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THE CO-OPERATIVE COMMITTEE ON JAPANESE CANADIANS
126 Eastbourne Ave.,
TORONTO.

NEWS BULLETIN #3

PRESS RELEASE----FOLLOWING SUPREME COURT DECISION.

The decision of the Supreme Court of Canada is a moral victory for those who have been fighting for the cause of the Japanese Canadians. A substantial part of the Government scheme of deportation has been held to be unconstitutional by a majority of the Court.

One part of the scheme which the majority of the Court has held to be invalid is that which makes wives and children of those to be deported themselves liable to be deported. Two distinguished judges, The Honourable Mr. Justice Rand and The Honourable Mr. Justice Kellock have further held that other parts of the scheme are also invalid in so far as they apply to Canadian born and naturalized citizens.

What is left of these orders as legally valid cannot be carried out without separating families, depriving wives of their husbands and children of their fathers, thus making in effect widows and orphans of Canadian citizens. The Government of Canada will surely not persist in such a policy of inhumanity especially as their constitutional power is made to appear so doubtful by the dissenting judgments in the Supreme Court.

It is not too late for the Government to give heed to the storm of protest which has arisen in every part of Canada. It can withdraw the Orders-in-Council. The very least the Government should do is to amend the Orders-in-Council so as to make it clear that before anyone is sent unwillingly to Japan there should be a full judicial enquiry as to whether they have been guilty of disloyal conduct harmful to Canada. The machinery for this is already available in the Immigration Act which is part of the law of the land and enables the deportation of aliens who are a danger to Canada in time of war.

The issue involved is of such crucial importance to the liberties of Canadians generally and especially to minority groups, and the result of the opinions of the Justices of the Supreme Court is so confusing that the groups of citizens who have formed the Committee on Japanese Canadians in all parts of Canada have been determined that the case should be taken to the final court of appeal for the British Commonwealth, namely the Privy Council in London.

Instruction accordingly, has been given to the Committee's Counsel, Mr. Andrew Brewin, to launch the appeal to the Privy Council forthwith. In the meantime we assume that the Government will halt proceedings of deportation until this matter of such importance is decided by the final Court of appeal.

We urge the very many public-spirited citizens who have given assistance in the campaign for justice for our fellow citizens of Japanese origin to continue the battle and make it clear to the Government that it is the Government's responsibility quite apart from the legal decision of the Court, to determine the policy of Canada. They should now reverse their steps and remove a blot from Canada's fair name. No legal justification of the action of the Government can obscure the Government's moral responsibility.

WHAT TO DO.

1. Write or wire the Prime Minister to withdraw the Orders-in-Council or at least to amend them so as to allow every person who wishes to remain in Canada a judicial hearing. Send a copy of your letter or wire to your Federal Member.
2. Arrange public or group meetings in your district. Ask for speakers from the local Civil Liberties Association or other organizations which have taken up this cause.

FINANCE The response to our appeal for funds for the Supreme Court case was gratifying. (Full statement forthcoming.) Funds for the Privy Council hearing are now required. This is a big undertaking but the ever-widening circle of concerned people can be counted on to "see it through". Send your contribution to the Treasurer, Miss Constance Chappell, 299 Queen St. W. Toronto. If desired, make your contribution through your Local Co-Operative Committee.

TO MEN AND WOMEN OF JAPANESE ORIGIN LAWFULLY RESIDING IN CANADA:

We, the undersigned, citizens of Canada of various racial origins, do hereby address this open letter to you at this time when racial prejudice threatens the foundations of our national life.

We would say to you that we know that ever since men of your race lawfully set foot on Canadian soil they have been unjustly discriminated against. Along with members of the Chinese and Hindu races you have been denied full rights of citizenship in British Columbia, and in other ways you have been unjustifiably treated as inferiors.

All this in face of the fact that your record in Canada has been an unusually creditable one. You have been, with remarkably few exceptions, industrious, sober, frugal and law-abiding. We are aware that many accusations have been brought against you, but inasmuch as the British principle is that a man is innocent until he is proved guilty, we must hold you, or the great majority of you, innocent of the charges against you. Our Canadian Prime Minister stated in parliament in August, 1944, that for the most part you have remained loyal and have refrained from acts of sabotage and of obstruction. And we have no evidence to justify the belief that your loyalty does not continue to the present time.

It is true that there have been inevitable difficulties in our relationship with you. The problem of race assimilation is never a simple one and this has been complicated by economic considerations. So that there are those who think that men of your race ought never to have been admitted to Canada, and probably most of us are opposed to any further immigration from Japan. But the fact remains that you have been admitted, and our treatment of you since your admission does us little credit.

Therefore we say to you that we deeply regret all the injustice from which you have suffered in Canada, and especially perhaps, the hardship to which you have been subjected in your compulsory removal from the coast and the seizure and sale of your property. Many of us believe however that much of this was unavoidable and that your removal was a justifiable precaution in war-time because of the difficulty of distinguishing between friend and foe. But now that the war is over we feel that all distinctions between you and those of German, Italian, or any other racial origin should cease. We are well aware that the desire still exists in the minds of many to have you driven from Canada and we deplore this greatly. We hold it to be un-British to banish any one from our country merely because of racial origin. Any such course of action would be a stain on our national honour that could never be effaced.

We therefore pledge ourselves to endeavour to prevent any such national dishonour from befalling us and any further injustice from befalling you. And despite the racial bitterness that so darkens our national life today, we strive for the time when your children and ours will dwell in this land as friends and brothers, all of them contributing to the life of a nation that stands for freedom, and honour, and justice, and truth.

Letter sent to the Secretaries of the Student Christian
Movement at the Universities in Canada. We
would appreciate it if you could publish it
in your next issue.

Tashme, B.C.,
February 12, 1946.

Sincerely,
Mr. W. J. Williams.

Dear Secretaries:-

Greetings from Tashme, Is the name familiar?
If not, check with your "Canadian Student" issues
of August '45, page 111; December '45, pages 21-23,
and you will recall that Tashme is one of the Japanese
interior Housing settlements--ie. internment camp.
You are, we know, keeping yourselves well enough
informed on this minority problem that no repetition
of the story and the general situation is required
here.

Your correspondents are both S.C.M. grads
and are teaching here in the United Church Mission
High School. (You may also recall that the govern-
ment provides Public school facilities only for
this group of citizens.) We have developed a deep
concern for the welfare for the next few years of
some of our High School students and are writing to
you, believing that you can help us concerning some
of the particular problems at hand.

There are a half dozen or more boys here who
have made the decision to remain in Canada as
Canadian-born citizens regardless of whether their
parents are able to remain or not. These boys will
be without support from parents or relatives
whether their parents are able to stay or must go
to Japan. Also in the latter event, several of the
boys will be entirely without any home (parents or
relatives) to which to go in times of stress. It
is essential, therefore, that if these boys are to
be able to live, they must have a place to call
"home" and work to pay for their board. Because
they are anxious to finish their schooling they
would prefer to act as houseboys, to work for their
board, and to go to school part or full time. If
that is not possible they would gladly take work
of any kind and try to go to school at night.
A few of the boys are in grade XI and will be
ready to take their Junior Matriculation next year.
The rest of the boys are now in grade XII and
would finish or nearly finish it in June.

It seems improbable that boys of this age (18)
will be able to go to school and at the same time
to earn enough to pay tuition fees as well as board/
We are therefore asking for the assistance of our

fellow S.E.M!ers at this point. Not to beat around the bush has your S.C.M. group got a realistic enough ~~vision~~ vision of this Christian problem to pitch in here again and make a local work project of "sponsoring" one of these boys? How about it, gang? We have been fighting for the right of these kids to stay in Canada--now the next step is to ~~ig~~ give them a chance to make use of this right.

Here are some specific cases. One of these young fellows (F), now in Grade XII, president of the Student Council, Guidance and Sunday School teacher, intends to enter the ministry. He is short one or two subjects for his Jr. Matric. but int~~ends~~ ends to complete them by correspondence if necessary. He ~~would~~ nevertheless not be considered a "brilliant" student and he has some difficulty still in expressing himself but he has that spirit and sense of mission so compatible with the S.C.M. Would it be possible to find a place where he could work for his board and attend school and to provide him with a scholarship to cover his fees for one year at least at Varsity?

Two other Grade XII boys (S. and N.) are going to be in need of assistance if they are to stay here. Both are clever boys and would jump at the chance of continuing their education. Again, their primary concern is for a place to stay and some work or assistance in order to eat. They are both working here on labouring jobs and attending school at night.

One of our Grade XI boys (I) who is going to stay even if his family cannot, is a lad with a sound head, not brilliant but steady, whose main purpose in staying is to try to reconcile the white and Oriental sections of our population and to bring them together in a closer understanding. He would like to finish High School. Beyond that he has no set plans. When he finishes his Jr. Matric he hopes to work until he is able to start his training in whatever type of work he then chooses. He and the first Grade XII boy (F) will go anywhere. They do not want to go where there are already a lot of Japanese but would prefer to go together, or if necessary separately, to a place where there are few or none and be pioneers in this regard.

This then is the situation and it is with confidence that we are writing to you about this matter. We have been very proud of the consistent

financial and vocal stand that the S.C.M. has been taking on this problem. Many people across Canada have come to know the S.C.M. because of the publicity it has received in the press and on the radio. Will you now help us to keep up this fine record of fearlessly and uncompromisingly taking a humane and Christian stand on the principle of the brotherhood of man?

Yours sincerely,

W. J. Williams
Winifred J. McBride

U.B.C. '45
U.B.C. '40

VANCOUVER CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL

1806 West 14th Avenue

Vancouver B.C.

March 27th, 1946.

Dear Sir,

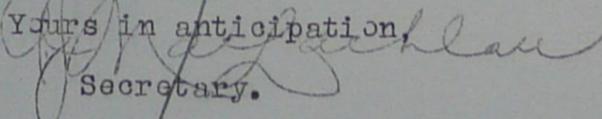
You are aware of the disgrace that has been threatening Canada in the brutal deportation of thousands of innocent people. Thanks to the protests of fair-minded citizens (the churches have played a worthy part in this) there is reason to hope that the disgraceful thing will not be done and that no matter what the decision of the Privy Council may be, no innocent Japanese Canadian will be deported without his own consent.

But even should this prove to be so, the task of the church is not completed. Indeed it is only just begun. The sad fact is that there are numbers of Japanese-Canadians who are choosing to leave this land of (to them) almost fabulous plenty to go to a land of pitiful scarcity, and this not because they prefer scarcity to plenty but because they consider almost anything preferable to the injustice and contumely and hatred which they have been suffering in Canada. They are bound to leave Canada with great bitterness in their hearts, taking memories that may bear sad fruitage in the years to come. But this is not all. There are those who will remain in Canada with their confidence in Canadian justice shaken if not shattered. The wounds of the past years run deep. Nor are wounds restricted to Japanese-Canadians. Perhaps even more pitiful are the wounds that have festered in Canadian minds because they have surrendered to race prejudice.

Here then the church especially has a task to perform. It has helped to prevent (at least so we hope) the gross injustice of deportation. Now it must help to cure the mental and spiritual ~~cancer~~ ^{ulcer} that has resulted from the race prejudice of the past fifty years and especially during the years of the war. It is no small task. It will take years.

There are those who think that a beginning could be made by the publication of the enclosed "open letter". It has been carefully considered by the Vancouver Consultative Council. It cannot of course express in every detail the thought of every lover of justice and freedom, but we hope it may prove to be a kind of "common denominator" for men and women of good will. It has been scrutinised and approved by such outstanding people as Senator Roebuck of Toronto, Professors Basil Mathews and Gerald Switzer of Union Theological College, Vancouver, Mr. H.D. Dawson, city engineer of Nelson, B.C., Mr. and Mrs. Angus MacInnis of Vancouver, Mr. and Mrs. R.W. (Nellie) McClung of Victoria, Mr. J.B. Litch, principal of Nanaimo High School, Rev. Andrew Roddan D.D. and Mr. John Turner, secretary of the Vancouver Labor Council.

We are asking you to read the "open letter" to your congregation on Sunday, April 7th, explain its purpose and ask for signatures. On Monday April 8th, will you kindly forward the list of signatures to the Secretary of the Vancouver Consultative Council. We hope in this way to secure thousands of signatures. We believe that many of the best papers will publish the letter and inform the public as to the number of signatures attached. Thus we may help many distraught men and women that there are many Canadians who seek to do justly, and ~~who~~ love mercy, and ~~who~~ seek to walk humbly with their God.

Yours in anticipation

Secretary.

B. Beloni