

MEMORANDA : JAPANESE - CANADIAN  
ORGANIZATIONS

1946-1950 (10)

National Japanese Canadian Citizen's Association.  
Slocan Valley Nisei Organization  
Japanese Canadian Comm. Htee For Democracy.



# JAPANESE CANADIAN COMMITTEE FOR DEMOCRACY



84 GERRARD ST. E., TORONTO ★ TELEPHONE AD. 2547

Saturday, November 30, 1946.

Dear Friend:

The Co-operative Committee on Japanese Canadians has delegated the JCCD to carry out work on a nation-wide scale on the Economic Loss Survey of British Columbia evacuees. The JCCD is now contacting and seeking the co-operation of all Japanese Canadian organizations across Canada on this important property matter.

Will you please give us your support and co-operation on the following three points:

- (1) You will find enclosed the Economic Loss Survey questionnaire form in duplicate. If you or members of your family have suffered any economic losses due to the evacuation and wish to seek restitution of same, please fill out the forms as carefully as possible. You are to keep one filled out form as a duplicate copy for your own record. If you or your family have several cases of economic loss and wish extra copies of the questionnaire form, please write us.
- (2) Please have your questionnaire form ready, which will be collected by a volunteer JCCD canvasser sometime during Sunday, December 8, or during the weekdays following, or on Sunday, December 15.
- (3) It is the aim and object of the JCCD to take an active part in any question which concerns the welfare of Japanese Canadians. In order to carry out this work successfully, the JCCD asks for your support during these critical times.

We respectfully submit a membership application form for your consideration. If you wish to fill it out and have it ready for the volunteer canvasser, together with the membership fee which, we may say, will assist the JCCD in meeting the expenses for this work, it will be greatly appreciated.

In order to help anyone who has difficulty in filling out the questionnaire form, JCCD committee members, Issei and Nisei, will be on hand at the Church of All Nations, Thursday, December 12 and Thursday, December 19, 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

Very sincerely yours,

JCCD

General Secretary.

P.S. If you are already a member, please ignore the fifth paragraph.

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# Japanese Canadian

TELEPHONE: PLAZA 1253



## CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS:  
84 GERRARD ST. E., TORONTO 2, ONTARIO

COPY

February 28, 1950.

Dear Claimant:

It has become apparent to the National JCCA that we are approaching a very delicate stage of proceedings on the matter of Claims with the Government. We believe the Claims Hearings in Vancouver before the Royal Commission are now coming to an end and it is expected that a report will be submitted to the Government by the Commission in the not too distant future.

During the past 9 months, legal counsel for claimants has been fully engaged in representing the best interests of some 1,300 Claimants and each claim has been carefully considered, and brought to the attention of the Commission for the fullest possible amount of restitution that legal counsel's and Claimant's supporting evidence will obtain.

In order to prevent any possible misunderstanding among some Claimants regarding the Commissioner's over-all percentage proposal on a method of settlement, the following interpretation of his average percentage proposal is made, e.g., on Fraser Valley property sold through Veterans Land Act Administration, the Commissioner's average percentage finding is 80%. It should be noted that under this proposal, some Claimants may receive perhaps as much as 200% and others perhaps 50% of the Custodian's sale price of their property, depending upon Counsel's independent valuation advice.

The JCCA has realized that Claimants may have felt that they have not received as full information as could be desired on their claims, but it has been difficult for both the Co-operative Committee and the JCCA to report in detail the progress of each individual claim in terms of the actual amount of awards the Commissioner is granting as he has indicated to Claimants' Counsel, this information cannot be made public before his report is submitted to the Government. Further, the Committee's Counsel in Vancouver has been fully engaged on the proceedings and has had no time to make full reports. However, the JCCA is now in a better position to inform the Claimants of the many aspects of the present JCCA work on Claims which has not heretofore been clearly determined to enable a full report to be made to Claimants.

While it may be pointed out that with regard to the present enquiry, Claimants have legally retained the Co-operative Committee which is the organization composed of Canadians other than Japanese formed in 1943 to help Japanese Canadians overcome the various problems with which they were faced - Legislative Discrimination, Deportation and Evacuation Losses Claims - the National Japanese Canadian Citizens Association has been acting in close consultation with the Co-operative Committee in order that the views of Japanese Canadian claimants may be known to this Committee and, also, that the machinery of the JCCA organization shall be available to assist the Co-operative Committee and legal counsel to ensure the best effort of all concerned are directed together for the welfare of Claimants.

The second year's end audited, financial report on the expenditures of monies paid by Claimants will soon be published by the Co-operative Committee who have been legally retained by Claimants to act on their behalf. And for this reason it is desirable to state that although the JCCA has no legal status with Claimants, it has continually worked in their best interests in close co-operation with the Co-operative Committee.

The JCCA desires at this time to report to you on the present plans of the JCCA regarding its work for Japanese Canadians who suffered losses as a result of the forced evacuation. The following detailed reports under various headings are therefore submitted for your consideration:

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Background Information Relative to Present JCCA Plans on the Claims Question

You will recall that under date of April 16, 1949, you received a letter from the Co-operative Committee on Japanese Canadians advising you that an offer on a method of settlement was received in connection with your property losses claims and that for the reasons stated therein it was recommended that the proposals of settlement be accepted. The National JCCA, at that time, considered this matter from all angles and felt that there was, unfortunately, no alternative under the present enquiry but to recommend acceptance of Counsels' recommendation to Claimants: it was Counsels' advice that a claimants' rejection of the Commissioner's proposal would likely necessitate individual hearing of each claim, prolonging the proceedings perhaps two or three years with the likelihood less would be gained for claimants, with some claimants receiving nothing, and with the added financial burden placed on claimants of paying a further assessment of perhaps \$100,000 to cover additional costs. It was never intended, however, that any acceptance of the proposals should be considered as an end of our complaints respecting property losses claims. It was at that time reported to us that a great majority of Claimants who replied to the Co-operative Committee agreed, under protest, with their recommendation for acceptance.

The National JCCA has since fully realized that it would be necessary for the organization to continue to make every effort to gain for Japanese Canadian evacuees just restitution for the losses they suffered from the forced evacuation.

Since August of 1949, the National JCCA has given careful study to the question of future plans of the JCCA with regard to the matter and has consulted with legal counsel. While the Commissioner's Report is pending and has not been published, it is not a suitable time to make representations to the Government about the evacuation losses. However, the National JCCA has fully planned to make vigorous representation to the Government on the over-all claims question at a future appropriate date subsequent to the Commission submitting its full report to the Government and will deal specially with such matters as were outside the limited terms of reference.

Report on American Claims

In order that no stone is left unturned in the preparation of future plans on claims, the JCCA felt it wise to obtain as full information as possible on the Japanese American Claims. And arising from correspondence between the JCCA National Office and Mr. Mike Masaoka, National Legislative Director of the Anti-Discrimination Committee of the JACL in Washington, a meeting was arranged in Toronto on October 23rd between Mr. E. J. Ennis, Counsel for the Japanese American Citizens League; Mr. Mike Masaoka; and Mr. Andrew Brewin, Co-operative Committee Counsel for the Japanese Canadian Claimants; and Mr. George Tanaka, JCCA National Executive Secretary.

The Canadian members present at this meeting were informed by Mr. Ennis and Mr. Masaoka that very little information could be given to them on the work and proceedings of the American Evacuation Losses Claims as the investigation had not advanced beyond the stage of filing Claims and very little preparatory work had been carried out with regard to obtaining proof, evaluations and other important evidence to support the American claims.

Mr. Ennis, Legal Counsel for the JACL, was impressed with the method which has been adopted by Canadian legal counsel and the Co-operative Committee in obtaining general evidence to support the Japanese Canadian claims, where the co-operative efforts of legal counsel representing all Japanese Canadian Claimants has enabled the hiring of expert real estate evaluators, statisticians, etc., who have been able to obtain important evidence to support Japanese Canadian claims.

One outstanding difference was noted by Mr. Ennis and Mr. Masaoka with regard to the attitude of the respective Governments toward the question of Evacuation Losses Claims. In contrast to the reserved attitude of the Canadian Government to the case of Japanese Canadian Evacuation Losses claims, Mr. Ennis pointed out that the attitude of the Department of Justice in America, which is directly responsible for handling the Japanese American Evacuation Losses claims, has been entirely sympathetic. However, it was noted that the Department of Justice in America is able to place the responsibility of Evacuation directly upon the shoulders of the United States Army, a condition of placing Evacuation responsibility not possible in Canada.

Contrary to the belief held by some Canadian Claimants, the present American Claims Bill does not provide for a general indemnification claim based on general evacuation hardship.

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The National JCCA, through its National Executive Committee, presented to the Third National Conference held in Lethbridge, November 4th to 7th, 1949, its recommendations and plans as to what future course of action the National JCCA should take with regard to this important question of evacuation losses claims. The National Conference studied this matter carefully and approved the preparation of the JCCA Brief on Evacuation Losses Claims, already undertaken by the Committee with the assistance of legal counsel, which it was proposed be presented to the Government at a future date.

The National JCCA Conference was of the opinion that the time of publication of the Commissioner's Report would be the opportune time for the JCCA and the Japanese Canadians to bring to the attention of the public the injustices of the forced evacuation and the losses suffered.

It is believed the Royal Commission will soon be concluding its hearings and will be submitting its full report to the Canadian Government. The National JCCA is, therefore, formulating its present plans with this consideration in mind and is at present finalizing its over-all plans and is completing preparation of its Brief. It is also expected that after the Commissioner's Report is tendered to the Government, the Government may take several weeks to study the recommendations.

We now have a report from Co-operative Committee legal counsel in Vancouver that the total recovery on personal claims (exclusive of Corporation claims) of some 1,300 claimants who retained the Co-operative Committee may exceed the amount estimated 9 months ago by some \$ 150,000. From this you will realize that many favourable "settlements" have been made and also many "special awards" have been obtained from the Commissioner.

"The Claimants' total estimate of Fair Market Value of all property on which claims are made, after considering the reductions made on claim amounts at the time of Claimants' hearings and after excluding items claimed which were deemed to be outside the terms of reference, is approximately \$ 4,488,000 (N.B., the total amount of Custodian's sale price of properties is included in this figure).

"The Custodian sold the properties (personal and real) to which these claims relate for approximately \$ 1,663,000.

"The total of net claims for loss amount to approximately \$ 2,825,000.

"On these claims, Claimants will probably recover approximately \$ 840,000 or 50% more than the sale price.

"The total amount received by the claimants who retained the Co-operative Committee (including the sale price and the award) will be approximately \$ 2,504,000, or 55.78% of the gross claimed value.

"Counsel advises that on a breakdown by Provinces there is very little variation in this percentage for each Province. For instance, for B.C. and Ontario where the bulk of the Claimants reside and in which Provinces three-quarter in value of the Claimants are to be found, the respective percentage of total recovery in relation to claim value (that is, including sale price and award) will be 57.41 and 56.03 respectively. The best recovery was made on V.L.A., cars, nets and boats in that order. Surprisingly enough, however, Vancouver City property, when sale price and award are totalled, represents 55.96% of claim value, or slightly better than the average for all properties."

#### Record of the Past Work of the JCCA Achieved for Claimants

It is felt that many Claimants would desire to know what the National JCCA, the Provincial JCCA's and the local JCCA's have accomplished during the past two years in working for the welfare of Japanese Canadians on Evacuation Losses Claims.

It has been acknowledged on many occasions by the Co-operative Committee and legal counsel for Claimants that without the valuable and very considerable contribution made by the JCCA organization toward assisting the Co-operative Committee and legal counsel, it would have been difficult to accomplish the submission of Japanese Canadian Claims to the Royal Commission to the extent achieved.

The National JCCA during the past two years has not overlooked the case of Claimants excluded under the present enquiry. In 1948, the JCCA assisted in the preparation of a brief on excluded claims which was presented to the Minister of Justice by the Co-operative Committee and the JCCA.

National JCCA  
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printing  
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### The National JCCA

Since September, 1947, the National JCCA has expended over \$ 6,000 to pay for the services of necessary National JCCA office staff to enable the JCCA organization to function during many important periods in the past two years to work for and assist Claimants.

During the 5 months period from September, 1947, to January, 1948, the National JCCA Headquarters office assisted in the printing and distribution of Claims Forms and considerable informational and instructional material on filing claims printed both in English and Japanese. The National Office thus provided complete information and gave assistance in the filing of Claims to Claimants through JCCA channels and other media, and attended to a great volume of correspondence on Claims matters with Claimants.

From February, 1948, to December, 1948, the National JCCA attended to the printing and distribution of pre-Hearing Claims Forms, printed in English and Japanese, and provided expert assistance in completing the necessary special tabulation of over 1,300 claims. The National JCCA also directed the JCCA organization machinery which has made possible the providing of interpreters for Claimants in all the various local centres in each Province and also made possible the functioning of this machinery to provide assistance in the work of presenting evidence from Claimants to the Commission.

During April - May, 1949, the full time of the National Executive Secretary was taken up in making special trip across Canada to inform the JCCA Provincial and local Chapter executives on the various important points concerning the Commissioner's proposal of an over-all method of settlement, so as to provide Claimants with as clear and complete information as possible on the proposal and the Co-operative Committee's recommendation.

### The Provincial JCCA's

From October, 1947, to May, 1949, the various Provincial Chapters across Canada have contributed through their Executive and Committee members a very great deal of voluntary time, personal and Chapter financial resources to assist Claimants in the presentation of their claims to the Commission. Provincial and local Chapters have paid for numerous expenses out of their treasuries to cover costs incurred in the renting of meeting halls, typewriters, etc., while giving assistance to Claimants.

Each Provincial JCCA Chapter during this period attended to the complete distribution of Claims Forms and related material to Claimants and organized the necessary Provincial JCCA machinery which has made possible, through the co-operation of local Chapters, providing assistance to Claimants in the filing of Claims and the preparation of important evidence for presentation to the Commission during the Claimant's hearings.

Thus, the Provincial JCCA Executive and Committee members gave many hours and days of their time to assist Claimants.

### The Local JCCA'S

Similar to the contributions of time, effort, and personal financial resources which have been given by Provincial JCCA Chapter Executives, each local JCCA Chapter's executive and committee members have contributed their voluntary time to assist Claimants during the past two years. Through their efforts, it has been possible for Claimants to submit their Claims to the Commissioner and to provide important evidence for legal counsel with the minimum of confusion despite the language difficulty.

### The Co-operative Committee on Japanese Canadians

It is appropriate at this time to acknowledge in appreciation the work of the Co-operative Committee whose membership mainly is comprised of Canadians other than Japanese who formed the Committee in 1943 for the express purpose of helping Japanese Canadians through their many difficulties since the evacuation.

The Co-operative Committee has held a great many meetings during the past 6 years, and in the course of working, each member of the Committee has acted faithfully and well in a desire to help Japanese Canadians and to correct the injustices which have been put upon them.

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Noteable are the achievements of this Committee in combatting the many legislative discriminations: the outstanding examples are - the successful work against the Federal deportation law and gaining recognition from the Government on the question of Evacuation losses with the appointment of a Royal Commission.

The Co-operative Committee raised over \$ 10,000 in their appeal for financial support made to hundreds of Caucasian Canadians across Canada and thus financed the greater part of the cost of its work in opposing the Federal deportation law against Japanese Canadians.

The JCCA also desires to acknowledge with appreciation the work, past and in progress, of legal counsel in all the Provinces, who consented to act on behalf of Claimants through appeal of the Co-operative Committee due to a desire to assist in correcting the injustices of the forced Evacuation.

#### Conclusion

The National JCCA in concluding this report on the work which has been accomplished for the welfare of Japanese Canadian Claimants, desires to extend at this time an opportunity to Claimants to submit their views and suggestions to the National JCCA on the Claims work. It is the desire of the JCCA organization to fully present the views of Japanese Canadian Claimants when making representation to the Government and to the public on their behalf. The organization therefore would appreciate receiving your individual comments, either directly by mail to the National JCCA Office or through your local JCCA Chapter organization.

Yours sincerely,

*George Tanaka*

GEORGE TANAKA,  
National Executive Secretary

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一九四六年十一月廿日

東京市会議員会

各 位

各州、各地方、日本人の協力の協同委員会に於てはビーター  
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# JAPANESE CANADIAN COMMITTEE FOR DEMOCRACY

## PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION

This organization was formed because of the necessity for active political and collective action for the betterment and advancement of the Welfare of Canadians of Japanese ancestry, desirous of living in Canada as full Canadian citizens.

In the realization that we are a racial minority group and that our welfare depends to a great extent upon the general welfare of other minority groups, we shall seek opportunities to co-operate with them for our mutual progress.

Realizing, too, that the welfare of all groups in Canada depends upon the society by which we are governed, we shall strive to work and co-operate with all groups whose aim it is to establish a social order where equal opportunities are accorded to all, irrespective of race, creed or colour, and where unjust exploitation of man by man, for reasons of personal gain, is abolished.

## AIMS AND OBJECTS

- (1) To strive for equality of treatment of all races with respect to the fundamental rights and duties as citizens of Canada.
- (2) To protect and further the civil, social and economic rights of all citizens of Japanese ancestry in Canada.
- (3) To undertake educational activities among the Japanese Canadians which will enable them to make an active contribution to the progress and development of Canada.
- (4) To undertake educational activities which will enable Canadians of Japanese and other racial origins, to understand one another better for the purpose of strengthening the unity of Canada.
- (5) To contact and co-operate with the work of Japanese Canadians in other cities and communities.
- (6) To encourage and assist Canadian residents of Japanese ancestry to attain Canadian citizenship.

## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

JAPANESE CANADIAN COMMITTEE FOR DEMOCRACY  
84 Gerrard Street, East  
Toronto 2, Ontario

Dear Sir:

I wish to become a member of the Japanese Canadian Committee for Democracy and remit herewith my membership fee of two dollars (\$2.00) for the year.

The following information is also given:

Name:..... Age:.....  
Address:..... Tel. No. ....  
Occupation:..... Date:.....

Since I wish to take an active part in the Committee's programme and to attend all meetings where possible, please keep me posted on your activities.

Yours truly,

(Signed).....

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Slocan, B. C.

April 27, 1946.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

We, the Japanese-Canadians, earnestly ask the people of Canada to give their attention to the following facts in connection with repatriation. Some of the Japanese in Canada have no choice but to go to Japan; others said they wished to go, but now, because of the conditions offered by the Canadian Government, they feel they cannot go; others are waiting the result of the appeal to the Privy Council.

Many of these people have suffered greatly through the evacuation from the coast, especially those who are getting on in years, and who had their property sold by the Custodian of Alien Property. Through this evacuation their financial standing has been lost, and in many ways the life they have built for themselves has been destroyed.

Even now when hostilities have ceased, they are being treated differently from the Italians and Germans. One phase of this discriminative treatment is their inability to return to their former employment. This means that a man who has no experience but as a fisherman, because he cannot go on with that type of work, has to engage in farming, of which he has no experience. Because of this, many of these people are unable to support themselves in Canada, and so feel that they must return to Japan.

The Japanese returning to Japan ask that children under sixteen shall not lose their rights as Canadian citizens. As it stands at present, where the parents have decided to go to Japan, the children of course must accompany their parents, but it is our desire that an arrangement may be made so that these children shall not lose their citizenship.

Those who are returning to Japan are dissatisfied with the conditions arranged by the Government. They will have to re-establish themselves there, and, because of the evacuation, a great portion of their assets has been lost. They feel that the financial assistance of \$200 for an adult and \$50 for a child under sixteen, is not sufficient for their re-establishment.

In addition to asking the Government to increase the financial aid, there is also the question of what belongings they are to be permitted to take with them at the time of repatriation. The possessions which these people have now are the things which are an absolute minimum of necessities--kitchen utensils, clothing, bedding, sewing machines and tools of trade. The Government has stated that on account of inadequate shipping space, only a specified weight of goods may be taken, but the people who are going to Japan are most anxious that each family be given permission to take with them at the time of sailing all the things which are absolutely indispensable in setting up in house and work in Japan.

We, Japanese-Canadians, speaking for those who are to leave Canada, would bring to your attention these three requests--the request for guarantee that steps be taken to effectively protect the Canadian rights of Canadian-born minors--the need of a greater amount for resettlement fund--and the desire to take with them all articles of household equipment.

We appeal to the Canadian public to help improve the conditions of repatriation, reminding you that the suffering and anxiety to which these people have been subjected is not through any fault of their own, but come as one of the results of a war in which they have no direct concern.

SLOCAN VALLEY NISEI ORGANIZATION.

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NATIONAL JAPANESE CANADIAN  
CITIZENS ASSOCIATION  
84 Gerrard Street East  
Toronto 2, Ontario

NOTES ON JOINT COMMITTEE MEETINGS OF THE FOLLOWING STATED COMMITTEES  
ON THE MATTER OF EVACUATION LOSSES CLAIMS:

Co-operative Committee on Japanese Canadians  
JCCA National Executive Committee  
Toronto Claimants Committee

###

The joint meetings held on Saturday, February 4th and Tuesday, February 7th, 1950, were convened by the National JCCA on the suggestion of the Co-operative Committee to provide an opportunity to the Toronto Claimants Committee to discuss fully with the Co-operative Committee and the National JCCA questions pertaining to Evacuation Property Losses Claims.

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NOTES ON THE JOINT MEETING HELD BETWEEN THE JCCA NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, THE CO-OPERATIVE COMMITTEE ON JAPANESE CANADIANS AND THE TORONTO CLAIMANTS' COMMITTEE ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1950, AT THE CENTRAL YMCA, TORONTO, COMMENCING AT 2.00 P.M.

Those Present:

JCCA National Executive Com. - Mr. Jin Ide, Mr. Kinzie Tanaka, Mr. Senji Sasaki, Mr. Yoshio Hyodo, Mr. Hugo Yamamoto, Mr. Harry Fukushima, Mr. T. Sumi, Mr. Fred Kondo, Mr. T. Umezuki, Mr. Fred Kayahara, Miss Norah Fujita.

Co-operative Committee - Miss Margaret Boos, Miss Grace Tucker, Mr. Fred Haslam, Rev. E. M. Nichols, Mr. Hartley Fowler, Rev. J. M. Finlay, Mr. Andrew Brewin.

Toronto Claimants' Com. - Mr. T. Mio, Mr. A. S. Ozawa, Mr. T. Mineoka, Mr. K. Takahashi, Mr. S. Takashima, Mr. S. Z. Shin, Mr. T. Sumi, Mr. K. Hidaka, Mr. Roger Obata.

Chairman - Mr. Jin Ide,

Recording Secretary - Miss Norah Fujita.

CALL TO ORDER BY THE CHAIR

T. Umezuki - A few moments ago, the Toronto Claimants' Committee asked me to explain why they organized the Claimants Committee:

Until December 3rd, there was no claimants' group in Toronto. Therefore, the JCCA suggested that they organize a liaison Committee of Claimants. They accepted this suggestion and met at the Church of All Nations on December 3rd and after another meeting on Dec. 17, the Toronto Committee elected an 11-member committee. Now they are acting and working for the benefit of the Claimants themselves. Until that time the question was handled by the local JCCA's 3 member committee but there were some misunderstandings and the matter was not carried out properly. The JCCA asked them to organize their own committee. This Committee was organized to handle this question at this last crucial moment. The Toronto Claimants Committee wished me to express their position and make this statement to avoid possible misunderstanding.

BRIEF RESUME OF PAST PROCEEDINGS:

G. Tanaka - I would like to state that several weeks ago the Toronto Claimants Committee expressed a desire to the National Executive Committee that it approach the Co-operative Committee on the following three points which were set out in a letter written to Miss Boos.

1. They desired representation from their Committee on the Co-operative Committee.
2. They asked that a meeting of the Co-operative Committee be held at the earliest possible date in order that they could discuss various points with regard to the Claims question with them.
3. They would like to know what further charges would be assessed Claimants.

At a Co-operative Committee meeting held Jan. 20th, it was decided to ask the National JCCA to convene a meeting at which time members of the three respective Committees would be present. That is the reason

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Mr. Jin Ide, Vice-Chairman of the JCCA Executive Com., is chairing this meeting.

JCCA Future Plans re Claims - The JCCA has never intended to give up its work on the Claims matter. We consulted with the Co-operative Committee and received the advice that nothing could be done until after the Commissioner submits his report to the Government. The National JCCA has been working preparing a Brief to be presented to the Government to cover various points re Evacuation Losses Claims including excluded claims under the present enquiry.

The general outline of the brief was reported to the Third National Conference in Lethbridge last November and approved by the delegates. The outline of this brief was first considered by the National Executive Committee and advice on it received from Mr. Brewin and Mr. McMaster.

REQUEST FOR AN INTERPRETER - by the Chair

Mr. Kondo - I will offer to interpret, but it will be under the following conditions: I am a member of the JCCA, and I have my own opinion on this matter. I must be assured that no person will consider that as affecting my interpretation. If there is any mistake or misquoting, I want to be corrected on the spot, and not be criticized after the meeting is all over. If I make a statement in Japanese, that is the idea of the original speaker, not my opinion.

Mr. Kondo's offer accepted on his conditions.

Mr. Fowler - If the speaker makes several points at a time, there might be a pause after each point for discussion.

Mr. Kondo - If a point is stated, I wish permission to stop the speaker at that point and interpret it. During prolonged talking, it would ordinarily be impolite for me to stop him in his speech.

STATEMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE TORONTO CLAIMANTS' COMMITTEE - read by R. Obata.

R. Obata - Our statements were prepared in Japanese and translated.

1. Introductory Speech on behalf of Claimants Committee by Mr. Takashima.
2. Statement on General Evacuation Conditions by Mr. Mineoka.
3. Statement on Farm Property by Mr. Shin.
4. Statement on Principle Involved in Accepting Commissioner's Settlement by Mr. Ozawa.
5. Statement re Treatment of Fishermen at time of Evacuation by Mr. Mio.
6. Summary by K. Hidaka:

When we approach this matter of Claims, the thing we should have foremost in our minds is that this matter is not just one where we can find out what the price of certain commodities was and hand that to the Japanese people and say the matter is closed. When people were moving out of their homes, they did not want to leave. Furthermore, they did not get enough time to pack up their belongings to move properly. It was a matter of being told in a good many instances to move out tomorrow, and not being able to take goods with them. They moved out in circumstances of that kind. Just locked the door

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and took out blankets and clothes. People moved out under these conditions were not able to take a proper inventory or anything of that kind. Furthermore, they were not in that frame of mind. They were not told that they would have to appear 5 or 6 years later to prove their case. If the authorities were to approach the people to say that they must have the type of proof they have to have in court, they haven't a chance. Furthermore, they did not see that there was that requirement on their part. A lot of people had to leave before the Office of the Custodian was set up. People who had their own property and own homes had places to put their things, others in rented homes or country homes had no places to leave them. Some sold them at what they could get. When you try to make a settlement with people who have gone through an experience of that kind, you have to recognize the feelings that they have now regarding that time. Not only did they go through these experiences when they were evacuated after they moved to the sugar beet farms and to the ghost towns and road camps, they heard reports of people breaking in and stealing their property. Some of these properties were very valuable. To approach these people and say that the Commissioner has found that they lost a certain amount of property and certain goods and the Commissioner has put a certain price on them, and that price is extremely low, these people cannot consider it. And for that reason, in any work that we do on claims, we have to recognize these circumstances and get that condition and the feeling of these people to the general public in Canada.

With regard to the people who had real property sold by the Custodian, in a good many instances, it was not only buying a commodity - it meant years of savings. A great many did not have money to buy a farm that was set up. They first saved money by working in mills, or fishing and buying land standing in bush and timber, fixing roads, clearing land, building houses and putting in crops. A good many types of crops were originated by Japanese people there and marketing methods were improved by Japanese people and we think in terms of something built up in a number of years, and the offer of the Commissioner is an exceedingly low price, about 15¢ to the dollar.

(Points raised by K. Hidaka)

1. So far as we know, the evidence submitted by the claimants was not given full consideration. I am informed that evidence taken at the time of the Deputy Commissioner's hearings were not considered. The person put down the price paid for the property and details justifying the price he claimed. Had this been known, there would not have been very much reason for having these hearings in the Provinces where claimants appeared.
2. The Commissioner ruled that Vancouver sales were at fair market value. The only claim allowed was 5% real estate commission. The reason is that Justice Smith had something to do with the sale of these properties. If he is being influenced by what has been done by another Government committee, he is not approaching it with a fair mind.
3. The Commissioner is depending on valuations hired by the Custodian who were making valuations from the standpoint of purchasers. Any person having anything to do with appraisals will understand that when a person is hired to carry out an appraisal, he usually favours that person's position. If the Custodian hired valuers, you can expect that his valuers would bring in a report favourable to that position. We feel that so far as we are concerned, that type of consideration did not work in our favour and we would not be satisfied with valuations established in that way.

valuations in many instances of sale. The Custodian's time. Some VLA land took place in '43 or '44. considerably. We feel recognition.

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The percentage system and unacceptable in price will get a good price low award.

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Chattels - The claimants' chattels. Unless a claimant has been rejected by the right to make further

CO-OPERATIVE COMMITTEE STATEMENTS

The Co-operative Committee hearing about in the last their leadership, public Although not a close-knit centred in one place, and were concerned with a group

We are very well aware we did the pushing we did Ottawa. Out of that effort effected and further effort led to the setting up of Government's offer, however we decided it best to a was set up. There was thing co-operative in representation in each

Mr. Roger Ouimet (Quebec); Cherniack (Manitoba); Turcotte (Alberta); M



4. Valuations in many instances were made at a time considerably before the time of sale. The Custodian did not recognize an increase in price at that time. Some VLA lands were valuated in late spring of 1942 and sales took place in '43 or '44. During that time, the price level increased considerably. We feel recognition was not given to increase in price.
5. The market position became depressed after the removal of the Japanese Canadians. They should not be penalized for the depression. There may not be the same demand for the properties in the area. So far as we are concerned, we did not leave these places on our own accord. We were moved out and for that reason should not bear the penalty for that depressed position in that area.
6. The VLA sales were based on ridiculous valuations of the Soldiers Settlement Board. They were acting on behalf of the buyers of the property. The percentage settlement was derived from these valuations and could not be satisfactory.
7. The percentage system of the Commissioner is totally wrong in principle and unacceptable in practice. The person who got a relatively good price will get a good price, while the person who got a low price will get a low award.
8. Valuations were not made of residential property in Fraser Valley - but arbitrary figure determined by the Commissioner - value of property outside of Vancouver was not properly evaluated. Furthermore, these outside spots would suffer more than Vancouver although their physical value may be equal with those in Vancouver.
9. Chattels - The claimants should challenge the rights on their claims for chattels. Unless actual awards are reasonably close, they cannot find them acceptable. We have no idea which have been accepted and which have been rejected by the Commissioner. For this reason, we should have the right to make further representations on this item.

#### CO-OPERATIVE COMMITTEE STATEMENT BY MISS BOOS

The Co-operative Committee was formed because of the very things we have been hearing about in the last hours, under the leadership of the MacMillan's. Under their leadership, public opinion was roused to the injustices of the Evacuation. Although not a close-knit organization, the Co-operative Committee had to be centred in one place, and originally (1943) the nucleus of the Committee in Toronto were concerned with a group of Japanese Canadians coming into Toronto.

We are very well aware of the Evacuation. It was because we were aware that we did the pushing we did. A great deal of work was done in representations to Ottawa. Out of that effort, the rescinding of legislation re Deportation was effected and further efforts re representation to the Public Accounts Committee led to the setting up of the Bird Commission. We debated whether to accept the Government's offer, however, some changes were made in the terms of reference. We decided it best to accept the Government's offer and the over-all machinery was set up. There was strong feeling that it would be more economical if something co-operative in the way of legal assistance could be arranged, with counsel representation in each Province, as follows, to take on work under this set-up:

Mr. Roger Ouimet (Quebec); Mr. F. A. Brewin and Mr. R.A. Best (Ontario); Mr. S. M. Cherniack (Manitoba); Dr. M.C. Schumiatcher (Sask.); Mr. W. E. Huckvale and Mr. L.S. Turcotte (Alberta); Mr. R. J. McMaster (British Columbia).

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STATEMENT FROM MR. BREWIN

The Co-operative Committee represented the Japanese Canadians in discussions with the Government and legal proceedings in connection with the Orders-in-Council for Deportation. At that time, through our discussions with members of the Cabinet and Mr. King, we established a fairly friendly contact with the Government which led eventually to the taking of the Orders to the Privy Council which resulted in cancelling the Orders re deportation.

After that, we brought pressure to bear on the Claims question. Discussions were first carried on with the Cabinet, and Mr. King stated that the Government did not believe that the properties sold at less than they should have been. They believed the Custodians did the best they could. But since there was a claim that they were sold at less, they established a Commission to investigate the matter. The Public Accounts Committee reviewed the Custodian's affairs and they recommended that the Commission be appointed. Their original attitude was that there should be nothing paid, that evacuation was a wartime measure of necessity; there may have been hardships but from their point of view, there was no need for a Commission.

We did not choose the terms of reference. We, nor any of the claimants, were not in a position to set the terms. Some were resentful that any Commission should be appointed at all. The original terms of reference were that they would pay the difference between fair market price at date of sale, if it could be shown that it was the fault or negligence of the Custodian or his officials that was responsible for their not getting the full market price. We would have to show that property sold at less than market value. The matter was considered and we interviewed the Secretary of State and Col. Gibson. We impressed upon them that the terms of reference were very inadequate. That any financial loss resulting from the evacuation should be compensated. The Government did not accept our recommendations entirely but did substantially change the terms of reference. They appointed Justice Bird under the Public Enquiries Act to find out whether or not property sold by the Custodian was sold at less than a fair market value at the time of sale. That was a very great advance from what they proposed before. We would not have accepted the first terms of reference. However, under these terms, unsatisfactory as they may be, there would be a real opportunity to prove a substantial loss under the terms of reference. Therefore it was decided that we would co-operate with the Commissioner under these terms of reference to get the best possible results. We have always told the Government that we do not think these terms of reference are enough. But those who represent the claimants have been anxious to get the most favourable consideration from Mr. Bird. Judges are only human and it is not best to attack him publicly to get the best from him.

A Commission was set up with these terms of reference simply to find out the fair market value at the date of sale. Because the Co-operative Committee had effectively stirred up public opinion re the deportation question, it was very naturally thought, could we be of help in regard to the claims, could we assist the claimants in getting proper consideration of their claims. We wanted to help in any way we could, and if the thing could be done co-operatively, we thought it could cut down the cost. The claimants were scattered. The property and evidence are in British Columbia, and that was where the Judge was to sit. This way of organizing saved money and shortened proceedings.

Evidence of claimants were heard by the Commissioner. Very great detail was necessary and they were heard. The evidence given was essential - to hear what the claimants knew themselves and to hear what they had to say. General evidence was taken in Vancouver. Our Committee employed experts to deal with each different type of property. To go into city properties, farm properties, comparative sales made, relations to assessment values; etc.

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The Government did the same employing their own large staff. We reached the stage where, if each individual case were to be separately disposed of, more money would have to be asked. Also, we knew by then pretty well what evidence we could get.

I do not feel that there is anyone in this room who are not sympathetic with what the Japanese went through. When discussing these points on claims, we cannot discuss the other matters of evacuation but must concentrate on the points brought up.

It is impossible for any one to know the value of their own property. Properly conducted auctions are usually considered the best way to determine value, it indicates what you can get on the market. The Government was faced with a proposition of great expense. The Commissioner thought at first that it would take only 3 or 4 months work but it looked as though it would take much longer. The suggestion was made that rather than have separate evidence heard on each case, both Government and Claimants' Counsel should present their argument on a general over-all basis, but it was understood from the beginning that there were cases in which we had managed to collect evidence or evidence by claimants which justified in asking for more than the general percentage and the right to present that. The Government also had the same right. The Commissioner fixed a general percentage. Because of available evidence, we decided that this method of doing the thing must be what we recommend to the claimants. The Commissioner fixed the percentages on evidence presented to him, and the Commissioner stated that he was ready to hear special evidence. We had to do our best to consult the claimants, and the Co-operative Committee sent a letter out to them. A substantial 80% of claimants, while not satisfied with the percentages, did wish us to proceed on that basis. A group in Toronto did not wish us to proceed in this way. Although not satisfied with the percentages mentioned, a very considerable majority wished us to accept this method of conducting it.

I have no doubt now that I would repeat the same advice as I gave to the Co-operative Com. and which they gave to claimants, as I consider it was the wisest thing to do. I am quite sure that many claimants would not have got anything at all if the individual cases were heard. We would have been put to great additional expense and about two year's extension of time, and very likely have secured a lesser return of awards. We had to adopt the method which would achieve the best for claimants.

Mr. McMaster and his staff reviewed every single case with the Commissioner. Some, we have to admit, he fixed higher than he could have on the evidence asked for, e.g., VLA - 80% being very close to what all of the evidence indicated. In some categories, we were not able to persuade the Commissioner to increase the percentages. Since then, Mr. McMaster has been able to argue with the Government Counsel as to the amount to be awarded assuming the general percentages. In many cases, he referred directly to the Commissioner. We hear that Government counsel is being criticized for giving too much on special cases.

In a very few weeks the Commissioner will be sending to the Government his findings.

Re Points Raised by K. Hidaka, Mr. Brewin stated that:

We cannot say the Commissioner acted improperly as a Judge. In some cases, I do not feel he has given enough but I am not in a position to say that the Commissioner should be criticized.

1. Re statement that evidence given by the claimants was not given sufficient attention - They certainly have not accepted claimants own views as to value

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of property. It is not a reflection on claimants that the Commissioner has not accepted all evidence. The Commissioner believes that evidence was given in good faith without gross exaggeration, e.g., re Toronto claim on a restaurant, a three-fifth award of claim amount has been awarded by the Commissioner.

2. In criticizing the Vancouver settlement proposals, we cannot responsibly say that it was because Justice Smith was on the Committee -- the Commissioner made his conclusions from the Custodian's method of sale.
3. Re Commissioner depending upon reports of Custodian's valuers - It is not correct that Custodian's valuations were made from standpoint of purchasers, they were made as sellers. The Dominion Government might have something to say re the VLA allowance of 80% and more, as it questions the sound valuations of Government valuers. It justifies us that our evidence and not the Government's evidence was accepted in this case.
4. Re depressed market - It is very true that this was the case and we argued to the best of our ability on this point.
5. Re percentage principle wrong - Taking percentage principle as applied to VLA, our evidence of a general nature was given and we were able to show that valuations made by the Government valuers were uniformly low. By and large, their valuations, even though wrong, were consistent. Their percentage basis were reliable. Wherever we could find that percentages were not fair, we had them considered as special cases. Some will receive much more and some will receive less.

How is the Co-operative Committee dealing with this item of claims? I can understand the point of view that taking into the account the injustices, claimants deserve a greater settlement than they are receiving. I would like to change the Government's mind if there is a way of doing so. Many of the claims were reduced by claimants themselves as certain items were not within the terms of reference, some claims were put a little too high.

I cannot look at it as a settlement allowance of 1/6 of what is claimed. What the Government will now pay plus what has already been allowed which Mr. McMaster claims does run to about 60 - 80%, is not a very unreasonable difference. I think that any statements which the Co-operative Committee or the National JCCA or any group of claimants makes should be very carefully considered.

1. We should recognize that the findings have vindicated the claims of the Japanese Canadian community - shows substantial justice in their claims which the Government was at first unwilling to recognize.
2. It should be said that this is no act of generosity of the Canadian Government or the Canadian people, it is but a bare minimum. There is nothing to be gained by criticizing the Commissioner as such.

What we could do is state that interest should be allowed from the date of sale up to the date of payment. I want to argue that point with the Government. It is consistent with international law; it is just, because people have been deprived the use of that money in the interval; and the Government has done this in similar cases. This will mean a substantial addition. This could mean another \$350 to \$400,000 dollars, but we do not yet know the total amount.

3. We are not aware of the difficulties of the situation in not being able to keep in touch with individual claimants - but cannot agree with the point of view of non-acceptance. The Government was not asking whether we liked it

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or not. The Commissioner will submit his report, and the Government will send a cheque. It is not our place now to argue with the Government on the way it has been done.

At this stage, the whole Japanese Canadian community and those who are their friends can gain considerably, and serve the purpose of helping to protect other minority rights by putting forth the right kind of statements as can be achieved. An attitude of non-acceptance is not fair to individual claimants nor will it receive the sympathy of the public. We will soon have to approach the Minister of Justice when he receives the Commissioner's report. Public statements will have to be made with regard to the Commission. I do not know anyone who has represented the claimants without trying to achieve the best possible for the claimants. The fact that it was not possible to keep in touch with individual claimants shows the magnitude of the problems. There are some things about the Commissioner we may not like but I would not attack him in a judicial way or his good faith.

QUESTIONS RAISED BY TORONTO CLAIMANTS' COMMITTEE

1. Who were the valuers who worked on Vancouver property.
2. Re special case of property valuation \$1,000 to \$2,000, then sold for \$900 and insurance payments on same.
3. Re property owner asked to put in bath by the Custodian.

Brewin - One point I wish to make. At a meeting last summer, we made the statement that if anyone felt that there was a special case that he wished to explain or wished special investigations to be made, that he should do so. Those received have been dealt with.

Kinzie Tanaka - I understood that this meeting was to find out the various criticisms directed towards the Co-operative Com. and possibly the JCCA. I think the Claimants Com. want to bring these forward.

Obata - The main purpose was to raise issues pertinent in the minds of claimants. In fairness to claimants, the Co-operative Com. should be aware of these views. I would strongly recommend that this take place when Mr. Brewin is present.

Fowler - I would suggest that the rest of the Co-operative Com. remain and share what follows with Mr. Brewin later.

Mineoka - If a question arises which only Mr. Brewin can answer, could he reply to us by letter?

Brewin - I would prefer to discuss the points but will be willing to reply by letter.

FURTHER QUESTIONS TO THE CO-OPERATIVE COMMITTEE BY THE TORONTO CLAIMANTS' COMMITTEE

4. Where did the Co-operative Committee get the figures for the basic percentages?
5. In the letter from the Co-operative Committee, it is stated that it is confidential material and it is requested that it should not be published. I would like to know if the Commissioner's recommendations of percentages were of a confidential nature until such a time as when the Commissioner presents it to the Government. Will there be time to make representations to the Government after the report is given to the Government for claimants to make up a brief on their own point of view and will there be time for these things to be considered by the Government.

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6. We have been told by the Co-operative Committee and counsel that it was very difficult to produce definite proof of loss to the Commissioner at the hearings and I wish to know if the Co-operative Committee did not consider appointment of or hiring representative members of Japanese organizations, fishermen's organizations, to accompany Counsel or to go to Vancouver to speak to Mr. McMaster in collecting evidence or proof of property.
7. In the letter<sup>to</sup> claimants, it is stated that in spite of the efforts the Co-operative Committee might make, the recommendations of Commissioner Bird cannot be expected to go considerably higher than at present stated; and in other instances, if claims cases are heard individually, it may be probable that some of the claims may not be considered at all. What would be your opinion on whether the claimants can have hopes of having a claim brought up to a certain amount which may be desirable, by any means which they might consider taking?
8. I would ask your individual opinion as to whether you believe the difference of \$6,000,000 and \$1,000,000 shows a fair settlement of the claims.
9. There is a danger that if we agree to something like 1/6 that that may also set a precedent, is there not?
10. What is the actual financial picture. As a claimant, we were asked for 2% and have received one financial statement.

TORONTO CLAIMANTS DESIRE TO CONTACT CLAIMANTS ACROSS CANADA

Hidaka - As a result of a number of meetings, it was suggested that claimants contact other claimants in Canada on matters concerning them all. We would like to send a letter out to these people and in the letter, in order to expedite matters in future, it is asked that they assist us by setting up committees of claimants. This Committee would like to have the list of addresses. Would the Co-operative Committee give us permission to use the lists?

Fowler - What is the purpose of setting up the meetings across Canada.

Hidaka - To get opinions of claimants on matters that affect them. To be conversant with the views of the people concerned. We would like to know what their views are on problems that affect us. We want to carry on our work the way these people feel and on their desires.

Haslam - What specific project have you in mind?

Hidaka - This is not a closed issue and matters need to be carried on, and it is the only democratic manner in which to handle this.

Boos - We have always considered the JCCA the organization through which the views would be expressed.

Hidaka - I do not question that but it is quite obvious that the people who are most directly concerned in the matter should be consulted first. So far as our Committee is concerned, we are made up of claimants. There are people in the same position across Canada. The most effective work can be carried on through channels of that kind. A good number of JCCA people are not claimants and hence they are a third party taking part in the claims matter. We want full co-operation from them and are willing to

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work with them. But we also feel that there should be channels open so that we could contact claimants and get direct representation from them - an opportunity for them to express their views and try to follow up and act on them. I think the situation in Toronto is an indication of the way claimants feel on this matter and it may be stated quite accurately that the position of the JCCA is not necessarily exactly the same as that of claimants and that they are entitled to have their own discussions and come to their own conclusions, but, on the other hand, claimants themselves have the right to carry on discussion and come to their own conclusions. For that reason we would like to have the list and send a letter to them.

Kinzie Tanaka - I think Kunio wants to put in a nice way what he has to say. During last year's National Executive Committee meetings when the question came up of whether we should accept the Co-operative Committee's advice on the method of settlement, the majority of the Executive Committee agreed to accept the Co-operative Committee's advice except Kunio Hidaka, Jack Oki and Roger Obata.

We went along with the Co-operative Committee and lawyers because we believed in all earnestness that the advice of counsel was the best in the light of existing conditions. Since that time, action has been carried out by these three. They are dissatisfied with the way the JCCA has carried on this work.

If the Claimants' Committee could possibly change the opinion of the claimants across the country, they would do so. I think that is one of their purposes because if they should present these views across the country, they would be able to influence them to see that accepting the proposal was not a wise one. They feel that perhaps letters will come back supporting this view. They disagree with the National Executive Committee on that stand. Of course, they have a right to think that way.

What the National Executive Committee did, they felt, would obtain the best deal for the claimants all across the country. That is the thought that has been behind all the work done in co-operation with the Co-operative Committee. And for Kunio to say that some of the members are not claimants - to say that some members do not know of the true interests of claimants - indicates he does not know that many of the JCCA members are claimants, and it is not a fair statement.

Let us hear from the Toronto Claimants Committee exactly what they want - what they want the Co-operative Committee to do -- that they can get the best deal possible.

Hidaka - Are you for or against our having the list.

Kinzie Tanaka - It is not for me to say.

Rev. Finlay - We should take considerable time to think this thing through. No snap judgment should be made. What are the motives, the basis of this thing. Roger was sitting in the Co-operative Committee meetings. There are inferences in Kunio's questions. No word came back to us of disagreement. This whole thing should be thought out very carefully.

Have we the right as the Co-operative Committee to release the names of the claimants?

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The last thing on earth at this juncture that should happen is that there should go out among the Japanese Canadians abroad, across Canada and other groups working alongside, any suspicion of doubt and distrust, because I feel that political groups will take advantage of such conditions to influence the decision. A divided company will be to the disadvantage of all concerned. We should come to conclusions and unify them and the Co-operative Committee will make modifications. It should have been done long ago. We should not let political interests bring in less than we can get.

Hidaka - I appreciate the words of Mr. Finlay. Another thing that I would like to make clear is that whatever I say, is not what I say personally. These points are discussed in committee and are requests made by the claimants. When you consider them, they have to be considered in that light.

Fowler - I do not think any of us have taken anything personally, it is on the basis of an issue.

Boos - We should meet again with Mr. Brewin. Could we find a time to meet with this group, and then consult Mr. Brewin.

Rev. Finlay - As an obligation to claimants, I would be inclined to say that some indication should go to them saying that certain Toronto claimants have had certain questions on the operation of the Co-operative Committee and that that group has asked us to submit their names to them. We would like to know whether they have questions they wish to raise with the Co-operative Committee. And would they be willing that their names be released to them. We cannot turn over the lists to anyone who asks for them.

Fukushima - In B. C. there are as many claimants as in Ontario. They have full confidence in the JCCA. And claimants are on the JCCA committees.

MOVED and SECONDED That Mr. Obata reply to Mr. Kinzie Tanaka's remarks before adjournment. DEFEATED.

MOVED AND SECONDED That the meeting continue after supper. DEFEATED.

AGREED That another meeting be held Tuesday, February 7th, at 7.00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT at 6.00 p.m.

NOTES ON THE SECOND JOINT MEETING OF THE CO-OPERATIVE COMMITTEE  
1950, at the Canadian

Chairman - J. Ide

Those Present:

Co-operative Committee

JCCA National Executive

Toronto Claimants Com.

REQUEST FROM J. OKI TO

MOVED by Mr. Mineoka a  
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NOTES ON THE SECOND JOINT MEETING HELD BETWEEN THE JCCA NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, THE CO-OPERATIVE COMMITTEE AND THE TORONTO CLAIMANTS' COMMITTEE, Tuesday, Feb. 7, 1950, at the Canadian Legion Hall, 22 College St., Toronto, commencing at 7.00 p.m.

Chairman - J. Ide

Those Present:

Co-operative Committee - Rev. E. M. Nichols, Rev. J. M. Finlay, Mr. Andrew Brewin, Miss Grace Tucker, Miss Margaret Boos.

JCCA National Executive Com. - Mr. T. Sagara, Mr. Toyo Takata, Mr. Fred Kondo, Mr. Fred Kayahara, Mr. T. Umezuki, Mr. George Tanaka, Mr. Jin Ide, Mr. Yosh Hyodo, Miss Norah Fujita.

Toronto Claimants Com. - Mr. K. Takahashi, Mr. T. Mio, Mr. S. Takashima, Mr. T. Mineoka, Mr. A. S. Ozawa, Mr. Roger Obata, Mr. Kunio Hidaka.

REQUEST FROM J. OKI TO SIT IN ON MEETING

MOVED by Mr. Mineoka and seconded by Mr. Takashima  
THAT Mr. Oki be permitted to sit in on this meeting. CARRIED.

AGREED that he be permitted to sit in and make comments to only those matters which may arise which refers to him personally.

STATEMENT FROM THE CO-OPERATIVE COMMITTEE - PART I -- read by Margaret Boos

"In view of the dissatisfaction expressed by spokesmen for a group of Toronto Claimants on Saturday, February 4th, the Co-operative Committee on Japanese Canadians feels it advisable to make the following statement:

1. At each stage the Committee has carefully considered any question affecting the interests of Claimants who retained it and unanimous decisions have finally been reached after full discussion of matters involved.
2. Throughout the proceedings the Committee has worked in close co-operation with the National JCCA and its representatives across Canada and, in particular, with its National Executive Secretary who has been of great assistance. Representing the National JCCA, George Tanaka and Roger Obata have been active members of the Committee and have agreed with all decisions made.
3. This Committee has full confidence in the legal counsel retained to represent Claimants and is of the opinion that the most effective services possible have been rendered - in particular, by Mr. R. J. McMaster of Vancouver, who has had the major responsibility for presenting cases of Claimants to the Commissioner.
4. Some objection has recently been expressed to the method of procedure adopted by the Commissioner; namely, the fixing of percentages in respect to various categories and the hearing of special cases where special evidence was available. This Committee is convinced that this procedure which was adopted was definitely in the interests of Claimants, although some of the percentages fixed were not satisfactory to Claimants counsel. In such cases, Counsel made every effort to have percentages raised, but final decision rested with the Commissioner.

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All Claimants were consulted by letter, and of those expressing their opinions by letter, or at meetings, an overwhelming majority approved of the method proposed.

5. Claimants with special claims have repeatedly been invited to get in touch with Counsel, and many have done so.
6. Findings of the Commissioner may be reported shortly. This Committee will urge the Government to implement his findings by prompt payment, with interest on all claims from the date of sale. In addition, it will press for special consideration of claims outside the terms of reference which for this reason were rejected by the Commissioner.
7. With regard to specific requests made through the National JCCA:
  - (a) Re Representation - It was suggested that additional representatives of Claimants be added to the Co-operative Committee. At its meeting on January 20th, it was agreed that such would be welcome, provided that they be appointed by the National JCCA.
  - (b) Re Further Costs - Claimants were assessed 1% of their claims and most of them have made this payment. A further 1% has been paid by a considerable number. We hope no additional assessment will be necessary.

The balance of expenses will be paid on a percentage basis out of claims allowed, in accordance with retainers signed by each claimant represented by the Committee. It is not possible to determine exactly how much will be required from successful claimants for this purpose.

All expenses and legal fees will be submitted to independent counsel for checking. In addition, a statement by the Committee's auditors for the period, Sept. 1st, 1947, to August 31st, 1948, has been submitted: audited statements for the period from Sept. 1st, 1948, to August 31st, 1949, will be made available this month.

-- CO-OPERATIVE COMMITTEE ON JAPANESE  
CANADIANS,

per: Rev. J. M. Finlay, Chairman."

(Amendment to Item No. 4, para. 2, ".....an overwhelming majority approved of the method proposed with varying degrees of dissatisfaction.")

STATEMENT FROM THE CO-OPERATIVE COMMITTEE - PART II

Rev. Finlay - This statement arises out of a meeting of a small group last night of Co-operative Committee and Claimants' Committee members.

The statement was made at the last meeting that the National Executive Committee of the JCCA has asked that the Toronto Chapter appoint a Claimants Committee. It was stated that the group which is meeting with us here <sup>are</sup> representatives of the Committee appointed by the Toronto Chapter at the request of the National Executive. After discussion on a number of things, this conclusion was reached.

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requested on the part of the Co-operative Committee, if those claimants had the national status that would seem to come to them by being approved by the National Executive of the JCCA that requested their appointment, then they could take their places as indicated already on the Co-operative Committee (i.e. due representation) and that from this point on we can proceed as the present Co-operative Committee supplemented by additions of claimants approved by the Executive of the National JCCA. Any approaches made to the claimants generally would be made out of the membership of the wider membership of the Co-operative Committee and would go out over the letterhead and signature of the Co-operative Committee Secretary. It seemed to me, and I felt that it was also the mind of the claimants that met with me, that if some such end as that could be attained, a great many of the things for which we have been meeting and of future concern, would be cared for. If kept on the basis of that principle, it would be in the best interest of all. One thing that it would eliminate would be the divided approach of all claimants. The mind of the claimants would be known through the wider representation of the Co-operative Committee.

STATEMENT FROM THE CLAIMANTS COMMITTEE - R. Obata

There is no statement, as such, from the Claimants Committee. But as you will remember, on the statement made by Kinzie Tanaka, I was to speak. I see that he is not present tonight. I do not feel that it is fair to him to speak when he is not present and I will refrain from making my statement for that reason.

Rev. Finlay - I feel happy about that decision, we can then concentrate on the larger principles for which we have met.

F. Kayahara - I am not satisfied with the way things are proceeding. I understood that the purpose of the joint meetings was to present the points of disagreement and thrash them out till we reach an amicable agreement. There has been a lot of talk on this question and what we have stated now I feel is not enough to smooth things over.

Takashima - The Claimants Committee was not without a statement, but by the statement made by Mr. Finlay that the Co-operative Committee is willing to include representatives from the Claimants Committee to discuss future matters pertaining to this problem, we withheld whatever statement we were ready to make, under these circumstances. But since the point has been raised, we had in mind to say that the majority of claimants agreed to the procedure of over-all settlement under protest and as it seems that that was accepted as a correction the statement made by the Co-operative Committee in Clause 4, that has been clarified. Another matter we had in mind was to enquire by what method the percentages were arrived at. That has not been clarified yet.

These were the two points which we had in mind to include in our statement.

G. Tanaka - The proposal offered by the Co-operative Committee with regard to representation from members of the Claimants Committee has already been discussed by our National Executive Committee. It has been clearly stated now and should be acceptable to the National JCCA. On the method of representation that is suggested, I am sure there will be nothing but agreement. It will solve some of the difficulties we have had. There have been some problems on differences on the question of policy previously, which should now be solved by this offer from the

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Co-operative Committee.

J. Ide - I can understand what Mr. Kayahara has brought up. I think it is certainly to the credit of the Claimants Committee that they are big enough to see over the small differences and look towards the large issues that will confront us in the future. And they are quite willing to band into co-operative effort in the opportunities to be afforded in the future. While it is true that there will always remain certain differences, we should be big enough and intelligent enough to deal with them -- for this is the purpose for meeting here -- to follow the best possible procedure to benefit the largest number of Claimants.

F. Kayahara - If it was fully understood by the JCCA, the Co-operative Committee and Claimants Committee that small differences could be worked out and we could work together for one purpose, I would be more than satisfied. I was not sure, for myself, whether members of the Claimants Committee were fully aware of the action they have taken.

Rev. Finlay - I do not think it was a change in direction, but a change in emphasis. The representation of the Claimants Committee was given national status because it had the approval of the JCCA. We could not change what we did in the past, but what we could do in the future, we could do with clear direction. It was not a reversal, but a clarification.

Takashima - We, in the Toronto Claimants Committee always desired some united effort with all concerned and the way this meeting was brought to this agreeable present condition is to us a very welcome thing and we are very grateful to all concerned. We have been asking for understanding of the feelings of the claimants to be considered and that in some manner their feelings be incorporated in the actions that were taken along the lines that proceeded in the past. We only organized at such a late date as November 26th, last year, to bring this, our point of view and our hopes to the parties who are actually concerned. Our only regret is the time element. The final stage of this action is so close at hand that we are not entirely too hopeful of great results that may be accomplished within the time allowed before the whole case would be concluded. Now, our only hope is that the case will be concluded to the best that could be expected and we feel thankful that this amicable relationship has been achieved by this meeting.

EXPLANATION GIVEN BY MR. BREWIN RE QUESTION RAISED ON METHOD OF ARRIVING AT PERCENTAGES

Mineoka - This question of percentages, in my opinion, is the deciding point in determining whether the claimants will be satisfied or otherwise. I have asked by letter, addressed to Miss Boos, for all statistical figures and mathematical explanations by which percentages were arrived at. In doing this, I had not intended to lay a complaint, rather, I understand the enormous difficulties under which all concerned were working and appreciate it. But I would like to have fundamental explanations of the means by which this percentage was arrived at. I would like to have this point explained by letter as it is a difficult problem and may not be able to explain orally.

Brewin - Is he concerned with any particular category. The procedure varied according to the various categories. The only person who could give the full explanation of it would be Mr. McMaster.

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Rev. Finlay - Could you ask Mr. McMaster for a statement of the general principle and give examples.

Brewin - Justice Bird made the final decisions on the percentages. It would be difficult to say what finally decided him but in each case, different types of evidence were produced. We could write to Mr. McMaster and ask him for a general statement as to percentages and how they were arrived at in each category.

Mineoka - We are especially anxious to get the means by which VLA was awarded 80% or approximately and others outside of VLA were awarded 12½%; such as; how percentages were worked out and how many cases were taken to work out this percentage.

Miss Boos - Would it be satisfactory to send a copy of the Claimants' letter of request for information to Mr. McMaster?

AGREED that it would be

Takashima - I would also like to enquire of Mr. McMaster whether my understanding is correct that the 5% settlement is a return of the Commission paid out on sales on property in Vancouver.

Brewin - It is the basis on which the Commissioner is making settlement; but he is not required to do it in this way under the terms of reference.

Takashima - What sort of findings did the valutors hired by the Co-operative Committee bring in that the result was so ineffective.

Brewin - My understanding is that a great number of the special cases were Vancouver properties. It may well be that many Vancouver property owners will get more than the 5% but I am not certain, etc.

Takashima - It is not my intention to criticize the legal counsel's action but we are made to understand that the claims were considered in the manner prevalent from the result of legal proof obtained, etc.

Rev. Finlay - May I suggest that a good deal of what has been happening now would be procedure within the Co-operative Committee meeting with its new members. I would expect the Claimants Committee representatives on that Committee would bring in these sort of questions asked here and communications would go to where we could get the answers.

Umezuki - I would suggest to the meeting that a statement be issued on the things accomplished through these two meetings, to clarify the minds of people as to what is going on.

In today's Continental Times, the Toronto Claimants Committee have made a statement that they have negotiated with the National JCCA Executive Committee through several meetings, however, the Claimants Committee's requests were not accepted, therefore, a general meeting will be held in the near future of the claimants. Also, there is an ad inserted by the Claimants Committee calling a meeting for 2:00 p.m. Sunday, at the Labour Temple.

It seems to me that if such a statement has been made to the public saying that the JCCA refused to co-operate, it would create more misunderstanding. I would ask the Toronto Claimants Committee to rescind their

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report in the Continental Times, and to change the wording carried on the announcement for a general meeting of claimants.

Takashima - The statement which Mr. Umezuki brought up was delivered to the Continental Times on Sunday night and as such it would not be rescinded, but there will be a new statement or report on the way these achievements have been made at these meetings.

Rev. Finlay - We are now understanding are we not, that we move forward from the statements which have been made here tonight. We have indicated our delight in having representatives being an integral part of the Committee. When satisfactory appointments are made, you should let us know who they are. I had hoped that when they are named and approved, that it would include those who asked questions and perhaps someone from B.C. who would know the mind of Claimants of British Columbia.

Obata - I had hoped that we could discuss the more important phases as to what we would do in the future. During the process of joint committee discussions some plans have been formulated. I would like to see a Co-operative Committee formed immediately.

MOTION - MOVED by Mr. Umezuki and seconded by Mr. Kondo  
THAT this meeting issue a statement to both papers stating the facts that have been arrived at tonight which will necessarily act as an anti-dote to that first statement by the Claimants Committee. It enables the Toronto Claimants Committee to leave the statement they made as it stands and this will be issued as a new statement.

Kondo - Otherwise, a wrong impression would be given to not only the Claimants themselves but to the general Japanese Canadian community.

CARRIED

Umezuki - I would suggest that one member from each group draft the joint statement.

AGREED that the following draft the statement:

Margaret Boos - Co-operative Committee  
Mineoka - Claimants Committee  
Tanaka - National JCCA

ADJOURNMENT 9:15 p.m.

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NATIONAL JAPANESE CANADIAN  
CITIZENS ASSOCIATION,  
84 Gerrard Street East,  
Toronto 2, Ontario.

NOTICE OF JOINT MEETING OF COMMITTEES  
on Evacuation Losses Claims

To the Members of the following Committees:  
Co-operative Committee on Japanese Canadians,  
JCCA National Executive Committee,  
Toronto Claimants' Committee.

Dear Committee Member:

A joint meeting of the above-mentioned Committees will be held this Saturday afternoon, Feb. 4, 1950, commencing at 1.00 p.m. at the Central YMCA, 40 College Street, Room 3 (second floor).

This meeting is being convened by the National JCCA on the suggestion of the Co-operative Committee to provide an opportunity to the Toronto Claimants' Committee to discuss fully with the Co-operative Committee the matter of Evacuation Losses Claims.

A G E N D A

Chairman - Lucien Kurata (Chairman of the National JCCA Executive Committee)

1. Resume of past proceedings.
2. Brief Report by National JCCA re Future Plans on Claims Question:
  - (a) Representation to Government,
  - (b) Public Campaign.
3. Statements from members of the Toronto Claimants' Committee to the Co-operative Committee presented by R. Obata.
4. General Discussion:
  - (a) Questions by the Toronto Claimants' Committee to the Co-operative Committee.
  - (b) Report on Plans of Toronto Claimants' Committee.

THE NATIONAL JCCA,

per: GEORGE TANAKA.

GT/nf

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 National Japanese Canadian Citizens Association  
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 Japanese Canadian Committee for Democracy.

Laurie Topping  
 Rutland  
 4368 Oxford St  
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NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

JAPANESE CANADIAN CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

84 Gerrard St., E.

Toronto

February 17, 1948

Dear Sir or Madam: Re: The Continuation of Transitional Measures Act, 1947.

The discriminatory legislation against Japanese Canadians which is contained in The Continuation of Transitional Measures Act, 1947, was extended to March 31, 1948 at the last session of Parliament in December, 1947.

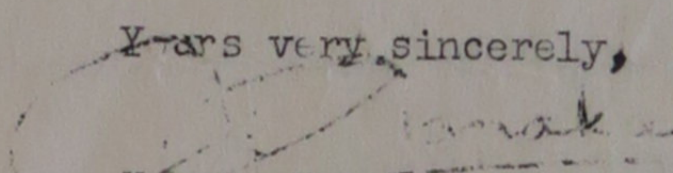
These discriminatory measures which are contained in Bill 104; namely, Orders-in-Council - P.C. 251 which denies fishing license to Japanese Canadians in British Columbia and P.C. 946 which restricts the free movement of Japanese people in Canada, should not be continued for any period beyond March 31, 1948.

During the next four weeks every effort should be made to influence members of Parliament to recognize the justification of our contention that P.C. 251 and 946 should no longer be continued in force on the grounds that their continued enforcement is contrary to democratic principles and the precepts of Canadian citizenship which grant all rights, powers and privileges to citizens of Canada.

To meet the arguments which will undoubtedly be expressed by certain members of Parliament for the continuation of these discriminatory measures, it can be shown that Japanese Canadians have indeed become successfully resettled across Canada, both from the economic and social standpoint. That is to say, should the restrictive measures against the Japanese people be lifted, no large scale return movement en masse to the British Columbia coastal areas would occur.

Since this bill will be before the House in March, we are requesting your immediate support; and feel that the most effective action which can be taken would be to write to your local member of Parliament in Ottawa, to the Prime Minister Mackenzie King and to Minister of Justice Right Hon. J. L. Ilseley, favouring the discontinuation of this legislation.

Yours very sincerely,

  
Kinzie Tamaoka, Chairman

National Executive Committee

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NATIONAL JCCA DRAFT LETTER TO CLAIMANTS

Dear Claimant:

It has become apparent to the National JCCA that we are approaching a very delicate stage of proceedings on the matter of Claims with the Government. We believe the Claims Hearings in Vancouver before the Royal Commission are now coming to an end and it is expected that a report will be submitted to the Government by the Commission in the not too distant future.

During the past 9 months, legal counsel for claimants has been fully engaged in representing the best interests of some 1,300 Claimants and each claim has been carefully considered, and brought to the attention of the Commission for the fullest possible amount of restitution that legal counsel's and Claimant's supporting evidence will obtain.

In order to prevent any possible misunderstanding among some Claimants regarding the Commissioner's over-all percentage ~~settlement~~ proposal, the following interpretation of his average percentage settlement offer is made, e.g., on Fraser Valley property sold through Veterans Land Act Administration, the Commissioner's average percentage ~~settlement~~ <sup>finding</sup> offer is 80%. It should be noted that under this offer, some Claimants may receive perhaps as much as 200% and others perhaps 25% of the Custodian's sale price of their property, *depending upon their respective valuations*.

The JCCA has realized that Claimants may have felt that they have not received as full information as could be desired on their claims, but it has been difficult for both the Co-operative Committee and the JCCA to report in detail the progress of each individual claim in terms of the actual amount of awards the Commissioner is granting as he has indicated to Claimants' Counsel, this information cannot be made public before his report is submitted to the Government. However, the JCCA is now in a better position to inform the Claimants of the many aspects of the present JCCA work on Claims which has not heretofore been clearly determined to enable a full report to be made to Claimants.

While it may be pointed out that with regard to the present enquiry, Claimants have legally retained the Co-operative Committee which is the organization composed of Canadians other than Japanese formed in 1943 to help Japanese Canadians <sup>overcome</sup> fight the various problems with which they were faced - Legislative Discrimination, Deportation and Evacuation Losses Claims - the National Japanese Canadian Citizens Association has been acting in close consultation with the Co-operative Committee in order that the views of Japanese Canadian claimants may be known to this Committee and, also, that the machinery of the JCCA organization shall be available to assist the Co-operative Committee and legal counsel to ensure the best effort of all concerned

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are directed together for the welfare of Claimants.

The second year's end audited, financial report on the expenditures of monies paid by Claimants will soon be published by the Co-operative Committee who have been legally retained by Claimants to act on their behalf. And for this reason it is desirable to state that the JCCA has no legal status with Claimants but has continually worked in close co-operation with the Co-operative Committee.

The JCCA desires at this time to report to you on the present plans of the JCCA regarding its work for Japanese Canadians who suffered losses as a result of the forced evacuation. The following detailed reports under various headings are therefore submitted for your consideration:

1. Background Information Relative to Present JCCA Plans on the Claims Question

You will recall that under date of April 16, 1949, you received a letter from the Co-operative Committee on Japanese Canadians advising you that an offer on a method of settlement was received in connection with your property losses claims and that for the reasons stated therein it was recommended that the proposals of settlement be accepted. The National JCCA, at that time, considered this matter from all angles and felt that there was, unfortunately, no alternative under the present enquiry but to recommend acceptance of Counsels' recommendation to Claimants. It was never intended, however, that any acceptance of the proposals should be considered as an end of our complaints respecting property losses claims. It was at that time reported to us that a great majority of Claimants who replied to the Co-operative Committee agreed, under strong protest, with their recommendation for acceptance.

The National JCCA has since fully realized that it would be necessary for the organization to continue to make every effort to gain for Japanese Canadian evacuees just restitution for the losses they suffered from the forced evacuation.

Since August of 1949, the National JCCA has given careful study to the question of future plans of the JCCA with regard to the matter and has consulted with legal Counsel. While the JCCA has appreciated the advice of legal Counsel that it would not be wise to make an early representation to the Government with respect to the Commissioner's proposal on a method of settlement and that it was not timely to bring to the attention of the Government the question of Evacuation Losses Claims which are excluded under the present enquiry, the National JCCA has fully planned to make vigorous representation to the Government on the over-all claims question at a future appropriate date subsequent to the Commission submitting its full report to the Government.

National JCCA Draft Letter to Claimants -  
(Report on American Claims - In o  
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Office and Mr. Mike Masaoka, Nat  
Discrimination Committee of the  
in Toronto on Oct. 23rd between  
American Citizens League; Mr. Ma  
Committee Counsel for the Japane  
JCCA National Executive Secretar  
The Canadian members presen  
and Mr. Masaoka that very little  
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Mr. Ennis, Legal Counsel for  
which has been adopted by Canadian  
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where the co-operative efforts of  
Canadian Claimants has enabled the  
statisticians, etc., who have been a  
support Japanese Canadian claims.  
One outstanding difference was n  
regard to the attitude of the respect  
Evacuation Losses Claims. In contrast  
Canadian Government to the case of Jap  
claims, Mr. Ennis pointed out that the  
in America, which is directly responsib  
Evacuation Losses claims, has been ent  
noted that the Department of Justice i  
responsibility of Evacuation directly upo  
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(Report on American Claims - In order that no stone is left unturned in the preparation of future plans on claims, the JCCA felt it wise to obtain as full information as possible on the Japanese American Claims. And arising from correspondence between the JCCA National Office and Mr. Mike Masaoka, National Legislative Director of the Anti-Discrimination Committee of the JACL in Washington, a meeting was arranged in Toronto on Oct. 23rd between Mr. E. J. Ennis, Counsel for the Japanese American Citizens League; Mr. Masaoka; and Mr. Andrew Brewin, Co-operative Committee Counsel for the Japanese Canadian Claimants; and Mr. George Tanaka, JCCA National Executive Secretary.

The Canadian members present at this meeting were informed by Mr. Ennis and Mr. Masaoka that very little information could be given to them on the work and proceedings of the American Evacuation Losses Claims as the investigation had not advanced beyond the stage of filing Claims and very little preparatory work had been carried out with regard to obtaining proof, evaluations and other important evidence to support the American claims.

Mr. Ennis, Legal Counsel for the JACL, was impressed with the method which has been adopted by Canadian legal counsel and the Co-operative Committee in obtaining general evidence to support the Japanese Canadian claims, where the co-operative efforts of legal counsel representing all Japanese Canadian Claimants has enabled the hiring of expert real estate evaluators, statisticians, etc., who have been able to obtain important evidence to support Japanese Canadian claims.

One outstanding difference was noted by Mr. Ennis and Mr. Masaoka with regard to the attitude of the respective Governments toward the question of Evacuation Losses Claims. In contrast to the <sup>reserved</sup> unresponsive attitude of the Canadian Government to the case of Japanese Canadian Evacuation Losses claims, Mr. Ennis pointed out that the attitude of the Department of Justice in America, which is directly responsible for handling the Japanese American Evacuation Losses claims, has been entirely sympathetic. However, it was noted that the Department of Justice in America is able to place the responsibility of Evacuation directly upon the shoulders of the United States Army, a condition of placing Evacuation responsibility not possible in Canada.

Contrary to the belief held by some Canadian Claimants, the present American Claims Bill does not provide for a general indemnification claim based on general evacuation hardship.)

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The National JCCA, through its National Executive Committee, presented to the Third National Conference held in Lethbridge, November 4th to 7th, 1949, its recommendations and plans as to what future course of action the National JCCA should take with regard to this important question of evacuation losses claims. The National Conference studied the matter carefully and approved the preparation of the JCCA Brief on Evacuation Losses Claims already undertaken by the Committee with the assistance of legal counsel and which it was proposed be presented to the Federal Government at a future date. The Conference also approved the general over-all plan suggested of conducting a nation-wide public campaign by the JCCA on the matter of Evacuation Losses Claims which would attempt to enlist the support of the press, organizations and individuals.

The National JCCA Conference was of the opinion that this would be the opportunity for the JCCA and the Japanese Canadians to ~~carry out~~ <sup>conduct</sup> a public campaign to the Canadian people on the injustices of the forced evacuation and the losses suffered.

2. Tentative Plan under Consideration by the National JCCA on the Proposed JCCA Public Campaign on Evacuation Losses Claims.

It is believed the Royal Commission will soon be concluding its hearings and will be submitting its full report to the Canadian Government. The National JCCA is, therefore, formulating its present plans with this consideration in mind and is at present finalizing its over-all plans and is completing preparation of its Claims Brief. It is also expected that after the Commissioner's Report is tendered to the Government, the Government may take several weeks to study the recommendations.

The JCCA Brief on Evacuation Losses Claims will deal with the question of and also on Evacuation Losses Claims which are excluded under the present enquiry. Claims of fishing vessels sold by the Fishing Vessels Disposal Committee and Owner's Forced Sale of Property are examples of these excluded claims. At the appropriate time in the near future, the National JCCA intends to make representations to the Government with this Brief. Copies of the Brief will be distributed to local JCCA Chapters. It is also proposed to distribute copies of this Brief to the press, organizations and others, in order to acquaint them with the basic points dealing with our representation to the Government on this Claims matter.

In the Preamble, the JCCA Evacuation Losses Claims Brief gives specific attention to the fact of the immensity of the task of evacuation and the extreme

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(a) Examples of the extreme pressure  
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(b) Examples of inadequate restituti  
It is hoped, in conducting a par  
public campaign, to enlist the suppor  
the labour unions, church groups,  
minority organizations; and Members  
Local JCCA Chapters will  
to the proposed JCCA



haste under which it was carried out, and that little room was left for the protection of individual rights and humanitarian considerations. It is pointed out that 22,000 people were forcefully removed from their homes within the short space of a few months or weeks, and that the attendant liquidation of their property resulted in great losses suffered. And it is stressed that if compensation is limited to the results of the enquiry, the people of Canada will fall far short of providing "reasonable and just compensation".

The JCCA Claims Brief deals with the following specific points:

- (a) The difficulty caused by limited scope of terms of reference.
- (b) The difficulty of strict legal proof of value.
- (c) Determination of fair market value at the date of sale under the terms of reference. (With regard to this point, Claimants' Counsel argued before the Commissioner during the hearings on general evidence that in considering the appropriate market for determining a fair sale price, an imaginary market should be thought of from which all the effects of the scheme of evacuation itself were excluded. It would mean, in this case, that the fair market price would be considered on the assumption that there had been no evacuation and that the Japanese Canadians had been willing sellers of their property at the particular date at which the actual sale was made. Unfortunately, the Commissioner ruled that the fair market price should be determined as at the physical date of sale.)
- (d) Proposals by the JCCA to cover more just restitution on Evacuation Losses. (One important proposal which is included in the brief concerns a request for general indemnity to compensate for general evacuation losses.)

And appended to the Brief will be two further sections dealing with:

- (a) Examples of the extreme pressure (short notice) under which Evacuation took place.
- (b) Examples of inadequate restitution to Claimants under the present enquiry.

It is hoped, in conducting a parallel course of action with a nation-wide public campaign, to enlist the support of the press, numerous organizations; such as, the labour unions, church groups, civil liberties associations, Canadian racial minority organizations; and Members of Parliament and influential individuals.

Local JCCA Chapters will be called upon to take an important and active part in the proposed JCCA nation-wide campaign on Evacuation Losses Claims by enlisting the <sup>support</sup> ~~members~~ of the local press, local organizations, influential <sup>persons</sup> ~~individuals~~ and

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ORGANIZATIONS  
National Japanese Canadian Citizens Association  
Sioux Valley Nisei Organization  
Japanese Canadian Committee for Democracy  
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Members of Parliament.

3. Record of the Past Work of the JCCA Achieved for Claimants

It is felt that many Claimants would desire to know what the National JCCA, the Provincial JCCA's and the local JCCA's have accomplished during the past two years in working for the welfare of Japanese Canadians on Evacuation Losses Claims.

It has been acknowledged on many occasions by the Co-operative Committee and legal counsel for Claimants that without the valuable and very considerable contribution made by the JCCA organization toward assisting the Co-operative Committee and legal counsel, it would have been difficult to accomplish the submission of Japanese Canadian Claims to the Royal Commission to the extent achieved.

The National JCCA during the past two years has not overlooked the case of Claimants excluded under the present enquiry. In 1948, the JCCA assisted in the preparation of a brief on excluded claims which was presented to the Minister of Justice by the Co-operative Committee and the JCCA.

The National JCCA

Since September, 1947, the National JCCA has expended over \$6,000.00 to pay for the services of necessary National JCCA office staff to enable the JCCA organization to function during many important periods in the past two years to work for and assist Claimants.

During the 5 months period from September, 1947, to January, 1948, the National JCCA Headquarters office assisted in the printing and distribution of Claims Forms and considerable informational and instructional material on filing claims printed both in English and Japanese. The National Office thus provided complete information and gave assistance in the filing of Claims to Claimants through JCCA channels and other media, and attended to a great volume of correspondence on Claims matters with Claimants.

From February, 1948, to December, 1948, the National JCCA attended to the printing and distribution of pre-Hearing Claims Forms, printed in English and Japanese, and provided expert assistance in completing the necessary special tabulation of over 1,300 claims. The National JCCA also directed the JCCA organization machinery which has made possible the providing of interpreters for Claimants in all the various local centres in each Province and also made possible the functioning of this machinery to provide assistance in the work of presenting evidence from Claimants to the Commission.

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During April and May, 1948, the National JCCA was taken up in making a preliminary survey of the Provincial and local Chapter executives and the Commissioner's proposal to the Co-operative Committee's record of the Provincial JCCA's.

From October, 1947, to March, 1948, the National JCCA and the Provincial JCCA's have contributed through a great deal of voluntary time, the National JCCA and the Provincial JCCA's in the presentation of Claims to the Royal Commission. The local Chapters have paid for the costs incurred in the renting of space for the National JCCA and the Provincial JCCA's assistance to Claimants.

Each Provincial JCCA Chapter has distributed Claims Forms and the necessary Provincial JCCA's for the operation of local Chapters, preparation of Claims and the preparation of i nformation for the Claimant's hearings.

Thus, the Provincial JCCA's have given days of their time to assist the Local JCCA's.

Similar to the contribution which have been given by Provincial JCCA's executive and committee members to assist Claimants during the past two years, it is possible for Claimants to submit important evidence for 1 nformation to the Commission through the language difficulty.

Co-operative Committee on Japanese Canadian Affairs. It is appropriate at this time to mention the Co-operative Committee whose members are Japanese who formed the Commission through their



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During April and May, 1949, the full time of the National Executive Secretary was taken up in making a special trip across Canada to inform the JCCA Provincial and local Chapter executives on the various important points concerning the Commissioner's proposal of an over-all method of settlement, so as to provide Claimants with clear and complete information as possible on the proposal and the Co-operative Committee's recommendation.

The Provincial JCCA's

From October, 1947, to May, 1949, the various Provincial Chapters across Canada have contributed through their Executive and Committee members a very great deal of voluntary time, personal and Chapter financial resources to assist Claimants in the presentation of their claims to the Commission. Provincial and local Chapters have paid for numerous expenses out of their treasuries to cover costs incurred in the renting of meeting halls, typewriters, etc., while giving assistance to Claimants.

Each Provincial JCCA Chapter during this period attended to the complete distribution of Claims Forms and related material to Claimants and has organized the necessary Provincial JCCA machinery which has made possible, through the co-operation of local Chapters, providing assistance to Claimants in the filing of Claims and the preparation of important evidence for presentation to the Commission during the Claimant's hearings.

Thus, the Provincial JCCA Executive and Committee members gave many hours and days of their time to assist Claimants.

The Local JCCA's

Similar to the contributions of time, effort, and personal financial resources which have been given by Provincial JCCA Chapter Executives, each local JCCA Chapter's executive and committee members have contributed their voluntary time to assist Claimants during the past two years. Through their efforts, it has been possible for Claimants to submit their Claims to the Commissioner and to provide important evidence for legal counsel with the minimum of confusion despite the language difficulty.

The Co-operative Committee on Japanese Canadians

It is appropriate at this time to acknowledge in appreciation the work of the Co-operative Committee whose membership mainly is comprised of Canadians other than Japanese who formed the Committee in 1943 for the express purpose of helping Japanese Canadians through their many difficulties since the evacuation.

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The Co-operative Committee has held a great many meetings during the past 6 years, and in the course of working, each member of the Committee has acted faithfully and well in a desire to help Japanese Canadians and to correct the injustices which have been put upon them.

Noteable are the achievements of this Committee in combatting the many legislative discriminations: the outstanding examples are - the successful work against the Federal deportation law and gaining recognition from the Government on the question of Evacuation losses with the appointment of a Royal Commission.

The Co-operative Committee raised over \$10,000.00 in their appeal for financial support made to hundreds of Caucasian Canadians across Canada and thus financed the greater part of the cost of its work in opposing the Federal deportation law against Japanese Canadians.

The JCCA also desires to acknowledge with appreciation the work, past and in progress, of legal counsel in all the Provinces, who consented to act on behalf of Claimants through appeal of the Co-operative Committee due to a desire to assist in correcting the injustices of the forced Evacuation.

#### Conclusion

The National JCCA in concluding this report on the work which has been accomplished for the welfare of Japanese Canadian Claimants, desires to extend at this time an opportunity to Claimants to submit their views and suggestions to the National JCCA on the Claims work. It is the desire of the JCCA organization to fully present the views of Japanese Canadian Claimants when making representation to the Government and to the public on their behalf. The organization therefore would appreciate receiving Claimant's individual comments, either directly by mail to the National JCCA Office or through their local JCCA Chapter organization.

Yours sincerely,

GEORGE TANAKA,  
National Executive Secretary.

February 8, 1950.

*Carried*

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