

10-338
1944
gelle
Memorandum for Mr. Heeney. - 20

C166598

re Correspondence relating to the demand
for restoration of properties of
the U.L.F.T.A.

For the past few months, there has been a determined campaign carried on by members of the U.L.F.T.A., and individuals and organization in sympathy with them, demanding the return of properties of the Association which were sold by the Custodian of Enemy Property. Hundreds of letters, resolutions and petitions have been received in the Prime Minister's Office, and thousands of printed cards. These communications, which have been referred to the Secretary of State, all carry the same complaints, namely:

1. Halls built at great sacrifice were sold by the Custodian at prices far below their real value.
2. In many cases these halls were sold to rival Ukrainian organizations.
3. Exorbitant service charges and agents' fees were deducted from all amounts realized from sales of property.
4. Many valuable libraries were burned and no compensation has been paid for the books destroyed.
5. Recommendations made to the government by the investigating committee under the chairmanship of Judge McPhee have not been acted upon.
6. No action has been taken as the result of representations made to a Committee of the Cabinet by a delegation from the U.L.F.T.A. in July last, although Mr. McLarty is reported to have promised that active consideration would be given to these representations.

Mr. A.R.M. Lower, President of the Civil Liberties Association of Winnipeg, has written to the Prime Minister supporting the demand for the return of the properties, and stating in part:

"We have already communicated with Hon. Mr. McLarty in this matter. We are writing to you also because the issue affects the honour and moral integrity of the government, and of yourself as leader thereof, and also because the episode is fraught with dreadful possibilities in the denial of civil and property rights to Canadian citizens everywhere."

While the majority of the communications received deal with Ukrainian properties generally, particular emphasis has been placed upon the halls in Vancouver, Winnipeg and Toronto, in connection with which it is alleged the greatest injustice has been done.

Attached for your information are:

- (a) Sample of printed cards being received by the thousands.
- (b) Copy of pamphlet distributed by the Civil Liberties Association of Toronto.
- (c) Typical letter on the subject, and
- (d) Typical form of resolution.

A.E.H.

(Horne)

14th September, 1944.

AEH/JMC