool.

DM: I was wondering what happened, because when I did my first draft of my presentation there were 248 Canadians, and now there are 249, so I guess that's him. So did we...I know when I was setting up this morning there were a few comments, so go ahead...

Audience (Michael Lyons): I was glad Bill mentioned the Canadian legal aspect of what constitutes a Canadian. It's interesting. I have a nephew who, by accident (my poor sister misjudged a few things) was born in the States. He never lived there, of course: he was born, and they kicked her out of the hospital after one day, and came home. But when he turned 16, or 17 or 18, whatever it was, he actually got a letter from the U.S. Government saying that he had to declare, because while Canada allows dual citizenship, the U.S. didn't or doesn't (I think still doesn't). I don't know how Ted Cruz got in here, but maybe they were unaware of it. But if my nephew wanted to become an American he was asked to give up his Canadian citizenship. So some of these people who were born in Canada, who moved to the States, may not in fact be, even if they were born young, if they didn't prepare for American citizenship, maybe you aren't talking equally Americans, which would put them in as Canadians. That's what happened to my nephew. After he got a letter that said "What is your allegiance? What do you want to do?"

DM: Well, in my day job we do a lot of tax planning work, and if you're born in the U.S. you have to file a U.S. tax return every year and are subject to U.S. estate taxes. And if you don't file, they're coming after you, but you don't always know. I mean, you were born, you happen to be Canadian, in the hospital, you come back, you lived there for three days: you're an American, and they want your tax dollars. We're not like that. U.S. taxes on your citizenship; in Canada we tax on your residency. So you can move to the States, live like Joey Votto now lives in Arizona, probably doesn't file any Canadian tax return. So it's a little different system there. So yeah, the Americans and the Canadians, if you had a similar page for what the American rules are, they'd be different.

Audience (Michael Lyons): Some of these people who think they're Americans may not be Americans, because the American government wouldn't recognize them as Americans.

Audience (Bob Barney): This is a great point... All sorts of Americans, born in the United States, then come to Canada, lived here a long time, carry Canadian passports, and some of them had American passports too...The problem in Canada is that the American government hasn't caught up to all the people that have two passports: they don't know that they have a Canadian passport. I'm an

American. I've lived over half my life in Canada (over 45 years). I'm a landed immigrant, and I file American taxes, I pay Canadian taxes; I haven't had to pay in the United States because of the Foreign Tax Credit here. But I want to get back to the statement made... When the Selection Committee for the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame sits down and looks at the candidates' submissions for inductees, they can make an argument, or rationale, for anyone being a Canadian. So it depends upon what kind of a rationale they made for the person being Canadian, and Scott presented a rationale for a bunch of candidates that are in the Hall. I think the most important thing in saying "What is a Canadian?" is to ask a Canadian, no matter what or where he's from, "What are you? And tell me why." I'll tell you why I'm still an American: because I'm not a Canadian. I think those two conflicting forces I mentioned to you before, saying "We'll make you Canadian for our purposes". Then going to the individuals themselves and saying "What are you?"

BH: Part of it of course is a problem of presentism, too. We have a tendency to look back on the past and impose our standard of today on somebody in 1883. Well, we can't do that. Because the laws said that everything was different. It was different, right? There were different criteria that were associated with the definition of what made us a person, a subject of a country at that time. Now there's some really intriguing ones. I remember when we were doing our book **All I Thought About Was Baseball**, Russell Field, who's now with the University of Manitoba, Russell wrote a piece on the only Newfoundlander in Canada, the only Newfoundlander that we can define as a Canadian baseball player, even though his years were pre-1949. Well, pre-1949 Newfoundland wasn't part of Canada. It was part of the British Empire. As he dug deeper into his research, he discovered that the St. John that [Jim] McKeever was born in was actually Saint John, New Brunswick, so he actually wiped him off the Newfoundland map in doing his research. So that kind of solved that problem, in a silly kind of way. But that's the definitional issues you get into. I mean, before 1946 you were a British subject; that was how you were defined. So it really becomes a definitional kind of thing: we didn't define people by becoming a Canadian citizen. And what about people, even to this day, and one of the classic ones, the Mohawks were planning to participate in the World Lacrosse Championships in England. They attempted to use a Mohawk-developed passport as their basis for getting into England, and

basically the English said “You can’t do that; you gotta have a Canadian passport.” They took exception to that, and it became a great kerfuffle. I think at the end of the day they ended up not participating in the World Lacrosse Championships. There’s another First Peoples kind of issue that comes up; how do you resolve that particular conversation?

DM: How about anyone born before 1867?

BH: British subject.

DM: Yeah, but they weren’t listed. If you say Ontario or Quebec, they were Upper or Lower Canada, but someone like Pop Smith was born in Nova Scotia before 1867. And that was Nova Scotia, not Upper or Lower Canada. And Canada didn’t exist. I think we include him, but...

Audience (Chip Martin): For the benefit of those who may not know who the speaker was over here, Bob Barney, Professor Emeritus from Western University, born in Massachusetts, you can trace his ancestry back to the Pilgrims and the Mayflower, believe it or not. I can understand why he wouldn’t want to relinquish his American-ness, but as far as I’m concerned, having done the seminal work on the baseball played in Beachville in 1838 and all his work there, I’m willing to consider him a Canadian whether he likes it or not. For his contributions to baseball in Canada.

Audience (John Cairney): It was a difficult month and a bit for Canadians. We lost Roy, as everyone knows. We also lost Gord Downie. And I remember a clip on the documentary that was done on the final tour. Stephen Brunt was talking about the Canadian identity question, and he had a quote. I’d heard versions of this before, but I’ll attribute this one to him, and I’ll paraphrase. Talking about a bar band and a crazy poet leading the way, he said “I don’t know if that’s Canadian, but I’d like it to be.” And it strikes me that really that’s the essence of what we’re talking about. It’s only a problem if you try to create a binary definition, a definition with a binary outcome. If you follow the process being the case... then that’s where the interesting conversations lie. And so to me it is about the case to be made, and the case to be made, as Bill has pointed out, not only suffers from presentism, but also will evolve over time as the discussions of identity evolve over time. And I certainly agree with Bob that whenever possible, self-

identification should perhaps trump everything else. As we now move forward, historians will collect these identifications.

DM: I agree. I think that self-identification is important. It's just that we can't go back and ask Larry McLean. And Freddie Freeman, I would gather from the quote I put in there, doesn't in any way consider himself to be Canadian. He was just honoring his mother's place of birth. He played for Team Canada to honor his mother; he was eligible because his parents were Canadian.

Audience: I have a problem with citizenship by convenience, which happens in professional sport primarily. And I can extend that to the World Baseball Classic. As a Canadian, I have a real problem with anybody being granted the status to play on any one of our national teams strictly by convenience. Freddie Freeman (nothing against Freddie Freeman) is a classic example. They were desperate to be respectable. 'Cause we were lacking a lot of our native-born Canadian players in the last Classic, for various and sundry reasons....Freddie Freeman, he personally has nothing to do with Canadian identity. I don't think he pretends to. Yes, he honored his mother, but I don't think that's, that's just not enough. There have been all kinds of incidents, it happens in the United States a lot, where athletes are granted citizenship, and they'll go through as many generations back as they can, for one purpose: to win. Brett Hull couldn't make Team Canada, so exercised a birthright clause and he became an American citizen so he could play for them. 'Cause there was no way he was ever, at that time, that he could see that he'd be good enough to play for Canada. That's from another sport, but also I'd like to add that when I first got involved here, about 14-15 years ago with this Hall as an auxiliary member, I can't remember who said this to me, but somebody said, "This Hall is about contribution to baseball in this country." And that crosses national lines. And I've thought about it since. Tom Lasorda, there's nothing Canadian, really, about Tom Lasorda. But he also had 9 great years in Montreal, as a member of a great AAA franchise, and I don't think anybody really takes issue with Tom Lasorda being in the Hall. Kirk McCaskill doesn't pretend to be a Canadian; he never has. But his major league record was deemed to be good enough to grant him a membership, and I don't think there's any controversy about that. So I really think that we have to make sure that we do not ever grant anybody status by convenience, or to simply promote membership.

BH: Here's the problematic character to that. The first winner of the Lou Marsh Trophy in 1936 was Dr. Phil Edwards. Dr. Phil Edwards was born in what was then British Guiana, today Guyana. They moved to New York City. He wanted to compete in the Olympic Games. Phil Granville, another guy who competed in the 1924 Olympics for Canada in the walking event, he was born in Jamaica. Neither of those two countries were members of the IOC, the Olympic Association, and so they had no opportunity to compete in the Olympic Games. There was no category for those kinds of folks. So in both their cases they moved to Canada and became Canadians because they wanted to compete in the Olympic Games, and retained (particularly in Edwards' case) that Canadian identity to the end of his time. Phil Granville eventually moved to London, England, where his wife was from. There's the problematic character of the convenience factor. They had real reason to become Canadians, but it was only because they had no ability to compete in the Olympic Games, because the two countries in which they were born did not have Olympic status. That's the problematic character of that discussion.

DM: On that, more recently, Mark McCoy, who won the 110-metre hurdles for Canada, was born in Guyana, raised in England, moved to Canada, won the gold medal, then ended up as a rich athlete living in Monaco. He married a German woman and ended up competing in another Olympics for Austria. So, there's your convenience, right? And then countries like Qatar, and the wealthy Middle Eastern countries, all of a sudden have these Kenyan ex-pats running for them in the Olympics. They pay them a fee to change their nationality, and then compete, so there's a lot of this "nationality by convenience" going on in the world of sports. Freddie Freeman is an example; Jameson Taillon is another one that's a good example.

Audience (Jeremy Diamond): You mentioned Zaun as being a permanent resident. Are there any examples, you may have mentioned, I can't remember, examples of long-time major leaguers, especially Jays or Expos, that were granted or applied for citizenship after their playing days? Alomar, Cito, somebody like that, after living in Canada for a long time?

DM: They didn't really live here during their playing careers. They would rent a condo during the season, then go back home.

Audience (Jeremy Diamond): There's no way that Doc did.

DM: Ernie Whitt comes to mind. Three-time inductee into the Hall of Fame.

Audience (Jeremy Diamond): Coach of our Olympic team.

DM: Yeah. And the senior team; three different teams that won championships with Ernie. I believe Mookie Wilson at some point lived in Toronto; he married a Canadian. I may be wrong on that. Alomar considered himself Puerto Rican. I know Bill Stoneman, when he was with the Expos, lived in Montreal year-round, but I don't know of any of them who later just decided to...

Audience (Fred Toulch): What about Bill Lee?

DM: Bill Lee, yeah.

Audience: He doesn't remember, I don't think.

DM: That's a great example, Fred. I don't know his status, but if there's anyone, he's...

BH: I think it's an intriguing question: Who's the other Canadian in the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown?

Audience: Pat Gillick.

BH: Thank you. Yeah, Pat Gillick, right? He has dual citizenship, I believe I'm correct on that. So there's an intriguing... once again. I don't know when he took out his Canadian citizenship. If it was de facto, after the fact of the essence of his career, I'm with you that he's probably not definable as Canadian. But if he took it out at some point when he was living in Toronto, then, hey, I'm prepared to give him that status. I'm not prepared to quibble about when it was. Whereas Zaun, even though he's got...that was all afterwards. He might have had Canadian status, identity, because he's a broadcaster, we could quibble: does that fall into the builder, the honorary, whatever category? But they at least, you know, you could argue that they have that kind of status.

DM: One person I've been looking into was Jean Leduc, who played about a hundred years ago. He was born in northern Vermont to French Canadian parents, and they sent him to Montreal to be educated. They were just in Vermont because his father had business there. So they sent him to Montreal to

be educated; that's really where he grew up. He played professionally for the Montreal team, was actually part owner of the Montreal Wanderers hockey team. And then he had a decent career in the mid-teens: he won 10 or 12 games a year for the Tigers. Then he became a scout. He's the guy who signed Hank Greenberg for the Tigers (not Brooklyn, or New York, or the Yankees). And he later may or may not have been the go-between between the gamblers and the players in the 1919 World Series fix. So I was thinking of putting something together for Scott, put his name up there. But he wasn't born in Canada; he was born in the States. He's got a ton of Canadian ties.

BH: But again, that definition which says you're a Canadian if you're born to a Canadian parent, regardless of where it is in the world, that makes you a Canadian, right? That's the contemporary definition; I'm assuming that had currency in the past as well. I mean if you were...if you had a parent that was stationed overseas in the Canadian armed forces, and you were born in Afghanistan, for sake of argument, you were born to a Canadian parent outside of Canada, therefore you had Canadian identity and Canadian citizenship. Just like Ted Cruz, being an American born in Calgary, had American identity and American citizenship. But he also had Canadian, to his great horror when he discovered that fact. It doesn't matter whether he liked it or not, sorry, that's what you are.

Audience (Michael Lyons): With Freddie Freeman, his mother decides to take out a Canadian passport; now what do you do?

DM: That's different. So the question is Freddie Freeman: what if he goes out and gets a Canadian passport, then he's self-identifying as Canadian.

Audience (Michael Lyons): He could have dual citizenship.

DM: He can do that, but that's different than just announcing I'm trying to honor my mother. Again, it's another tick mark.

Audience: But he can't get a passport and become a citizen; he will no longer be an American, by law. Not our law, their law.

DM: No, I think you can have both.

Audience (Bob Barney): Except for one thing. The U.S. will accept dual citizenship, a person can get certification from the Yanks, carrying a Canadian passport, and

Canadian citizenship, by making the argument that his economic welfare, sustenance, destiny is absolutely critical to him being a Canadian citizen. That's what they value. They don't buy much else.

DM: And as I understand it, if you have both passports, you still have to travel under the American passport. That is, you can't use your Canadian passport to get into the United States; if you have them both, you have to show the American one.

Audience: I was born in Canada, it's kind of complicated, but I became a U.S. citizen in 1993. One time I was going across the border going into Detroit, and I told the person that I had a Canadian passport and a U.S. passport. He said "Well, what are you today?" I said, "I'll go by Canada because I was born here." It's very confusing.

Audience: You should answer U.S.

Audience: You don't know. It depends who you talk to. I carry both passports.

Audience [to the panel]: So your count right now is 248.

DM: 249 in baseball-reference.com.

Audience: Right, so how many of those are no-doubters: born and mostly grew up in Canada?

DM: Well, again, it's hard to say going way back, but...I don't know. You get a Fergie Jenkins, or Joey Votto, Larry Walker, no question. Justin Morneau. And then you've got others like Larry McLean or George Wood, who moved when they were infants. I don't know the split right now.

Audience: It seems like there's a lot of non-no-doubters.

DM: Yeah. And even with the no-doubters, they all leave Canada to pursue their baseball careers, so unless they're playing for the Jays or the Expos, they're living down in the States, and most of them take up residence down there. So they hit 17, or 18, or 19 years old and they're gone; they may come back for Christmas to visit the parents, and that's about it.

Audience (Andrew North): Two comments. First of all, you talked about how the historical information base under our feet could shift. George Wood would be a

good example of that. Suddenly we know something about him that we didn't know before. Much of that work has been done over the last 20 years or so by SABR's Biographical Committee, especially a fellow named Peter Morris. Peter is aware of our get-together today; it would have been very interesting to hear his comments about this. With any luck, he'll attend next year. Stay tuned. The other thing I wanted to mention is Mike Brannock. Brannock's claim to being Canadian has been proven to be false, so by no matter what criteria you guys choose to apply, he probably does not qualify. However, he does hold a special place, so maybe we put him in with an asterisk or something. That's because, as the historical data has changed over the years, the identification of the first Canadian major leaguer has changed, and we're going to hear a lot more about that from Bill after lunch. But one of the early candidates as the first Canadian major leaguer was Mike Brannock; he was identified as such in several publications. It didn't take long for that to change. Nonetheless, his claim to fame for a day was that he was the first Canadian major leaguer.

DM: OK, so we're going to cross Mike Brannock off the list. When we do this again in a few years you won't see him on the list.

BH: As I said, keep this small-c catholic. As wide as can be, damn it all, they're Canadian. And in so doing I discovered, when I was doing *Diamonds of the North*, I realized that there was only one year where I couldn't say that Canadians played major league baseball. That was the year 1900, and damn it all, I wanted to find a Canadian that could fit under that category, just for the complete...You know, anybody collect cards or anything? If you're a completist, you know you've got to finish the set, whatever it is. I don't know if anybody has popped up for 1900; we need somebody. Please come forward and show your Canadian identity.

SC (having checked files): No, there's nobody.

BH: Not yet.

SC: That's right. 'Cause SABR found somebody last week, as we mentioned before. He played in 1884, so he was only 16 years away. And that's funny about Andrew talking about the first Canadian. For the longest time it was Bill Phillips, who played in 1879, from Saint John, New Brunswick. He had a great career. He's now in our Hall of Fame, and played over 1100 games. But now he's on our, what we'll call our official list; he's 5th, the fifth Canadian. You still see a lot of publications

saying he's number one. We have to correct them, nicely of course, but we want to get this as accurate as we can. Again, I think the numbers will change. The new number one that Bill's going to talk about later today probably IS the number one, so it'll be great to hear about that, but as the lists keep changing you never know when you're going to find number...another one to add to our list. The new player, Ed Smith, played in 1884, but so did 20 other Canadians. So 1884's a popular year for Canadian baseball players. Who knows who else we'll find in future.

DM: When I noticed there were 249, I was thinking maybe this year we'll have some Triple A player called up, and you can put out an announcement that he's the 250th Canadian. But then two years later we'll find out that, no, he's actually the 253rd because we found a couple of others. And it works the other way, too: someone who we always thought was born in Canada was born somewhere else, and what do we do with that?

SC: And that's sort of what we mistakenly did back in...Eric Bedard, we all know from Navan, Ontario, near Ottawa. He started in 2002. When he made the major leagues, we put a big press release out saying that he was the 200th Canadian to play major league baseball, 'cause that was obviously a milestone number. Now he's 209. So if you have our press release from 2002, just rip it up, because it's wrong. But that's one of those things that changes all the time. I mean, now we have 249 according to baseball-reference; we could easily be in the 260s. In fact, two Canadians made the big leagues this year: Nick Pivetta and Jesen Therrein. And that number's just going to keep growing.

DM: So Scott, you mentioned in the Hall of Fame, it has to be Canadian-born. You're not kicking anyone out if you find otherwise, right? That's the first criterion, the first hurdle? You have to be born in Canada?

SC: Yeah. Our Selection Committee process is very simple. Just a few rules, basically. It's born in Canada, or significant to the game of baseball in Canada. That's where the fellows like Tom Lasorda, you mentioned earlier, he spent 9 years in Montreal with the Royals; he holds all the Montreal Royals pitching records, or the majority of them (innings pitched, wins, strikeouts, years played). He's definitely not Canadian; he didn't talk much about Canada when he was here in 2006. He likes to talk his Dodger Blue. But he spent 9 years in Montreal, and he

was one of the greatest Montreal Royals pitchers ever. The Montreal Royals were around for almost a hundred years, and played a big part in the history of baseball in Canada. Same with Sparky Anderson. He's in our Hall of Fame. He's not from Canada, but he spent years in Montreal and Toronto, and he got his first managing job in Toronto before he went on to what we all know as a Hall of Fame career. But he's a way to highlight Canadian baseball, and those guys are some of the best players in baseball history, or managers in baseball history, but they started their careers here in Canada.

DM: I wasn't aware of that criterion. So you've got Jimmy Archer in, but not Reno Bertoia. One from Ireland, one from Italy. So was that before, or...?

SC: No, I guess we can't kick them out. We could, but...

BH: I think the question of the era when they played, or when they were born, or when they moved here, is did you automatically, or did you at some point assume a Canadian identity, citizenship, whatever, during that period of time? I don't know that, because obviously the laws of the land, the practices of the day, were different then than they are today. So it's a tough one to kind of reconcile with today. You almost have to be some sort of constitutional specialist, who can say, you know what, in 1936 if you were two and you moved from Italy, eventually you became, or automatically the moment you came into the country became a Canadian. Or you never became a Canadian and you're always out of luck, and we'd love to kick you out of the country, we have great pretext for doing that. And we sometimes see that with people, right? They came to Canada when they were one, they had some problems with the law, now they're kicked out and they're going back to the country they came from, even though they're in their twenties, and they basically never had anything to do with that country they're being sent back to. So that's the sloppy edge of this conversation, that that could happen today, but would that have happened in 1933? I don't know the answer to that. But, it really then goes to a definition of how you say this person has, at least from a legal point of view, Canadian status, as opposed to an emotional, or as John said, a kind of personal kind of identity as a Canadian. Hey, it's pretty broad as far as I'm concerned.

SC: It is, and obviously when Reno and Jimmy Archer were inducted into the Hall of Fame, they weren't born in Canada, they didn't have Canadian parents, but

they grew up in Canada. So I think that's...for the time they were inducted, which for Jimmy Archer was 1990, and Reno was the late '80s, that was the thought of the day. That qualified; that worked. Thoughts and committees and suggestions obviously change over time. Would they get in today? I don't know. It depends what the committee thinks. That's why we have a Selection Committee spread across Canada that does all the voting. Different aspects, we have some baseball historians, we have executives, we have past inductees, and it's just one of those aspects...we have a well-rounded committee which does a lot of conversation, a lot of talk, and it just seems to be progressing how they come up with their inductees each year, and I think, you know, they have to go with the time, and what's the thought right now? We can't go back: well, twenty years we inducted that fellow who just grew up in Canada, so what's that mean for today? It's a difficult balance.

DM: I guess we're getting close to the end of our time. I just want to throw it out: What do we do now? I think "born in Canada", even if they left (what's the Cubs pitcher? Rob Zastryzny), like Zastryzny, he was born in Canada but moved very shortly thereafter, but he's born in Canada, so he's on the list. But probably a case by case basis is going to be made for Reno Bertoia is in, and "Twinkletoes" Selkirk, is he in? Jeff Heath? Grew up, born in Canada. But then Luke Carlin: moved to Canada when he was two. Probably played catch the first time in Canada; do we include him? So there's probably a case by case basis. If we can ask the person, then great, like Kirk McCaskill. And if we can somehow find some quote from Leo Durocher in the 1940s talking about...

BH: "I always felt like a Canadian!"

DM: Yeah. Trying to sign up for the Canadian army in September 1939 so he can go fight for the Motherland. Wouldn't that be great to find? Maybe we include him, maybe we don't.

Audience (Kevin Glew): One of the more interesting cases coming up who has a real legitimate shot at the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame is Jesse Crain. He's a classic guy who was born in Toronto, but left fairly early, when he was young. Scott and I, I don't know when this was, we've had Justin Morneau a few different times, presenting the Tip O'Neill Award, and at the Baseball Canada banquet; we said to Justin just in passing, "You've got another Canadian on your team: Jesse

Crain.” And Justin said “He’s not a Canadian!” He kind of rolled his eyes at Scott. I think he’s a guy, maybe he’s one of the guys to really make us ask this question. Because he’s got legitimate Canadian...

BH: I think where I come from on this, Kevin, is hypocrisy. We’re hypocritical about it. I am, anyway. I’ll take them if they were born here. If you’re born here, tough, you’re a Canadian. I don’t care when you left. You were born here. That’s what it says in *The Baseball Encyclopedia*, or what passes for it today. You’re a Canadian. And I’m hypocritical enough to say “Even if you weren’t born here, but you came here, and whatever you became when you came when you were two years old, you’re a Canadian too.” So that’s my hypocrisy showing, and I think it’s not a bad basis for being completely disingenuous on the entire discussion.

Audience (Chip Martin): You’re so catholic.

BH: Small c.

Audience (Andrew North): Bill, what do you with somebody for whom, in the Encyclopedia that you like to quote so much, it says “Place of Birth: Canada” and “Place of Death: Atlantic Ocean”?

BH: Canada. That’s an easy one. Now, if place of birth is somewhere else and place of death is Canada, like Len Koenecke...

DM: Don Drysdale.

BH: Yes, Drysdale died in Canada. No, that doesn’t qualify. Dying here doesn’t qualify.

DM: Ed Delahanty.

BH: To quote an old actor, or to misphrase him: “Dying’s easy; hypocrisy’s hard.” That’s what I go for.

DM: I didn’t think we’d come to a conclusion today, but at least let’s throw it out there. Maybe this is something we can revisit next year too. But I think any of us doing these research projects, wouldn’t it be nice to say “Freddie Freeman didn’t identify as Canadian: we don’t count him.” Jesse Crain, born in Canada, let’s include him. Have that list, so that if we’re making a list of the top hundred...you

know, the pitchers with the most relief appearances in Canadian history, that would be Jesse Crain.

Audience (Kevin Glew): I think he's second.

DM: He's second. Quantrill's still first, right? And then what do we do with Vlad Guerrero, Jr. or Kawasaki when he was here (he had a son born in Toronto)? So if he becomes a star twenty years from now, do we include him?

BH: Canadian!

DM: Canadian, yes. Born in Canada.

Audience: Roy Halladay's son was born in Toronto.

BH: Canadian!

DM: Chris Speier, when he played for the Expos, lived in Ste. Adele, Quebec. When his son was pitching for the Jays (I was looking at that ballgame)... if the son was born in Canada, we should include him, but he wasn't. But he would have lived there for quite a few years. Canadian!

Audience: The interesting thing about Speier, though: he was signed to a major league contract as a result of a great summer he had playing in Stratford in the Intercounty League, and that's where the Giants found him. He was Rookie of the Year a year or two later.

DM: Let's count him. Let's put him on there.

Audience (John Cairney): I just think the other aspect of this that's kind of interesting is why are we posing the question in the first place? If the question is posed to determine entry into the Hall, or to make some claims about Canadian identity in the context of baseball, it's a different conversation. I've been chipping away at a project for quite some time, trying to test the hypothesis that there are more left-handed professional baseball players, left-handed batters, from Canada than anywhere else. And then it becomes a really critical issue, because the explanation is that if you played hockey before you played baseball, you may find it easier to switch between your right and left hand. So the definition in that case would be very, very different: trumping only the birthplace would be did they live

here in a period of time where they would have been exposed to hockey (or golf) and had that experience?

DM: Yeah. And I'm not trying to get into the whole nationality thing, and however you stand on immigrants coming into Canada. It's specifically, to the first half of your comment there: as we're doing our baseball research, and talking about Canadians' contribution to baseball, or eligibility for the Hall of Fame, who are we including? Or excluding, and why? Let's all be on the same page. We could have conflicting presentations later on today...We were talking about this last year when we had the quiz; one of the quiz questions was "Who was the highest drafted Canadian?" We all said "Adam Loewen. Number 4." And the answer was "No, Jameson Taillon. Number 2." That led to a bit of a debate at our table and over the coffee breaks. And it inspired our presentation today.

BH: Were bricks thrown?

DM: No.

Audience: If we can't debate baseball, we have no life.

November 18, 2017