

B.C. Fears Jap Attacks

Attorney-General Calls for Removal Of Nipponese

VICTORIA, Jan. 31—(C.P.)—Attorney-General R. L. Maitland, in closing the budget debate in the British Columbia Legislature, said "I don't feel safe with the Japanese on the coast."

Mr. Maitland yesterday discussed various factors in Pacific defence and said:

"It is not what they (the Japanese) have done, it is what they might do. Whatever the Eastern Canadian viewpoint, we know we have every reason to fear attack; to fear fifth column activities."

He said British Columbians are in the danger zone "and it is nonsense to say or think we are not."

"No such wishful thinking as believing we are not in danger can be tolerated. But if there is an attack it must be over our dead bodies. Civilian protection responsibility has been assumed by the Dominion authorities and we can not interfere. Our powers are greatly restricted.

"We must be given first preference in equipment and supplies. There is a mistaken idea in the east that we can't work these things ourselves. There has been that remote control and failure to consult upon the kind and amount of equipment needed before deciding in the east what we must use.

"Now the situation is much improved and equipment is coming through as fast as it is possible."

Mr. Maitland gave notice the Government intended to bring in an Act setting up a committee which would devote its energies to rehabilitation and other post war problems.

"We want the help of the (C.C.F.) opposition in this undertaking," he said. "We want fair criticism and suggestions that will be helpful. We invite suggestions from all parties."

Earlier, Premier Hart informed Harold Winch, C.C.F. leader, that his letter requesting information on A.R.P. and defence matters had been forwarded to the Dominion Government.

Mr. Winch said in the Legislature Thursday that he had sent a letter to Premier Hart and Maj.-Gen. R. O. Alexander, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Pacific Command, seeking information on the "serious situation concerning the province's A.R.P. and defence."

