

General Correspondence

1945-48

November 26, 1945.

Mr. Hiro Aoki,
Iron Springs Y. P. A.,
Iron Springs, Alberta.

Dear Mr. Aoki:

Re: Bill 15.

We are sure that you are well aware of the gravity of the present situation, whereby if sub-section "G" of clause 3 under Bill 15 is passed in the House, it will give the Government arbitrary powers to revoke the nationality of and to deport persons of any minority groups against their will without clear justification and without benefit of a fair trial. It is of grave concern to all of us, for the fundamental rights of all Japanese Canadians is being threatened.

There is an urgent need, at this time, for Japanese Canadians everywhere in Canada to back the fight to prevent passage of sub-section "G". Nisei Organizations throughout Canada are conducting vigorous protest movements and rallying public opinion against the passage of sub-section "G", which threatens to deprive us of our civil rights.

The Southern Alberta Youth Council at it's meeting of November 25, pledged itself to do everything in it's power towards repudiation of sub-section "G" from Bill 15. The Council has already sent telegrams to Rt. Hon. Mackenzie King and Senator Buchanan, urging them to do their utmost to have sub-section "G" deleted from Bill 15. We have also decided to send petitions to the following persons: J. Blackmore, M. P., M. J. Coldwell, Senator Buchanan and Rt. Hon. Mackenzie King. It is for this purpose we are enclosing 4 copies of a petition which we would like to have you circulate in your district as soon as possible, and which we would like to have you send back immediately. Please have them sign their names and addresses. We do not think we can over-stress the importance of this petition, nor can you fail to see the urgency of it. Consequently we are depending on you to see that it gets the maximum endorsement possible.

Wishing you every success and hoping to hear from you real soon, we are

Most sincerely yours,

SOUTHERN ALBERTA YOUTH COUNCIL,

Secretary.

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Ottawa,
November 26, 1945.

Miss Mina Takada,
Secretary,
Southern Alberta Youth Council,
Lethbridge, Alta.

Dear Madam:

The Prime Minister has asked me to acknowledge your telegram of November 26th, in which you set forth the views of the Executive Body for Canadians of Japanese Origin of the Southern Alberta Youth Council, concerning Section 3(1)(g) of the Emergency Powers Bill.

Mr. King has asked me to say that your telegram has been noted, and that it is being sent on to his colleague, the Minister of Justice, for attention.

Yours sincerely,

(R. G. Robertson),
Secretary.

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Ottawa, November 26, 1945.

Mr. Min Takada,
Secretary,
Southern Alberta Youth Council,
Lethbridge, Alta.

Dear Sir:

In acknowledging your telegram
I might say that the legislation you refer to has
not yet come to the Senate for consideration.
You may rest assured that, when it does, I will
give your representations my serious consideration.

Yours truly,

Madhucauau

General Correspondence

1445-48

April 22 1946

Mr. M. Takata,
Secy. South Alberta Youth Council,
Lethbridge, Alta.

Dear Sir:

We, the undersigned, the Turin Young Peoples' Association request to be enrolled as a registered member of the South Alberta Youth Council.

Since the organization of the Youth Council, we have received your monthly circulars and also invitations to attend your conferences, and have acknowledged them with much appreciation. However, with the misunderstanding that religious partiality dominated your constitution, we foresaw only ultimate friction, were we to enroll. Now, with the misunderstanding clarified, the members of the Turin Young Peoples' Association have voted unanimously to give the Council their fullest support.

We are aware of the significance of the Youth Council and of the valuable results achieved thus far. We also foresee the great need of

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a union of Niseis to combat the many problems confronting the Japanese of Canada. We truly believe that such an organization is a powerful medium through which the Niseis can voice their opinion.

We, hereby, request you to register the Turin Young Peoples' Association in the Youth Council with the assurance that this body will co-operate to its utmost ability in all the Council's endeavors.

Dated in Turin Alta., this 22nd.
day of April 1946.

Turin Young Peoples' Association.

per. J. M.

Members of the Turin Y.P.A.

Harushi Tanigami - President.
 Shunji Araki - Vice-Pres. and Secy.
 Jessie Maeda
 Hideo Maeda.
 Eiji Maeda
 Clara Maeda
 Irene Maeda.
 Hiroshi Takata
 Eiichi Harada
 Sanny Ikeda.
 Tak Ikeda.
 Ken Sasaki
 Kay Sasaki
 Takeo Nagata
 Toshio Nagata
 Hideko Tanigami
 Ichiro Araki
 Mitsu Araki
 Yasuko Araki
 Hiroshi Niwatsukino
 Shigeru Niwatsukino
 Yoshiko Niwatsukino
 Yoshiko Niwatsukino
 Eikichi Matsumura
 Matsuo Matsumura
 Kazuo Hamaura.
 Goro Hamaura
 Kelly Hamaura.

Toshio Sameshima
 Toshiyuki Sameshima
 Toshiharu Sameshima
 Eizo Sameshima
 Junji Sameshima
 Giyoko Sameshima
 Miteru Higo
 Haruko Higo
 Kasumi Hisaoka
 Ken Hisaoka
 Jiro Hisaoka
 Kazuo Takasaki
 Yukihiro Takasaki
 Taiso Mitsuishi.

Dear Sir:-

We, of the Iron Springs Young Peoples Association are fully cognizant of the fact that the problems regarding those of Japanese ancestry living in Canada are eminent. During the past year, although we allied ourselves with those who believed that a stronger and recognized union of the various nisei groups in Southern Alberta is not only desirable but essential, we felt that we could not be party to an organization in which friction between religious factions seemed possible.

However thanks to your untiring efforts, we have witnessed the happy fusion of the niseis of Southern Alberta, regardless of religious affiliation. Seeing no further reason for fear of the friction afore-mentioned, we, the Iron Springs Young Peoples Association with the registered membership of ~~46~~⁴⁷, (whose names are on the attached sheet), unanimously passed a decision to cooperate to the best of our ability in the aims of the Youth Council. Therefore we hereby request that the name of our association be entered into your membership register.

Dated this 30th day of April, 1946.

Very truly yours,
I.S.Y.P.A.
per *St. Cook* president
per *George Lakunoto* secretary.

General Correspondence

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Members of the L. L. G. P. A.

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Shig Newatsukins | Kyoko Kuramoto |
| Kuni Lameshima | Bob Janiguchi |
| Mits Aoki | Mass Janiguchi |
| Kyoshi Itaya | Ray Nakatsuwa |
| Koichi Shono | Bill Nakatsuwa |
| Davey Kohoshigawa | Bill Kapiwano |
| Lily Kohoshigawa | Sub Milke |
| Joe Kanna | Money Milke |
| Alvin Kanna | Zolt Hikiido |
| Aki Furukawa | Mass Makoida |
| Yoko Furukawa | Zom Miyashita |
| Leo Furukawa | Rob Phe |
| Mass Suganori | Ayl Pshio |
| Kimi Suganori | Lusia Pshio |
| Ken Suganori | Yay Pshio |
| Lumi Suganori | Ihugi Pshio |
| Zets Aoki | Neatchu Pshio |
| His Aoki | George Sakumoto |
| Zets Aoki | Ang Sakumoto |
| Judy Aoki | Mits Kimura |
| His Kogashiro | Racey Kimura |
| George Lameshima | Aki Masuda |
| Harvy Kuramoto | Korby Isagai |
| | Tommy Medoruma |

copy

July 16, 1946.

Miss Teruko Hidaka, Secretary,
Ontario Provincial Committee,
126 Eastborne Avenue,
Toronto, Ontario.

Dear Miss Hidaka:

Please excuse this belated reply to your letter of June 10.

Owing to the Council having adjourned until sometime in November, your letter cannot be given full consideration by the Council as a whole at this time. However, after discussing this matter over with the President, we feel that the opinions and recommendations which you seek are contained in our resolution of May 14, to the Citizenship Defense Committee, a copy of which I am attaching to this letter. We would like to add, however, that as far as holding a National Convention sometime in October, this is absolutely out of the question for us here in Southern Alberta as we will be in the midst of our beet harvest. I am sure that this also holds true with Manitoba.

There is no getting away from the fact that a National Federation is not only essential, it is absolutely necessary if we are to successfully fight for the liberties which are so rightfully ours and to hasten our ultimate assimilation into Canadian society. Every possible effort should be made to have this organization established and functioning before next spring. To this end, all of us in Canada should dedicate ourselves.

Although the Council is not in a position to officially make any specific recommendations due to our adjournment, we would appreciate it very much if you will kindly keep us posted as to all developments.

Yours very truly,

SOUTHERN ALBERTA YOUTH COUNCIL,

Secretary.

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House of Commons
Canada

Ottawa, Ontario,
December 13, 1945

The Secretary,
Southern Alberta Youth Council,
Lethbridge, Alberta.

Dear Sir,-

Thank you for sending to me signed copies
of your resolution concerning Bill 15.

As you undoubtedly know, the C.C.F. opposed
Clause "G" of Bill 15 and certain other sections of this
Act. Due to our opposition this has now been changed
and the objectionable sections of the Act have been re-
moved.

We have consistently opposed any discrimina-
tory action against Japanese-Canadians. You may be assured
that we shall continue to do everything possible to guaran-
tee them those fundamental rights which belong to citizens
in a democracy.

Yours sincerely,

M. J. Coldwell

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Copy

January 22, 1946.

To the Editor,
The Lethbridge Herald,
Lethbridge, Alberta.

Dear Mr. Editor:

We wish to express our appreciation and thanks to all individuals and organizations who are so courageously defending the cause of democracy and of the most talked of minority group in Canada to-day, the Japanese

We feel no it is time for us Canadians of Japanese origin, who throughout these past 5 unhappy years have tried to prove ourselves in every respect loyal citizens of Canada, to speak.

In the international courts, Canada is defending the rights of minority groups; how then can she justify her action by preventing Canadian citizens from living within the boundaries of any of her cities as long as they have not interfered with their defence nor sabotaged her war effort. Canadian born girls of Japanese origin are to-day forced to get police permits in the City of Lethbridge, "in order that they might be kept track of." These girls are law-abiding citizens who in no way have been disloyal to Canada.

We ask of you sir, does the Government consider this fair or democratic? Can anything be done to change the situation?

Yours very truly,

SOUTHERN ALBERTA YOUTH COUNCIL

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Lemon Creek,
Slocan, B.C.,
March 18, 1946.

Mr. T. Takada,
Southern Alberta Youth Council,
Lethbridge, Alberta.

Dear Sir:

The government, very often, brings out to the light of the public the following statement, "the relocatable Japanese in B.C. are assigned jobs from time to time in Eastern Canada, but they refuse to accept these offers. They are non co-operative with our policies and our intentions of dispersion". In the newspaper columns, they write only these words and no other facts or conditions to support these statements. Moreover they never write the contrary conditions of relocation.

For our rebuttal to these words and our publication for the poor conditions of relocation, we, the Niseis of Slocan Valley, have decided to collect materials (true facts) from the relocees who have been deceived or have been told untrue facts by the placement officer at the time of relocation and who have had a hard time out east.

Not only this, but the placement allowance of \$35.00 for single person, \$60.00 for married couples and \$12.00 for children is insufficient. Unless a person or a family has sufficient reserve funds, they cannot buy their household furnitures and necessities for rehabilitation, nor can they rely on their small allowance to any great extent. Further questions I should like you to answer or collect informations on are:

- (1) The time wasted until such person received employment.
- (2) The amount of personal money used before employment.
- (3) The housing condition at the time. (Cost of rent)

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- (4) Was there abundance of jobs out east at time of relocation of the said person.
- (5) At Summerville, was the boarder (relocee) ever forced to leave or ever asked to pay for room and board at that hostel.
- (6) List of jobs in Eastern Canada were posted in every centre. Thus many persons accepts the job in different centres which results "first come first serve". Such unreliable replacement has occurred often.

We wish to use these materials for negotiations with the government to better the conditions of relocation, and also as facts which we can put forward with force to the government and also which we can back ourselves on when the government "kicks back".

We do not say that we won't go East. We will go and are willing to go if the terms of relocation is more satisfactory to us.

We would appreciate it greatly if you could get in touch with those persons who have been under these unfortunate conditions, and who are willing to have their reasons and names used for such purposes.

Yours truly,

Slocan Valley Nisei Organization,
Slocan City, B.C.

Slocan City

M. W. Toke
Chairman

Bay Farm

L. E. L. L. L.
Chairman

Popoff

M. S. Saka
Chairman

Lemon Creek

A. A. A. A.
Chairman

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H. Fujiki

M. Takada

c/o Y.M.C.A.

June 7, 1946.

Japanese American Citizens League,
413-15 Beason Building,
25 East Second South Street,
Salt Lake City, Utah.

Dear Sirs:

As you are doubtlessly aware, here in Canada at the present time, there is considerable discussion and cogitation with regard to the formation of a national federation of Japanese Canadians.

The need for such an organization is apparent and there has been numerous suggestions and ideas put forth as to along what lines this organization should follow. We, of the Southern Alberta Youth Council, have also sent in our conclusions regarding the federation. The organization of this federation is centered in Toronto.

The Youth Council has followed with considerable interest and respect, the undertakings and results achieved by the J.A.C.L. We have been impressed by the efficiency with which your League has been functioning and, therefore, are naturally interested in the structure of your organization.

The Youth Council should be grateful if you could furnish us with any pertinent information and data regarding your organization.

Wishing you continued success, we are

Yours very truly,

SOUTHERN ALBERTA YOUTH COUNCIL,

Secretary.

General Correspondence

145-48

Copy

November 30, 1946.

Miss Teruko Hidaka, Secretary,
Ontario Provincial Committee,
126 Eastbourne Avenue,

Dear Sirs:

During our Council summer camp, it reiterated the stand of the Council that the National Federation should not be a solely National group, but rather include all those interested in the minority problem.

Due to the lateness of the beets and the severity of the weather, our Council did not meet until this date. Now, at the first meeting, the topic of the National Convention was discussed and this was the resolution that was passed: "we strongly disapprove of the method of calling a National Convention. We feel that we in Southern Alberta should have been consulted as to the time and place for such a Convention and if the Ontario Provincial Committee wishes the cooperation of every point in Canada, it should ask for opinions and consider the opinions of every interested group."

We trust that the Planning Committee for the Federation will seriously consider this resolution and though Ontario may have it's problems, might they not solve them in their own Convention and suggest that consideration be given to those in the distant parts of the country.

Yours very truly,

SOUTHERN ALBERTA YOUTH COUNCIL,

Secretary.

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December 11, 1946.

Mr. T. Sagara, Genral Secretary,
Japanese Canadian Committee for Democracy,
84 Gerrard Street East,
Toronto, Ontario.

Dear Mr. Sagara:

In reply to your communication of November 21, regarding the property loss survey, may I state that it will not be necessary to send us any questionnaire forms.

In referring your letter to our last meeting, it was brought to my attention that the Southern Alberta Main Committee was also in receipt of a similar letter and seeing the possibility of an over-lapping of the survey, I was asked to contact the Main Committee regarding this matter. The Main Committee has assured us that they will look after all matters relating to the survey. Under the circumstances our Organization will not be needing forms.

Although we are not actively connected with the survey, we would appreciate your keeping us posted on all developments.

Yours very truly,

SOUTHERN ALBERTA YOUTH COUNCIL,

Secretary.

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December 18, 1946.

Bishop Salmon,
M. I. A.,
Picture Butte, Alta.

Dear Sir:

The Southern Alberta Youth Council for Canadians of Japanese origin is planning a special gathering in order to discuss present day problems. This is to be held Saturday, December 28, from 2 to 6 p.m., at the Y.M.C.A.

You are probably aware of the fact that on January 1st, the new Citizenship Bill comes into effect. Therefore, the first item on the program for the afternoon is to be a panel discussion on Citizenship. We are very anxious to have a variety of opinions and we would greatly appreciate it if a representative from your society could attend our meeting and take part in the open forum to follow. We feel that your sharing of opinions with us will make for greater tolerance and understanding.

Thanking you for your co-operation.

Yours very truly,

SOUTHERN ALBERTA YOUTH COUNCIL,

Secretary.

General / Correspondence

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December 20, 1946.

Mr. George Tamaki,
Regina, Saskatchewan.

Dear Mr. Tamaki:

Our Southern Alberta Youth Council is planning it's annual Christmas week gathering which usually takes the form of an afternoon of discussions, i.e., panel discussion, open forum, debates, etc.

We have chosen two topics, viz., Citizenship (in connection with the new Citizenship Bill) and the National Federation. Since both of these are timely and very important to us, we would like to have you with us to help us in our thinking. We would be glad to pay your fare to and from Regina if you would consider taking the time to come down for that afternoon, Saturday December 28, from 2 to 6 p.m. at the Y.M.C.A.

We have sent a similar invitation to Mr. Tom Shoyama and perhaps both of you gentlemen can come down together. Whatever may be your decision, please let us hear from you as arrangements will have to be made.

Thanking you for your co-operation.

Yours very truly,

SOUTHERN ALBERTA YOUTH COUNCIL,

Secretary.

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Province of



Saskatchewan

ECONOMIC ADVISORY AND PLANNING BOARD

Research Division,
Legislative Buildings,
Regina, Sask.

REFER TO FILE

24th December, 1946.

Mr. M. Takada,
Southern Alberta Youth Council,
c-o Y. M. C. A.,
LETHBRIDGE, Alberta.

Dear Mr. Takada:

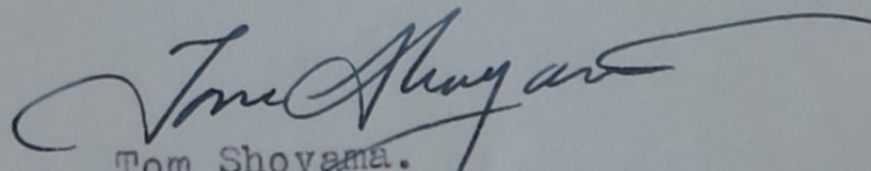
Upon my return home late last night I found your letter of December 20th, honoring me with a very kind invitation to attend your forthcoming discussions in Lethbridge this Saturday.

I have a happy recollection of a previous interesting conference of Southern Alberta youth groups in Lethbridge. Hence it is with sincere regret that I must advise you of my inability to take advantage of your invitation at this time. I had already made arrangements to leave tonight for Winnipeg for the Christmas holiday, and to attend to several business matters there until the end of the week. Thus it will be impossible for me to get away from there in time to sit in on your discussions next Saturday.

George Tamaki and I have talked the matter over, and I am hopeful that he will be able to attend. He has given considerable study to the legal implications of the Citizenship Bill and likewise has a broad knowledge of matters pertaining to the National Federation.

Please convey to the members of the Council my thanks for their invitation and my very real regret that I am not able to accept. I should be happy to receive a similar invitation on the next future occasion.

Most sincerely yours,


Tom Shoyama.

P. S. I am enclosing a small contribution to be devoted to the success of the conference.

L. S.

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Roy Oshiro

M. Takada

c/o Y.M.C.A.

January 14, 1947.

Mr. W. S. Wallace, Secretary,
Lethbridge Consultative Committee on
Canadians of Japanese Origin,
c/o Bowman Agency Limited,
Arcadia Building,
Lethbridge, Alberta.

Dear Sir:

It seems that at the present moment there is no effort being directed towards the recognition of our inalienable rights as Canadian citizens.

The Youth Council believes that immediate action should be instituted towards the abrogation of certain discriminatory agreements and regulations, clarification of our status and our enfranchisement. To discuss these vital matters and map out the most effective means of carrying out such a program, a delegation of the Youth Council is desirous of getting together with your Committee. Will you please let us know as soon as possible just when and where would be most convenient to you.

Thanking you for your co-operation.

Yours very truly,

SOUTHERN ALBERTA YOUTH COUNCIL,

Secretary.

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E. Oshiro

M. Takada

c-o Y.M.C.A.

January 21, 1947.

Mr. Eigi Shigehiro,
c-o Brule Lumber Co.,
Brule, Alberta.

Dear Mr. Shigehiro:

Enclosed you will find a number of questionnaires which we would like you to have the boys at Brule fill out and send in.

The questionnaires are self-explanatory so I do not think it is necessary for me to enlarge upon it, except to add that more than ever before there is a need for a united, concerted movement to fight for our inalienable rights as Canadian citizens. It is with this thought uttermost in our minds that we of the Youth Council are undertaking with renewed vigor a campaign to seek abrogation of the numerous discriminatory restrictions and our enfranchisement. It goes without saying the importance of this questionnaire. Will you please impress upon them this fact and urge them to make absolutely sure that it is sent in.

We trust that this matter will receive your immediate attention. Thanking you for your co-operation.

Yours very truly,

SOUTHERN ALBERTA YOUTH COUNCIL,

Secretary.

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R. OSHIRO

M. Takada

c-o Y.M.C.A.

February 16, 1947.

J. H. Blackmore, Esq.,
Parliament Buildings,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Sir:

According to a recent Ottawa dispatch, a notice has been released by Mr. MacNamara's office to the effect that the Government is desirous of prolonging the travel restrictions imposed upon Canadians of Japanese origin for two more years.

During the war we have suffered many injustices without undue complaints. However, to all intent and purpose the war conditions no longer exist, and to continue enforcement of these restrictions is an outright infraction of fundamental freedom. We are not desirous of remaining victims of political expediency any longer.

We feel that as a man of character you will see the justness of our complaint.

We appeal to you to exercise every means at your command to forestall passage of this bill when it is introduced in parliament.

Certain that our entreaty will not be in vain,
we remain

Yours very truly,

SOUTHERN ALBERTA YOUTH COUNCIL,

Secretary.

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February 19, 1947.

Professor Hunter Lewis, Chairman,
Canadian Civil Liberties Union,
3827 West 12th Avenue,
Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Sir:

Your communication of the 13th instant was, indeed, encouraging. May we say, thank you.

In the past, many organizations have spoken out on our behalf but, with the possible exception of the Vancouver Consultative Committee and the Toronto Co-operative Committee, few are the groups that have taken definite concrete action and measures towards the securing of our inalienable rights as Canadian citizens. Consequently, your letter outlining the program of your organization is a source of real comfort and consolation.

Without further ado, I shall endeavour to answer your inquiry. Owing to the suddenness of your inquiry and through neglect on our part, many of the statements which I make cannot fully authenticated nor can it be regarded as an absolutely true cross-section of the Canadian Japanese opinion of Southern Alberta. Baring this fact in mind, permit me to proceed.

1) If the Japanese Canadians are given the provincial and dominion franchise, generally speaking, we do not believe that we will be discriminated against in municipal elections. May I point out that 2 weeks ago, in a mayoralty election in the City of Raymond, Alberta, 2 Canadian Japanese girls names appeared on the voter's list. Regarding discrimination in trades and professions, we believe that, while conditions are steadily improving and may eventually reach a point where outward discrimination will be practically nil, human nature being what it is, we cannot help but feel that there will always be a certain amount of discrimination, especially in the professions. Just last week, 6 Canadian Japanese were admitted to the carpenter's union which up until now would not consider them.

2) It has been stated recently by the Deputy Minister of Labour that "special legislation may be sought to give the Department of Labour power to control movement of Japanese in Canada for 2 more additional year." Should this discriminatory restriction be continued, it means that we will still be required to get "police permit" before we can travel. Herein lies the key to our whole problem. This single restriction is the thorn in our flesh. It is this

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single restriction that is the basis for the numerous other restrictions and denials that we are confronted with today. The attitude is "the Dominion Government does not see fit to regard them as 1st class citizens, why should we." However, once the travel restrictions are lifted, we shall be recognized as Canadian citizens and as our status of residence will be clarified, we shall be in line for the franchise. Also the existing agreement which bars the entry into and taking employment within the cities of Edmonton, Calgary, Medicine Hat and Lethbridge will become null and void and many of us shall be able to pursue occupations which were hitherto shut away from us and go into the city and live as self-respecting citizens. From all indications this restriction will be carried over after the 31st of March, unless public pressure is brought about to defeat its re-enactment. There is urgent need for immediate action on this matter. The Youth Council is at present circulating 4 petitions protesting this measure. We are going to send petitions to Prime Minister King, M. J. Coldwell, J. H. Blackmore M. P. and Senator Buchanan. We have also contacted many public organizations asking for their support. May we urge that your organization also take a strong stand on this highly discriminatory and expedient piece of legislation.

3) In a recently conducted survey by the Youth Council, 95% answered that they have no intentions of going back to the coast. Although the survey was conducted on a fairly wide scale, due to the lack of co-operation we cannot claim this figure to be correct. However, we are of the opinion that this figure is not too far out. There is a notable exception. We have in Southern Alberta approximately 60 some odd families which formerly fished at the coast. If travel and fishing restrictions should be lifted, in all probability, the majority of these people would want to go back.

4) Regarding this question, we are at a total loss. Last fall, our organization and an organization comprising of our parents were asked to undertake the property loss survey, by the Toronto Co-operative Committee. We felt that our efforts regarding this matter would overlap and since the Isseis were the ones who were affected the most, they volunteered to look after the whole matter. However, as is typical of the, they let the matter slide and are only now conducting this survey. Had they been prompt about the matter, the information which you seek would have been available to you at this time. It is regrettable that this important question should go unanswered. However, I assure you that as soon as I am able to, I shall forward the information to you.

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5) There are 190 persons signed for repatriation and of this number 117 are Canadian citizens either by birth or naturalization. Sixty-nine of the 117 are minors and in practically all cases they are forced to accompany their parents. Twenty-five percent of 190 want to go back to die in their old age.

6) This question, I must confess, is the hardest to answer. While there has been untold numbers of hardships, it is only those that can be fully substantiated that you desire. This being the case, we are not prepared to cite any specific cases as we would first have to conduct interviews and have them affix their signature certifying its authenticity.

While we believe that some of the questions were not answered as fully as it should have been nor perhaps as clearly, it is hoped that the information may be a source of some value to you.

We would like to express our appreciation and gratitude to your organization for so courageously defending the cause of democracy and of the most talked of minority group in Canada today.

Wishing you every success in all your endeavours,
we are

Most sincerely yours,

SOUTHERN ALBERTA YOUTH COUNCIL,

Secretary.

S. J. Matto,
Private Secretary.

General Correspondence

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Province of



Saskatchewan

ECONOMIC ADVISORY AND PLANNING BOARD

Legislative Building,
REGINA, SASK.

REFER TO FILE

1st April, 1947.

Mr. M. Takada,
Southern Alberta Youth Council,
Y. M. C. A.,
Lethbridge, Alta.

Dear Mr. Takada:

Please forgive this delay in acknowledging the kind invitation of your Council to attend the annual spring conference in Lethbridge on April 12.

I have been trying to make arrangements that would be sure to leave me free for that week-end in order to make the trip. Unfortunately, the press of work that has been left to us with the ending of the Session indicates that I will not be able to promise to be there. This is not entirely definite, as yet, but I thought I should write you not to count on me. In the event of matters straightening out next week, I may find myself at liberty to leave the office, in which case I shall be very pleased to come to Lethbridge if only to listen and observe at your discussions.

For your own interest at this time I am enclosing a draft of the Saskatchewan Bill of Rights which is being enacted in slightly altered form. You may find it useful in preparing material for the conference.

With very best wishes, I am

Most sincerely yours,

Tom Shoyama
Tom Shoyama.

General Correspondence

1445-48



House of Commons
Canada

O T T A W A
May 20, 1947.

Mr. M. Takado,
Southern Alberta Youth Council,
Y. M. C. A.,
Lethbridge, Alta.

Dear Mr. Takado:

I would like very much to have
your organization find out what injustices *Southern Alberta*
Japanese have sustained as a result of losing their
property in British Columbia through the War.

Their property, in many cases,
has been reported to me to have been sold at a
rate too low. I am anxious to learn of the details
in each case, as I desire to work with the
Japanese who sustained losses to see if we can get
full compensation to cover their property.

Yours very truly,

John H. Blackmore

JHB:dm

John H. Blackmore, M.P.

General Correspondence

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M. Sunada

M. Takada

June 13. 1947

Mr. M. Takai
70 Broad Cannery
Leithbridge, Alta

Dear Minom:-

I received your letter of the 29th ult. including a copy of a letter from John H. Blackmore, M. P. in which he stated that he is anxious to see that Japanese people are fully compensated for the losses sustained as a result of the evacuation.

It is most grateful indeed to receive a letter from a man like Mr. Blackmore who is best fitted to help us in this regard. But as you are aware, it is impossible for us to do anything at present time for our farming operation is at full swing. The best thing to do is that you write an answer to acknowledge his letter and also explain that we are busy at present time. Do not forget to state that we are very grateful for his sympathetic attitude to Japanese Canadians of this district, because we need his cooperation in future.

yours truly

S. Sakumoto

General Correspondence

1445-48

M. Sunada

M. Takada

c-o Y.M.C.A.

June 23, 1947.

Mr. S. Sakumoto,
Joint Committee,
Iron Springs, Alberta.

Dear Mr. Sakumoto:

I received your letter dated June 13, and I must confess Mr. Sakumoto, that frankly I am disappointed.

As you state "it is most gratifying, indeed, to receive a letter from a man like Mr. Blackmore who is best fitted to help us in this regard." While I fully realize that you are all very busy, I believe that this matter is of such importance that it should warrant your immediate attention. Failure on our part to provide him with the information which he seeks, may strike a discord with him and may prove detrimental to our cause. Certainly he will not think highly of us when he is most anxious to co-operate and we will not help ourselves.

The present moment is a very important phase in our resettlement and we must exercise every precaution to see that nothing the Japanese will do warrants adverse criticism.

I will write Mr. Blackmore immediately informing him of our inability to provide him the information. The Lord only knows what his reactions will be like. Let us hope that it is not too contrary.

Yours very truly,

SOUTHERN ALBERTA YOUTH COUNCIL,

Secretary.

General Correspondence

145-48

M. Sunada

M. Takada

c-o Y. M. C. A.

June 23, 1947.

Mr. John H. Blackmore, M. P.,
House of Commons,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Re: Property Losses of Japanese In
Southern Alberta

Dear Mr. Blackmore:

With regard to your letter of May 20, requesting information and details regarding losses sustained by the Japanese of Southern Alberta as a result of the evacuation, I am most regretful to say that I cannot be of any assistance to you in this matter as our Council has got nothing to do with this question.

Immediately upon receipt of your letter, I referred the matter to the Joint Committee, which is the Committee of the 1st generation Japanese, and asked them to send you the information which you seek. The Joint Committee is the organization which conducted the property loss survey of Southern Alberta and they possess this vital information. However, regarding my request that they send you this information, they have replied to me that they are very busy with farming operations and therefore, it is impossible for them to do anything at the present time. I have written them a strong letter of indignation for I was under the impression that they had long ago replied to you. Perhaps something may become of it yet.

Please accept my apologies for what may seem to you an unwillingness on our part to co-operate.

Thanking you kindly for the interest you have manifested regarding this matter.

Yours very truly,

SOUTHERN ALBERTA YOUTH COUNCIL,

Secretary.

General Correspondence

145-48



CANADA

DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR
JAPANESE DIVISION

360 Homer Street,
VANCOUVER. B.C.

June 30th 1947.

Mr. Minoru Takada,
COALDALE, B.C.

Dear Mr. Takada,

This is just a line to tell you that I appreciate very much the opportunity of talking with Miss Bartling and yourself. I learned a great deal from our conversation and I appreciate the time both of you gave me.

If there is any way in which I can be of service, please call on me for whatever is required.

Yours very truly,

J. F. MacKINNON,
Commissioner of Japanese Placement.

General Correspondence

145-48

August 21, 1947.

Dear Sir:

As you are doubtlessly aware, considerable attention and publicity has been focused on the forthcoming National Conference to be held in Toronto at the end of this month.

The Youth Council has, on several occasion, pledged its' full support of a National Federation. In accordance with our commitments, we are now obligated to send delegates to the Conference. At an emergency Council meeting on August 15th, the Council vice-president, Mr. Kyoto Shigehiro, was appointed to represent the Council.

The sending of a delegate means expenses and also the delegate will have to receive some measure of compensation for the time sacrificed. All this means that the Council treasury, as it stands at the present moment, cannot meet this expenditure. Therefore, we are writing you at this time to request that your organization assume its' share of this added expense. As it has been in the past, we have not set any definite sum. The amount of the donation is entirely up to you.

May we urge that this very important matter receive your immediate attention. Thanking you kindly for your co-operation.

Most sincerely yours,
SOUTHERN ALBERTA YOUTH COUNCIL,

Secretary.

General Correspondence

1445-48

Turin Alta.,
Sept 2/47.

Dear Mr. Takeda,

I am sending you a donation
of ten dollars (10.00). I hope you don't
mind the delay as I couldn't get
in the touch with the rest of the
club members to decide on the amount
of money to donate.

Heris wishing the youth council
loads of luck.

Yours sincerely,
Clara Maeda.

M. Sunada

M. Takada

Youth Council, which from the very outset favoured a National Organization and at present recognized as the leading organization in the 906 - 8th Avenue S. the favourable elements of the isseis to form the Alberta J.C.C.A. chapter. For this purpose we have already had several meetings and on December twenty-six, we are having a conference to discuss and definitely form a chapter.

December 13, 1947.

Under the circumstances, I cannot give you a report of a J.C.C.A. chapter where none exists. However, I hope that this situation will soon be rectified and that I may be of service to you on your next occasion.

Miss Toyo Fushimi,
54 Gunn Street,
London, Ontario.

Wish you every success in your endeavour.

Most sincerely yours,

Dear Miss Fushimi:

SOUTHERN ALBERTA YOUTH COUNCIL.

First of all please pardon this belated reply to your letter of December 6. I was away for a week and consequently your letter went unanswered until now.

As far as submitting an outline of the activities of the Alberta chapter of the J.C.C.A. is concerned, this is quite impossible. For you see, Miss Fushimi, Alberta has the unique but not envious distinction as the only province that has no J.C.C.A. chapter.

No-where else in Canada is the gulf between the isseis and niseis so wide as it is here in Southern Alberta. It is because of this fact that matters are proceeding at a snail's pace. Prior to our delegate attending the National Conference in September, we had the assurance of the isseis that they will co-operate with us to the fullest extent in the matter of the National Federation, and we were very elated because up until this time, there had been a constant clash of opinions and ideals. The isseis definitely stated that they were in favour of a National Organization. Upon the return of our delegate, we called a representative issei-nisei meeting and outlined the whole matter to them for their approval. The isseis stated that they will have to take the matter back to their respective organization and in the meantime, beet harvest was upon us, whereby the whole matter had to be carried over until well into November. When we met again in November, the isseis reversed their previous stand, stating that they were not in favour of a National Organization. However, not all the isseis were of this opinion, and consequently, there came a break within the ranks of the isseis; one faction favouring a National Organization and the other opposed to it. It is now up to the Southern Alberta

General Correspondence

1445-48

- 2 -

Youth Council, which as from the very outset favoured a National Organization and at present recognized as the leading organization in Southern Alberta, and the favourable elements of the issue to form the Alberta J.C.C.A. chapter. For this purpose we have already had several meetings and on December twenty-six, we are having a conference to discuss and definitely form a chapter.

Under the circumstance, I cannot give you a report of a J.C.C.A. chapter where none exists. However, I hope that this situation will soon be rectified and that I may be of service to you on your next occasion.

Wishing you every success in your endeavour.

Most sincerely yours,

SOUTHERN ALBERTA YOUTH COUNCIL,

Secretary.

A little note is originally intended to introduce to you one of the more prominent members of the Association. Perhaps you may have heard of her name because of her contributions to the New Canadian and various other line of work in connection with the N.Y.C. affairs. Her name is Mrs. Marjorie Kilgore. I think of her as a grand person. And I am sure that you will find her worthy to know. Mrs. Kilgore is writing a book on education and she desires as much information as possible on the true status of the N.Y.C. during wartime and after. She will be writing to you in the near future and I hope you will give full cooperation.

If there is anything I could do for you just let me know.

Sincerely,

V. S. Smith

General Correspondence

1445-48

January 24, 1948.

Hello Min.....

How goes everything out in the West? And how is the Nisei front shaping up? Are the Niseis coming to realize the importance of thinking out the problems for themselves and thus protect the rights and interests in the community? Or, are they indifferent to the activities and the doings of the thinking group.

From what I gather, the impression of the Southern Alberta youth activity is that you seem to be having a considerable difficulty in carrying out an worth plan of amalgamation. Many easterners are very curious to know just what is going on and what is the cause of the general strife between the two groups. Is there anything being done to attempt to eliminate the differences? Remember, that whatever you do, eastern attention is focussed on the West. I hope you will have plenty of luck in endeavouring to carry out a very difficult task.

This little note is originally intended to introduce to you one of the more prominent members of the Association. Perhaps you may have heard of her name because of her contributions to the New Canadian and various other line of work in connection with the Nisei affairs. The name is Mrs. Muriel Kitagawa. I think of her as a grand person. And I'm sure that you'll find her worthy to know. Mrs Kitagawa is writing a book on evacuation and she desires as much information as possible on the true status of the Niseis, during wartime and after. She will be writing to you in the near future and I hope you will give full cooperation.

If there is anything I could do for you just let me know.

Sincerely,

Jim Saito

Amount of compensation claimed for loss of property

General Correspondence

1445-48

INFORMATION RE: PERSONS OF JAPANESE ORIGIN
REMOVED FROM PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
AS A WAR MEASURE

Full name

Present residence

Present occupation

Whether Canadian Citizen by birth or naturalization or Japanese National

If married full name of wife

Number of children and ages

Former residence in British Columbia

Occupation there

Property formerly owned in British Columbia in detail with value of each parcel

Former occupation in British Columbia

Amount allowed for property in British Columbia in detail

Desired plans for future

Amount of compensation claimed for loss of property

Signature

General Correspondence

1445-48

Questionnaire

- 116 persons answered questionnaires.
- 87 persons (75% want to stay in Alberta)
- 35% want to farm *20% dry*
30% don't want to farm *80% irrigated*
35% indefinite
- Educational Standard
64% of persons answering have grade 10 plus education
60% would like to continue education
 - 9% - university
 - 36% - technical
 - 10% - business
 - 45% - blank
- 60% would prefer to live in City
40% would prefer country
- 80% willing to join trade unions
20% indefinite or desires of leaving
- Qualification:

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| Dress makers and designers | 6 |
| Auto mechanics | 10 |
| Bookkeeper | 1 |
| Stenographer | 1 |
| Carpenter | 3 |
| Butchers | 2 |
| Barber | 1 |
| Beauty Culture | 1 |
| Chick sexer | 1 |
| | <hr/> |
| Number qualified to practice trade | 26 |