

NEWS LETTER

Issued April 3, 1946, by:
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Citizenship Defense Committee
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PLEASE NOTE: Due mainly to the manner in which the information was received and from personal oversight, my NEWS LETTER issued March 28, contained serious mis-statements. This issue, reporting the same interview, makes the necessary corrections and cancels all previous conflicting statements.

MEANING AND IMPORTANCE OF CABINET INTERVIEW

The main points of the interview were covered by the general press, however, it remains for us to bring out some of the important issues involved in the meeting.

The Government having stated that it would facilitate any appeal of deportation orders-in-council to the Privy Council, and to hold forcible deportation until the decision is given, the Co-operative Committee is going ahead with preparations for the London hearing. At earliest, it will be June when the case is heard, and likely October when the decision is given.

Whatever the decision, it is possible that political conditions may be sufficiently improved to permit favourable concessions from the Government. For this reason, it is important that Japanese persons have the full understanding that, should legal means to stop deportation be exhausted and fail, the larger area of political action still remains and must be fully developed and exploited. In addition, there is recourse to legal action on individual cases.

Should deportation be held up until the end of the year, it is also possible that the Government may have its special wartime powers removed on this issue.

MR. MACMILLAN'S STATEMENT

Mr. Macmillan, reporting a very good conference, and one unusually long for the Prime Minister and so many members of the Cabinet, stated the ministers showed grave concern and assured them that full consideration would be given their submissions. The delegation stated that the treatment of Japanese in Canada had to be decided by the people and Parliament of Canada. Government imposed restrictions were the greatest barrier to satisfactory rehabilitation, and the Co-operative Committee was convinced that marked progress would follow the rescinding of these orders-in-councils.

Refuting the claim that the Japanese were a British Columbia problem in which the East should not interfere, it was submitted that opinion in B.C. has changed and continued to change more favourably, and, in addition, one third of the Japanese population was now east of the Rockies, outside British Columbia.

MR. BREWIN REPORTED

For interested groups to be able to meet with the Prime Minister and his colleagues to talk matters over, "was satisfying and attests to the value of democracy", said Mr. Brewin. The Government, acting from political expediency, was timid about changing its policy, even in the face of public protest. M.P.'s, in receiving more letters on this issue than any other for a long time, knew that the public were upset.

The attitude of Mr. King and Mr. St. Laurent, senior members of the Cabinet, led one to believe they desired to drop the entire deportation scheme; however, with Time a great healer, and with the possibility of the Privy Council deciding the matter for them in a manner reflecting no criticism on them, they would prefer to wait until the judicial decision. It was therefore impossible to expect positive word until this final decision, said Mr. Brewin.

REQUESTS MADE

- a) Rescind deportation orders-in-council;
- b) failing a), have orders amended to refer all cases to judicial tribunal;
- c) remove all restrictions;
- d) should Privy Council uphold orders, submit orders to Parliament before undertaking deportation; and
- e) should deportation scheme still hold, give adequate notice to all persons (to allow preparation for legal action on individual circumstances).

SHOULD PRIVY COUNCIL UPHOLD ORDERS

A vigorous public campaign will be opened should the legal case be lost. Political action work will be renewed in the press, on the platform and in Parliament, with good chances of victory. Toward this end, all M.P.'s are being sent a copy of the Memorandum submitted to the Government.