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January 18

CONFIDENTIAL

The Honourable Humphrey Mitchell,  
Minister of Labour,  
OTTAWA, ONTARIO.

My dear Mr. Mitchell:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your confidential letter of December 21st and to say that I have discussed with the fish packing interests the reported effort being made to bring Japanese back to the Coast.

I have received every assurance from them that they will look into the matter and report back to me at a later date.

With sincere personal regards.

Yours faithfully,

Premier.

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CONFIDENTIAL

Ottawa, December 21, 1949.

Honourable Byron I. Johnson,  
Premier of British Columbia,  
Legislative Buildings,  
Victoria, B. C.

My dear Premier:

*Whitman*

We have been somewhat concerned in recent weeks about reports appearing in Vancouver newspapers to the effect that certain canneries on the Pacific Coast are proposing to encourage the movement back to the Coast of up to 1,000 Japanese for fishing and fish cannery employment. We feel rather strongly that any companies concerned are displaying poor judgment to publicize such a scheme under present employment conditions, and would like to take all possible means to discourage any action along this line.

My colleague, the Honourable Mr. Mayhew, has been at the West Coast recently and on my instructions some of the officials of the Unemployment Insurance Commission conferred with him on the situation raised by the proposal above mentioned. Officials of the companies are being consulted in an effort to have them postpone or abandon their efforts to bring Japanese back to the Coast in any large numbers.

I thought that you would be interested in having our views on this matter, and I know that we may count upon your co-operation in discouraging any expansion of this suggested programme by the companies.

Yours sincerely,