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1943-56

Co-operative Committee on Japanese-Canadians

Minutes of Executive Meeting; Sept. 10, 1946.

Members present: Messers Finlay, Gripton, Watson, Tanaka, Hidaka, Franco, Mrs and Mrs. MacMillan, Misses Chappell, Tucker, Bird, Suzuki. Mrs. Allan, Hamilton. Mr. Andrew Brewin.

Mr. MacMillan's Report: Visit to Ottawa and interview with members of Parliament of all parties. Circulation of B.C.' Committee's petition: Letters to Japan re repatriates. Reply received from Dr. Babb; No reply as yet from Mr. Norman. 15,000 copies of leaflet printed; almost all distributed.

Mr. Brewin's Report: Decision possible in mid-October But probably not till later. Advised plan for adverse decision. Two fields: public opinion and pressure on the government. Recommended a delegation be sent to Ottawa to wait on the Prime Minister or Minister of Justice and Labour Minister. Urge that Orders-in-Council be abandoned; that no further action on deportation be taken; that all Japanese be given adequate notice of changed policy and allowed full exercise of rights. That all groups and individuals be notified to be ready for action if necessary. That newspapers be kept informed of the situation and prepared to assist in the task of rousing public opinion. Inform all Japanese to question the validity of any action taken to deport them and to take defensive action.

Mr. Trueman's Report: Accelerated movement from East to West. Now less than 1500 placeable men in B.C.A camp at Fingal, Ont. to be opened soon to accommodate 300 families. The National Interchurch Advisory Committee on Resettlement of Japanese sent out a second letter to all priests and pastors re resettlement.

Action taken: A delegation to Ottawa of responsible people chosen from the group who were asked to go on the last delegation. Mr Brewin to notify the Prime Minister an interview is pending. Also to consult with members of the delegation.

A committee to prepare a statement following the announcement ^{but} from London was appointed; Mr. Brewin, Mr. Finlay., Mr. Tanaka, Mr. Hidaka. Mrs. Fawke and Mrs; MacMillan.

That a letter be written to the Dominion Welfare Council calling their attention to the unsatisfactory conditions in the camp at Neys.

That a letter be sent to Humphrey Mitchell commenting on his statement of Aug. 30; also calling his attention to the conditions in Neys.

FINANCE Mr. Brewin presented a full statement of the expenses of the Privy Council appeal Miss Chappell was asked to pay the balance owing. Mr. Brewin reported that a small balance could be expected from his agent in London.

That a letter be sent to our mailing list to call all to be in readiness to renew the struggle, and to inform them of our financial obligations.

Mr. MacMillan submitted his resignation as secretary to take effect Sept. 15. Mrs. MacMillan was asked to resume the secretaryship for a period of at least two months.

Donald MacMillan,
Secretary for the Committee

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Co-operative Committee on Japanese-Canadians

Minutes of Executive Meeting -- Oct. 16th, 1946

Members present: Finlay, Watson, Fowler, Tanaka, Hidaka, McCurdy, Nichols, Fowke, Bird, Chappell, Wolfenden, Tucker, MacMillan.

The meeting was called to discuss the report on "Restrictions and Property Losses" as prepared by Mrs. Fowke, K. Tanaka, and K. Hidaka. After discussion a few corrections were made and the report was adopted. It was agreed that it be presented to Mr. Brewin for criticism and then mimeographed. (250 copies)

It was agreed to send 10 copies to each co-operative committee across the country: one copy to each co-operating organization in the city: a copy to key people across the country and to interested members of Parliament.

A letter from the B.C. committee was discussed and it was agreed to write them that we would co-operate with them in the preparation of a new pamphlet to be published soon after the decision from the Privy Council was handed down. Our Committee agreed to be responsible for the distribution in Ontario and Eastern Provinces. 25000 copies would be required. It was agreed to suggest to the B.C. committee that special emphasis be given to the question of restrictions and property losses with less space given to the deportation issue. It was suggested that a leaflet would meet the need at this time and that later a fuller account might give the whole story from the beginning.

Mr. Makioku: The secretary reported the impending deportation of Mr. Makioku. A history of his case was given and it was agreed that copies of the case-history be sent to each member of the committee and to influential persons in the city with the request that they write the Minister of Mines and Resources, Immigration Branch, asking for leniency for the man.

Donalda MacMillan,
Secretary.

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Co-operative Committee on Japanese-Canadians

Meeting of Small Committee-- Nov. 6th, 1946.

Members present: Finlay, Watson, Haslam, Fowler, Tanaka, Hidaka, MacMillan.
Special guests: T.(Buck) Suzuki, Dave Watanabe.

The meeting was called to study a proposal submitted by the Japanese-Canadian members with reference to printing and circulating a form to gather details on property losses with a view to aiding the Co-operative Committee in its approach to the government for a Claims Commission.

A form used by a Civil Liberties Group in the U.S. for a similar purpose was studied and it was agreed to ask the JCCD to prepare a form and submit it to the Committee and to Mr. Brewin, after which the JCCD would undertake to secure the filling out of 500 or 1,000 forms. These would then be turned over to the Co-operative Committee.

Kunio Hidaka presented a letter from the Custodian which he had received that day. A cheque was enclosed purporting to be the full amount owing him for the sale of his property. It was felt that the acceptance of the cheque would prejudice further claim from the Custodian. It was agreed that after consultation with Mr. Brewin all Japanese-Canadians should be advised to refrain from cashing their cheques.

Nov. 7th 1946

Mrs. MacMillan and Kunio Hidaka met with Mr. Brewin. It was agreed to send the following night letter to the New Canadian;

Have been requested by Cooperative Committee here to send you following telegram for insertion in New Canadian Quote Cheques are being sent out by custodian purporting to be in full payment of balances from sale of properties of Japanese Canadians by custodian Stop In our opinion acceptance of cheques would be fatal bar to further legal claims in respect to sale of properties and might prejudice contemplated representations to Government for appointment of a claims commission to review whole matter of forced sales Stop I would advise that where possible cheques be returned to custodian with letter stating that to accept would prejudice legal rights and claims to full restitution.

Signed Andrew Brewin

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COOPERATIVE COMMITTEE ON JAPANESE CANADIANS

Executive Meeting Nov. 25, 1946

Present; special members only; Finlay, Haslam, Nichols, Hidaka, Kinzie and George Tanaka, Miss Chappell, Donald MacMillan, Mr. Brewin.

Mr. Brewin reported on his interview with the Prime Minister's secretary. He advised that a small delegation be sent to Ottawa following the report from the privy council.

Action taken A delegation of Mr. Brewin, Mr. Sandwell, Mr. Finlay, Mrs. MacMillan were suggested. It was agreed to ask Prof. LaViollotte of the Montreal committee to accompany us. Choice of a Japanese delegate was left until later.

Mrs. MacMillan was asked to interview the Evening Telegram and the Daily Star to inform them of the early announcement of the decision from the privy council and to request them to give attention to presenting a fair interpretation of the decision. It was decided to ask Mr. Tatham to interview the Globe and Mail.

Press release was discussed. Mr. Brewin agreed, after discussion, to prepare the release.

It was agreed to meet again soon after the news came out to give a release to the press and to prepare for the interview with the government.

Mr. Brewin was asked to write the Government for an interview the coming week.

Donald MacMillan.

Secretary.

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COOPERATIVE COMMITTEE ON JAPANESE CANADIANS
EXECUTIVE MEETING DEC. 12, 1946

Members present: Finlay, Watson, Fowke, Bird, Chappell, Wolfenden, Tanaka, Hidaka, McCurdy, Tucker, Shimizu, Franco, MacMillan, Trueman, Brewin, (Mrs. Coates Mr. Savarry)

The meeting was called to hear a report on the Privy Council decision and to discuss plans for further action arising out of the decision.

Mr. Brewin read excerpts from the report and gave his interpretation of the significance of the decision as stated by the judges.

Discussion followed with the following decisions reached:-

1. Agreed to await an interview with the Government before deciding on future action.
2. To ask the B.C. Committee to send a delegate to join our delegation in Ottawa. Our delegation to consist ^(as agreed on Nov. 25) of Mr. Brewin, Mr. Finlay, Mr. Sandwell and Mrs. Mac Millan.
3. Mr. Brewin was requested to select excerpts from the report that were of important value for the information and education of the public. This was to be distributed to key people across the country.
4. The offer of the J.C.C.D. to mimeograph several copies of the full report for the regional committees was accepted.
5. Agreed to subscribe to Canadian Clipping Service to gather editorials on the Privy Council decision.
6. Agreed to instruct the small standing committee to engage secretarial service for a period of at least three months from Jan. 1st. 1947, ~~after~~ At the end of that time further consideration was to be given to the matter. The committee was ~~asked~~ ^{instructed} to engage a person for six months, if need be, with the understanding that if the work of the committee should not require ^{full time} secretarial help, the person would be free to terminate her contract ~~before~~ ^{before} the six months were up.

Donalda MacMillan, Secretary

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