

## NEWSLETTER

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### HON. HUMPHREY MITCHELL OUTLINES GOVERNMENT POLICY

Labour Minister Mitchell outlined in the House of Commons on August 30 the Government's Japanese policy which in summary is as follows:

- a) To repatriate to Japan as soon as possible all those desiring to go voluntarily;
- b) To disperse and settle across Canada in 1946 those who have proven their firm desire to remain in Canada, by giving them every assistance and encouragement possible, including the progressive relaxation of wartime restrictions;
- c) To delay compulsory deportation until a decision has been handed down by the privy council on the appeal; at which time government policy will be reviewed.

### OUR VIEW OF THIS POLICY

**REPATRIATION:** So long as the rights of Canadian citizens are guarded and maintained, we take no issue with voluntary repatriation. Persons going to Japan are advised to contact Canadian Government representatives as soon as possible after their arrival, should they desire to remain Canadian nationals.

**RESETTLEMENT:** While not for a moment hesitating to condemn racial prejudice which caused our removal from our homes under the guise of military necessity, the present and pressing problem of assisting in the re-establishment of some thousands of persons in camps and hostels, must be faced. From reports on hand, these temporary quarters in their present condition, are not fit places for women and children under severe winter conditions. However, we do not see how they can all be accommodated elsewhere before Spring, and for this reason, we are urging that investigations by qualified and expert personnel be undertaken to see that accepted standards of housing, nutrition, clothing and education are practised.

As a first step toward permanent resettlement persons in hostels and camps should be carefully interviewed by trained personnel for a record of occupational and other preferences. Thereafter all available resources should be directed to re-establishment on an individual case work basis. Financial grants should be forthcoming where they are required, otherwise, an equivalent or greater expenditure may have to be made for his maintenance in the hostel.

The present method of arbitrarily ordering persons to localities against their will should be abolished at once as wasteful of financial and human resources. The closing of hostels over the heads of residents does not engender the personal confidence and initiative required for satisfactory resettlement. Present methods of "encouragement" have been limited to threats of excessive charges for board and lodgings, and extremely low wages for work done in the hostels.

**RESTRICTIONS:** Wartime restrictions which make racism the official policy of Canada should be rescinded. This official discrimination takes on added seriousness from its use by reactionary politicians in British Columbia who raise the issue to becloud the minds of the public and detract them from their real social problems. Progressive political parties who are from day to day tackling the real issues of life must bring this fact to the attention of the public, and bring about a conscious settlement.

**BASIC REVIEW OF GOVERNMENT POLICY:** Because of the manifold mistakes to date, we agree that a basic review of Government policy is needed. Whatever the Privy Council decision, representations of a policy will be made to the Government; and if we are to give serious consideration to clearing up this matter within 1946, failure will be the only result should a policy unacceptable to persons of Japanese ancestry, and unmindful of present day objective conditions, be attempted. For this reason consultation is of first importance.

#### NO DEPORTATION SAYS MR. TRUEMAN

In private conversations with members of the Co-operative Committee, G. E. Trueman, Toronto placement officer of the Japanese Division, said it was his opinion and also that of other officials of the division that no compulsory deportation will be attempted.

As reported in our newsletter of August 17, and after a close examination of developments over the past six months, and sizing up present conditions, we agree with him. Although the policy has changed, we believe that the Government, fearing criticism, and ever anxious to placate racist elements because of its weak political position in British Columbia, is attempting to pass off responsibility for the change on to the legal decision, and therefore withholds its announcement.

#### REQUIRED CHANGES IN GOVERNMENT POLICY

Since the policy announced by Mr. Mitchell is absent of positive content, we must work with all democratic anti-fascist Canadians on the following issues:

- a) the appointment of a claims commission to restore property and other losses resulting from evacuation;
- b) the abolition of discrimination in travel and residence;
- c) the granting of liberal assistance for re-establishment, and consultation on policy;
- d) the enforcement of accepted standards of housing, nutrition, employment, and education;
- e) the granting of Canadian citizenship to qualified Japanese nationals.

#### JAPANESE CANADIAN PAMPHLET SUPPLIED NATIONAL FILM BOARD

Three hundred copies of the pamphlet "The Japanese Canadians" by Dr. Forrest LaViolette were supplied by the Citizenship Defense Committee to the National Film Board for their discussion kit to accompany the film **MAN: ONE FAMILY** which is now available at film libraries. Local communities can use the film to raise discussion on problems of racial discrimination and the issues facing persons of Japanese ancestry in Canada.