

A CALL TO ACTION

Within a few weeks the Privy Council will hand down its decision on the legality of the Orders-in-Council for the deportation of Japanese Canadians.

Immediately upon the announcement of the decision the Co-operative Committee will attend upon Prime Minister MacKenzie King and the Cabinet to renew their request that the Government abandon its plans of deportation and review its whole policy in respect to Japanese Canadians.

The Privy Council decision can only deal with the legal and constitutional power of the Government to deport Japanese Canadians. Responsibility for policy rests upon the Government of Canada and in a democracy, where Governments are subject to Parliamentary control and to the influence of public opinion, responsibility also rests upon Parliament and people.

We must renew our urgent representations that the deportation of Canadian citizens on the ground of racial origin is morally indefensible and degrades our country. We must urge that the Government recognize the entirely changed situation since the Orders-in-Council were passed. The War Emergency upon which they were supposed to be based, has passed. The Japanese Canadians are no longer concentrated in one part of Canada. Their presence, dispersed throughout Canada, cannot possibly be considered a menace to the security of the State. All restrictions should be removed and they should be permitted to return to normal living. Messages from Japan tell of chaos and hardship and re-emphasize the inhumanity of forcible deportation to that country. The announcement of the Privy Council's decision should be the signal for a vigorous expression of opinion which will leave no doubt in the minds of the Government that the Canadian people as a whole are utterly opposed to any attempt to employ the Orders in Council, even if they are legal, to deport Canadian citizens.

THE FOLLOWING POINTS SHOULD BE STRESSED

1. Policy of wholesale deportation should be abandoned.
2. In August, 1944, the Prime Minister said in the House of Commons that "It has not, at any stage of the war, been shown that the presence of a few thousand persons of Japanese race who have been guilty of no act of sabotage and who have manifested no disloyalty even during periods of utmost trial, constitutes a menace to a nation of almost twelve million people." We believe that this statement is true to-day. If the Government now says there are any cases which justify deportation, then each individual concerned is entitled to a judicial hearing before being deported.
3. Present restrictions on Japanese Canadians should be entirely removed;
4. Full civil rights of Japanese Canadians should be restored and all discrimination against them abandoned;
5. Full restoration should be made for loss of property;
6. Adequate assistance should be given to complete the re-settlement and rehabilitation of the Japanese Canadians who are our "displaced persons."
7. It should be made clear that Canadian citizens who have voluntarily gone to Japan for family reasons should be free to return.

It will be noted that many of these matters will still remain to be dealt with by the Government even if the Privy Council decided against the power to deport. Even a victory in the Court will not end our task or make it unnecessary to continue our battle for full justice to our fellow Canadians.

NEWS BULLETIN #6 came to you before the Summer season—before the season's many widely representative Canadian gatherings and Conferences; also before the Privy Council hearing in London.

We can now report that the concern felt by Canadians over this question, and so forcefully expressed in letters and telegrams of protest to the Government during the early part of the year continued throughout the summer. In a score of important gatherings the question was discussed. Requests for literature took 25,000 copies of our leaflet "OUR JAPANESE CANADIANS; CITIZENS, NOT EXILES."

The Privy Council hearing occupied four days in mid July. Mr. Andrew Brewin was our Canadian counsel. Two able London lawyers were also present. These were Mr. Christopher Shawcross, M.P., brother of the British Attorney General, and Mr. Geoffrey Wilson, till recently associated with Sir. Stafford Cripps. Lord Simon stated in concluding the hearings that "This was one of the most important cases that has ever come before us."

MEANWHILE the Government's policy of dispersal is being progressively implemented. Mr. Humphrey Mitchell, Minister of Labour, reported on August 31st in the House of Commons that 12,469 persons of Japanese racial origin are now dispersed throughout Canada outside British Columbia.

In B.C. there are 3,080 under the Department of Labour Settlement, and 5,572 elsewhere in the province. Self supporting communities are being developed in the interior.

Mr. Mitchell also reported, in line with the Government policy to return to Japan those who have voluntarily agreed to go, 3,152 have gone. "Approximately only 600 others have so far asked to be returned. Shipping is now awaited to take them," the Minister stated.

IT MUST BE REMEMBERED, however, that of those who have left our shores it is estimated that about one-half are Canadian born. These accompanied parents or relatives for family reasons or as supporters of aged or infirm persons. The parents of many of them lost their homes in Canada, built up in a life time. They despaired of being able to re-settle here. These Canadian born are foreigners in a strange land. They are Canadian by birth and up-bringing. We owe to them protection of their citizenship and the right to return to the land of their birth at the earliest opportunity.

OUTSTANDING HONOUR has come to Dr. Yachiyo Yoneyama, first woman to graduate from the faculty of dentistry at the University of Alberta. Dr. Yoneyama has been offered a Guggenheim Fellowship to do research work in New York.

NEWS OF FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Many people in all parts of Canada have contributed toward the budget. Among these the Japanese Canadians have given a large part. The thanks of the Committee goes to all. The faith placed in this Committee in our taking on a big task without visible resources is deeply appreciated. A financial statement is attached. It speaks for itself.

<u>FINANCIAL STATEMENT</u>		<u>SEPT. 13th, 1946</u>	
<u>RECEIPTS</u>	May 1945 to Sept. 13 1946total.....	\$17,362.30
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	May 1945 to Sept. 13 1946		
	Salaries.....	\$1,750.00	
	Travel.....	271.85	
	Literature and office expenses..	1,824.74	
	Legal expenses; Supreme Court of Canada and Privy Council, London	<u>11,608.09</u>	<u>15,454.68</u>
	Balance on hand		<u>\$1,907.62</u>

The books, however, are by no means closed. Much work remains to be done. The job of rehabilitation has been little more than begun. Nor is the struggle for justice at an end. Further contributions are needed, and may be sent to the Treasurer, Miss Constance Chappell, 299 Queen St. W., Toronto.

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