

MINUTES OF THE JCCA NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, JULY 12, 1949

Vol. II, #16

The July meeting of the JCCA National Executive Committee was held Tuesday, July 12, 1949, 8.30 p.m., at the Central YMCA, 36 College St., Toronto, Ont.

I. ATTENDANCE:

Those Present: K. Tanaka (Chairman), M. Kitagawa, J. Oki, F. Nogami, T. Umezuki, Y. Hyodo, G. Tanaka, K. Shimizu, K. Hidaka, T. Kameoka, N. Fujita, S. Shinobu, I. Uchida, T. Sagara.

Absentees: P. Yamada, M. Sato, T. Tsuji, I. Kawajiri, E. Nose, J. Ide.

Regrets Received: R. Obata.

II. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

1. Notes on the Meetings of May 10, 12 and 17 -

MOVED by K. Hidaka and seconded by J. Oki

THAT the notes of the meetings held May 10, 12 and 17th, 1949, be formally adopted as circulated subject to any corrections which may be made at the next meeting. CARRIED.

2. Minutes of June 14, 21 and 28 - T. Kameoka's name omitted from among those present.

MOVED by T. Kameoka and seconded by F. Nogami,

THAT the Minutes of the June meetings be adopted as recorded. CARRIED.

III. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Report of Sub-Committee to Draft Letter to Claimants - The Chairman, G. Tanaka, submitted to the meeting a draft letter to Claimants which is to be sent by the National JCCA to Claimants. It is intended to utilize the machinery of the JCCA in each Province to distribute this letter to claimants.

The following stated draft letter to Claimants was submitted to the meeting:

(Draft letter to Claimants as prepared by the sub-Committee which met on Tuesday, July 5, 1949. Members present: Rev. K. Shimizu, Mr. T. Umezuki, Mr. R. Obata, Mr. Y. Hyodo, Mr. G. Tanaka (chairman).)

"Dear Claimants:

Under date of April 16, you received a letter from the Co-operative Committee on Japanese Canadians advising you that an offer of over-all settlement was received in connection with your property losses claims and that for the reasons stated therein it was recommended that the proposals of settlement be accepted. The Japanese Canadian Citizens Association, having considered this matter from all angles, felt that there was, unfortunately, no alternative under the present inquiry but to recommend acceptance to claimants. It was never intended, however, that any acceptance of the proposals should be considered as an end of our complaints respecting property losses claims. It has been reported to us that a great majority of claimants who replied to the Co-operative Committee agreed, under strong protest, with their recommendations for acceptance.

(continued)

"It might be pointed out that a large number of claimants, especially in the Toronto area, took strong objection to the proposals of settlement. A Toronto meeting of claimants requested the Co-operative Committee, through its general counsel, to advise the Dominion Government and the Commission that the proposal was not acceptable and that further efforts should be made for a revision of the percentages. The points raised in favour of rejection were as follows:

1. The claimants could interpret this as a first offer. It is their opinion that it is open for further negotiations under the over-all settlement proposal. (This is now considered impractical in view of the recent National JCCA delegation's interview with the Commissioner).
2. In view of the fact that the Government has requested such secrecy on this matter some would interpret that as being a step by the Government to settle the question of evacuation claims without individual hearings at a minimum possible compensation.
3. In view of the fact that a claimant has made a truthful claim, acceptance of the Government's totally inadequate proposal would be an outright admission that his claims were not truthful.
4. Some claimants felt that the way the Co-operative Committee letter was written left no alternative but to accept.
5. The offer included certain inducements which are not within "the terms of reference" (such as, the return of commissions to claimants in the form of small percentage awards in the Government's proposal which originally were charged against the sale of claimants' property by the Custodian, etc.) and which claimants' counsel advised claimants might lose should they refuse and insist on individual hearings of claims by the Commission.
6. Under the terms of reference, the claimants are entitled to receive the fair market value but percentage increases do not produce an increase anywhere near the fair market value.'

The present position, however, is that, insofar as the Royal Commission is concerned, the Commissioner is aware that the majority of claimants who replied to the Co-operative Committee have accepted his offer of settlement under protest. In view of the recent National JCCA delegation's interview with the Commissioner, it is not likely that much more can be achieved by the claimants by pursuing the matter with the Royal Commission. In addition to this, we have been advised by the Commissioner himself that, as it was indicated to us before, it had been his intention to proceed on the basis of his offer whether the claimants accepted his proposals for over-all settlement or not.

In the light of the above, the J.C.C.A. is proceeding along the following lines:

1. Efforts are being continued to have the Commission and the Government raise the percentages for all claims.
2. The Dominion Government are being advised that while a number of claimants have accepted the proposals of the Commissioner, they did so under strong protest and only because it was intimated to them that this was merely an indication by the Commissioner of what his final recommendations will be and that insofar as the present Royal Commission was concerned acceptance or rejection would make no difference to the findings.
3. The Dominion Government will also be requested to enlarge the terms of reference of the Royal Commission to cover all losses suffered by the

claimants as the claimants feel that the suggested figures in no wise cover these losses. At the time the Government will be advised that the JCCA as an organization will back the claimants to the full in their claims for restitution and will press for full compensation. In other words, we will notify the Government that any finding by the Commission such as that proposed will not be considered the end of this matter and that they may be well advised to make proper restitution at this time if they wish to avoid continued dissatisfaction.

As the JCCA is ready and willing to continue to assist you in any way possible to obtain justice for the evacuation losses suffered by Japanese Canadians, we would appreciate your comments on any of the questions raised in this letter.

We especially wish to know whether you feel greatly dissatisfied with the Commission's settlement proposal and desire the JCCA to make a vigorous appeal to the Government for a more just claims' restitution and to carry out a public campaign in support of this action.

During the past two years, the JCCA has expended several thousands of dollars in the upkeep of the National JCCA Office in the periods devoted to Claims work, the preparation of Claims briefs and other claims material while a very great deal of voluntary time was given to assist claimants by the hundreds of JCCA workers in all the Provinces.

The JCCA is ready to continue unabated the work on behalf of claimants and has already planned the following steps:

1. Present a brief to the Government and members of Parliament which will disclose:
 - (a) the basic complaints of claimants to the Commission's settlement proposal with a strong appeal for just restitution,
 - (b) seeking a broadening of the terms of reference to include all claims.
2. Seek a delegation interview with the Government in representation on behalf of all claimants and present the aforementioned brief.
3. Carry out a campaign for public support for justice and full restitution for evacuation losses claims.

As the National JCCA operating funds are now totally depleted and, in order to carry on the aforementioned work, fairly large expenditures will be involved, it is now absolutely necessary for the National JCCA to appeal directly to claimants for financial support.

In view of these circumstances, we desire to know whether you are willing to consent to an appropriation from the Co-operative Committee Claims Funds being made to the National JCCA in order to finance the claims work outlined on behalf of claimants.

May we hear from you with regard to all the questions raised in this letter.

Sincerely yours."

With a view to facilitating the receiving of replies from claimants to the above stated letter from the JCCA, the sub-committee was instructed to include with the letter to claimants when they are sent, a reply form letter which claimants could use in writing to the JCCA.

It was also approved by the executive committee that when the Provincial Chapters are contacted on the JCCA letter to claimants, it should be suggested to the local Chapters that wherever possible, claimants meetings should be held in order to determine the claimants' views.

Before the letter is sent to claimants, members of the executive committee are to be given at least two days interval to study same.

It was felt that with regard to this matter of the letter to claimants, Mr. Brewin and the Co-operative Committee should be fully informed. It was granted by the meeting that in the event certain changes in the letter to claimants is requested by Mr. Brewin, the sub-committee is empowered to exercise its own judgment as to the extent to which it considers such changes are possible without reference to the executive committee. It was also felt advisable to invite members of the Toronto Claimants' Committee to the next meeting of the sub-committee.

2. Second Report of the Sub-Committee on Finance - The Chairman, K. Hidaka, submitted the report of his sub-Committee in reading, as follows:

"Your sub-committee met on June 26 and July 6. Further study was given to the finances of the Japanese Canadian Citizens Association with a view to drawing up conclusions and making recommendations. Your sub-committee herewith elaborates on conclusions presented in statistical form in Report 1 to the National Executive Committee meeting of June 14, 1949.

Finances at August 31, 1949

1. The current account for the operating expenses of the organization is completely depleted, and furthermore, with expenditures grossly in excess of income, if the national organization operates on its present scale, approximately \$2,500 will be diverted from the Trust Fund which should be reserved for special projects, and used for ordinary current expenses, leaving a balance of slightly less than \$1,000 at the end of the fiscal year.
2. Since it appears that no substantial portion of the \$4,000 receivables will be paid to the organization prior to the end of the fiscal year, the financial planning of the organization should be based on this premise and make every effort to operate within its income.
3. Should the Trust Fund be depleted of \$2,500 on August 31st, the 1949-50 budget will be required to raise that amount over and above the normal operating expenses. Such a condition will place an impossible financial burden on the organization for next year, but the situation will have to be faced realistically. Receivables for one year should not, therefore, be carried over to the following year.

4. Proposed Financial Plan

Your sub-committee, realizing fully the seriousness of the financial problem, recommends that amounts be borrowed from the Trust Fund, but the balance should not be reduced to less than \$1,000. Should the organization operate on its present scale of expenditures approximately \$1,200 will be required for July and August. Should no amounts be received, total borrowings will be approximately \$2,500, and a balance of approximately \$1,000 will be left in the Trust Fund. However, should amounts be received, the amount borrowed from the Trust Fund will then be reduced.

5. The amount of \$1,000 should be considered an absolute minimum reserve, and should this amount be reached, the office should be closed.
 6. Should there be a drastic reduction in expenses to the end of the fiscal year, such savings will enable the office to carry on for a longer period. The other alternative, as mentioned above, is to continue on the present scale, and face the possibility of a closure at the end of the fiscal year.
 7. Amounts borrowed from the Trust Fund should be added to the budget of the following year, and priority consideration should be given to their re-imbursement.
- Future Budgets:
8. Since the organization has experienced difficulties in raising budget quotas, future budgets must be scaled down to practical amounts. It should be recommended to the 1949 Conference that they give full recognition to past difficulties when determining their assessments. To meet the fund raising problem faced by the entire organization. The sub-committee recommends that a more vital program be adopted, also that chapters be given assistance in better money raising methods, and that the difficulties encountered in raising funds be analysed.
 9. The organization faces a further financial problem arising from the condition that the new fiscal year will begin without a budget for a fund raising campaign. A budget cannot be adopted until the conference in November, yet funds will be required for the interim. If the office is to be maintained, three to four months operating expenses will have to be raised for the months following September.
 10. Starting in September there is the need to raise funds on a provisional budget determined on some equitable basis, and with assessments subject to revision at the national conference.
 11. With a substantial deficit from 1948-49 to be re-imbursed to the Trust Fund in 1949-50, your sub-committee further recommends that this present sub-committee or some special committee examine all 1948-49 expenditures with a view to determining economies which may be effected in 1949-50, if any, and also to determine the items in the 1948-49 budget which were below allocations and where savings were effected. Your sub-committee makes this recommendation because 1948-49 receipts indicate that the organization will be unable to operate on the same scale as in the past two years, but will be forced to adopt an austerity budget in line with the amount which the Japanese people are willing and able to pay.
 12. As a final recommendation your sub-committee urges that the National Executive Committee pursue every available channel to have provincial and local Chapters meet the balance of their 1948 - 49 quotas."

While it was moved by the Chairman of the Finance sub-Committee that the report be adopted as read, seconded by J. Oki, following discussion on the motion, the meeting terminated discussion on the motion with the decision to signify having received the report.

With reference to the Minutes of the meeting of June 14, page 6, on the motion which reads as follows: "that we set up a Trust Fund and appoint the Trustees", J. Oki, as a member of the Finance sub-committee, stated that he believed it was the responsibility of the sub-committee to contact persons who donated funds to the JCCA on behalf of their former organizations with a view to their acting as Trustees of the Trust Fund.

J. Oki stated that he based this conclusion on the recommendation which is included in the sub-committee's first report that it be empowered to make these contacts.

While it was appreciated by all members at the meeting, the need to appoint Trustees, it was felt by some members that careful study should be made as to the nature of the by-laws which would govern the matter of trusteeship.

Mr. Shinobu was concerned with the possibility that should stringent rules govern the Trust Fund, they could destroy the functioning of the JCCA as it would make it difficult for the organization to carry on its work.

Mr. Shimizu stated that he believed when special donations were made to the JCCA, the donors did so in a spirit of full confidence in the JCCA and trust in the organization to carry out its work.

Mr. Umezuki felt that it was only practical to have the executive committee serve as trustees with perhaps having the donors serve as auditors.

K. Hidaka stated that, in his opinion, where projects have almost unanimous approval of the people; those most concerned with the expenditure of monies donated for the organization's work are the donors.

The Executive Secretary stated that, in his opinion, the practical aspects of this question presents the point that the executive committee is the only body that is fully aware of all the details of this organization's work and the problems with which it is confronted.

Mr. Umezuki pointed out the fact that most of the donating organizations are now non-existent and that it would be difficult for a representative to be appointed.

MOVED by J. Oki and seconded by K. Hidaka
THAT the Board of Trustees consist of at least five persons.

AMENDED by G. Tanaka, seconded by T. Sagara
THAT the Motion read after the words, 'Board of Trustees consist of', "members of the National Executive Committee and any other persons the Committee sees fit to include."

AMENDMENT CARRIED - 6 in favour
3 contrary
3 abstained.

(The following stated reasons were given by the three abstainers:
"Would like to give this matter further thought." "Do not feel that the executive committee should be the Trustees as it is too close to the work of the organization to take an objective view, but on the other hand, I do not agree with the view that the donors should be the Trustees and have control of the Trust Fund when they do not have knowledge of the work being carried on by the organization.")

Discussion Held on the Above-stated Motion and Amendment - A member stated that in view of the stringent financial straits of the organization that chapters should be made to send in the balance of their allocations. The Executive Secretary stated that it is important to maintain goodwill and he further stated that without question the Provincial Chapters are doing their utmost to meet their financial obligations.

K. Hidaka stated that the Committee would be in error to adopt the amendment. He stated that the committee should realize this fund to be a Trust Fund and for this reason the money should not be made as easily available as the funds of the current account; that it was quite likely, due to human failings, that the committee would make use of this fund for the operating expenses of the organization and fail to put every effort into obtaining the balance of Provincial allocations which are overdue. The Executive Secretary took exception to the point in reference to the executive committee having human failings with regard to the handling of the Trust Funds. The Executive Committee is responsible-minded and fully aware of its responsibilities in the careful handling of all funds, he said.

Re: First Report of the Finance sub-Committee

The Executive Secretary stated objections to the sub-Committee's first report in that it assumes, in effect, administrative responsibilities of the National office by virtue of the recommendation incorporated in its report that it contact Trust Fund donors. And stating that he could foresee the possibility of a lack of proper co-ordination between the National office and sub-committees, he felt that all administrative responsibilities of the organization should be clearly understood as responsibilities of the National office and that he should also be notified of all sub-committee meetings in order that he may attend them as he should.

MOVED by T. Umezaki, and seconded by T. Sagara

THAT in future, sub-committee meetings should be attended by the National Executive Secretary and all correspondence should be written by the Executive Secretary. CARRIED.

It was the decision of the meeting that the first report from the Finance sub-Committee be considered further at a subsequent meeting together with the second Report when it is mimeographed and members have been given an opportunity to study it.

IV. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:

1. Property Claims - It was reported that Mr. McMaster has informed of his arrival in Toronto on August 4 and departure August 7th. Mr. McMaster has expressed a willingness to meet with claimants.

After discussion on this matter, the meeting approved a dinner meeting of the executive committee with both Mr. McMaster and Mr. Brewin and also the holding of a claimants' meeting with both lawyers present.

It was also suggested that the Toronto claimants' committee should be invited to the meeting of the Executive Committee with Mr. McMaster.

AGREED THAT a Supper Meeting of the National Executive Committee be held with Mr. McMaster and Mr. Brewin, on August 5th (Friday), at 5.30 p.m., at the Golden Dragon. The Executive Secretary to make arrangements.

THAT a Claimants Meeting be held Friday evening, August 5th, at the Church of All Nations (if possible), Claimants to be notified through notices inserted in the New Canadian and the Continental Times.

THAT Mr. McMaster be asked to bring files on each category, on cases which were not adjusted or improved, and files to be on Toronto claimants where possible.

- IV. 2. National Finance Campaign - The need to consider planning next year's financial campaign was stated to the meeting since the present fiscal year terminates August 31st. It was stated that some Provincial Chapters desire to have the financial campaign initiated in September.

Should the campaign begin in September, it was felt necessary to appoint a sub-Committee immediately in order to plan the project properly. It was also felt necessary to consult with the Provincial Chapters on this matter.

Members appointed to the National JCCA Finance Campaign sub-Committee: Fred Nogami, Tom Sagara, K. Shimizu, K. Hidaka, T. Kameoka, M. Kitagawa, Kinzie Tanaka.

3. B. C. Pensions - The following stated letter from the Department of Welfare, Government of British Columbia, was read by the Executive Secretary:

"Dear Mr. Tanaka:

I have been instructed by Honourable Geo. S. Pearson, Minister of Health and Welfare, to inform you that effective August 1st, 1949, a cost of living bonus will be paid to all eligible Japanese old age pensioners residing in British Columbia, with the exception of pensioners who are being cared for under the Dominion-Provincial Agreement in New Denver and Slocan City.

I am requesting our officials in the Kaslo-Slocan District to inform Project pensioners that any person moving to any other locality within the Province will automatically become eligible for the \$10 per month cost of living bonus.

Where a Japanese pensioner is living in another province with whom we have reciprocal agreements, he will also be eligible for the cost of living bonus, subject, of course, to the condition that the person must have resided in British Columbia three years' before making application for the pension and that the pension was granted in this Province.

Yours very truly,

E.W. GRIFFITH,
Deputy Minister of Welfare."

4. National Survey - In answer to a query by K. Hidaka, the Executive Secretary read a reply received from the B. C. Chapter on this matter. It is the only reply received so far on the matter of the Survey. The Executive Secretary suggested that he could write a follow-up letter to the Provincial Chapters.

V. TREASURER'S REPORT:

1. Statement of Receipts and Disbursements for June, 1949 (as attached)

MOVED by M. Kitagawa and seconded by K. Shimizu
THAT the statement be adopted. CARRIED.

(also attached, statement for
May, 1949).

IV. National Finance Campaign - The next year - consider planning next year's financial campaign was stated to the meeting

2. Requisition for July, 1949 - The present fiscal year terminated August 31, 1949. The Provincial Chapter desires to have the financial campaign initiated in September.

MOVED by T. Kameoka and Y. Hyodo
 THAT the requisition for the month of July, 1949, for \$600.00 be approved:

Executive Secretary's Salary	233.00
Office Secretary's Salary	156.00
Petty Cash	50.00
Supplies, etc.	161.00

Members appointed to the National JCCA Finance Campaign sub-committee:
 Fred Nozaki, K. Shimizu, K. Hidaoka, T. Kameoka, M. Kitagawa, Kinzie Tanaka.

CARRIED.

3. B. C. Pensioners - The following stated letter from the Department of Welfare, Government of British Columbia dated June 11, 1949:

Dear Mr. Tanaka:

I have been instructed by Honourable Geo. S. Pearson, Minister of Health and Welfare, to inform you that effective August 1st, 1949, a cost of living bonus will be paid to all eligible Japanese and age pensioners residing in British Columbia, with the exception of pensioners who are being cared for under the Dominion-Provincial Agreement in New Denver and Shagan City.

I am requesting our officials in the Kaslo-Shagan District to inform you that pensioners that any person moving to any other locality within the Province will automatically become eligible for the \$10 per month cost of living bonus.

Where a Japanese pensioner is living in another province with whom we have reciprocal agreements, he will also be eligible for the cost of living bonus, subject, of course, to the condition that the person must have resided in British Columbia three years before making application for the pension and that the pension was granted in that province.

Yours very truly,
 E.W. GRIFFIN,
 Deputy Minister of Welfare.

4. National Survey - In answer to a query by K. Hidaoka, the Executive Secretary read a reply received from the B. C. Chapter on this matter. It is the only reply received so far on the matter of the Survey. The Executive Secretary suggested that he could write a follow-up letter to the Provincial Chapter.

V. Treasurer's Report:

1. Statement of Receipts and Disbursements for June, 1949 (as attached)

MOVED by M. Kitagawa and seconded by K. Shimizu
 THAT the statement be adopted. CARRIED.
 (also attached, statement for May, 1949).

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

May, 1949

Receipts:

May 17 - May Requisition	\$500.00
" 17 - Refund re New Canadian Special Issue expense from B. C. JCCA, Alberta JCCA, and Manitoba JCCA	<u>24.96</u>
	\$524.96

Disbursements:

Salary, Executive Secretary, less income tax deductions	\$210.65
Salary, Office Secretary, less income tax deductions	146.75
Supplies	10.13
Telephone & Telegraph	11.36
Rent	12.00
Equipment	7.35
Transportation	11.00
Travel Expenses	27.65
Bank Charges81
Literature35
Income Tax	<u>32.00</u>
	\$470.05

Cash Balance - in Bank	\$122.21
- Petty Cash	<u>50.00</u>
	\$172.21

BREAKDOWNS:

Supplies - 2 typewriter ribbons \$2.00, 6 Stenographer's notebooks 90¢, scratch pads \$1.95, typewriter brush, fyberglass eraser and moistener \$1.20, 6 boxes Kleenex for mimeograph machine \$2.10, insect spray \$1.98.

Equipment - desk tray \$4.60, steel scissors \$2.75.

Travel Expense - Executive Secretary's trip to Western Regional Conference at Chatham, May 7-8 \$27.65.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

June, 1949

Receipts:

June 27 - June Requisition	\$600.00
" 27 - to Accounts Rec. refund re New Canadian special	
issue expense from Ontario JCCA	38.07
- Supply Expense refund from Co-operative Committee.	<u>11.05</u>
	\$649.12

Disbursements:

Salary, Executive Secretary (\$237.00)	\$214.65
" , Office Secretary (\$156.00)	146.75
Income Tax	31.60
Supplies	82.92
Telephone and Telegraph	10.40
Rent	15.00
Public Relations	6.00
Transportation	11.65
Travel Expense	4.00
Bank Charges	<u>1.75</u>
	\$524.72

<u>Cash Balance</u> - in Bank	\$246.61
- Petty Cash	<u>50.00</u>
	\$296.61

BREAKDOWNS:

Supplies - 10,000 shts. mimeographing paper \$22.10
 5,000 legal forms (Cancellation of Japanese Nationality) \$33.36
 Wrapping paper \$4.40
 Scratch pads and drawing paper \$2.10
 Stamps and Parcel Post \$20.96

Rent - Regular office rental \$12.00.
 Rental for Committee rooms, May 12 and June 28, \$3.00.

Public Relations - 2 years' subscription to Saturday Night.

Travel Expense - Executive Secretary's trip to Hamilton, May 1, 1949,
 (JCCA organizational meeting) \$4.00.