

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

A meeting is called for Thursday, Dec. 12th at 5.30 p.m. in Room 30  
at the YWCA McGill St.

Mr. Brewin will present a report on the Privy Council Decision.

A letter has come from the Prime Minister's office indicating that a  
meeting with them would be delayed until after the return of Hon. Hum-  
phrey Mitchell to Ottawa on Dec. 23rd.

Donalda MacMillan, Secretary.

STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE COOPERATIVE COMMITTEE ON JAPANESE CANADIANS  
FOLLOWING THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL DECISION DEC. 2, 1946

The Privy Council has decided that, in the emergency of war, the Government has the legal power to exile Canadian citizens for such reasons as seem good to it.

The sweeping nature of this power requires that the Parliament and people of Canada should be vigilant in seeing that it is not abused.

To provide for mass deportation on racial grounds would indeed be a grave abuse of this extraordinary power. The Privy Council has made it clear that this power of exile was conferred by Parliament solely for the emergency of war. The War is now over. All the Japanese Canadians who wish to do so have left for Japan. The remainder have been resettled throughout Canada and are making a substantial contribution by their labour and skill to various communities across the country. The hard feelings of war time have died down.

We now call upon the Government in the altered circumstances since the orders were passed, to announce that the policy of forcible deportation has been abandoned, that remaining restrictions on Japanese Canadians are to be removed and that fair compensation will be made for the grievous property losses that they have sustained through no fault of their own.

The Co-operative Committee and the many citizens across Canada who have joined with them in opposing the policy of deportation will not relax their efforts to secure justice for Japanese Canadians. We will seek an interview with the Prime Minister at the earliest possible moment.