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Glenn McPherson Gonds

Interviews, newspaper clippings, 1994-1995

FOLDER No 6-7

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ORIGINAL ORDER

TRANSCRIPT INTERVIEW - Glenn - Oct. /94

Everybody screaming to move the Japanese - Harold Winch, pressuring Ottawa to move the Japanese - I came out to assess -

party - Commodore - Frank Gates and Bob - he rang the bell in the rotunda, he said just remember the blonde's mine. He said he had these two people from the East, I was leaving for New York next morning. There were six of us, Mercia and two of her friends. At 31 I then had my first drink.

I was involved in drafting legislation - I was the expert on the War Measures Act and Trading with the Enemy, and the List of Specified Persons - and I'd go to these meetings and have these questions fired at me all the time. And whoever it was said, why don't you smoke a pipe? If you smoked a pipe - take time.

Gavin Young in New York - I had recruited him from Canada for Bill's organization. We were living in an apt. and I told Gavin I had met a girl in Vancouver and I thought I should marry her. He said how long have you known her?

Japanese - a lot of native-born Japanese there - also Vancouver is a great target - you only have to blow up a couple of bridges in the Fraser Canyon and this great port would be cut off from the east. A race of people who, in Vancouver, are not very popular with the white people. Whether they would sabotage anything or not is not the burning question - it's a question of if the war with Japan goes bad vigilantes could go amuck.

I worked for Bill Stephenson 1941-45 - Stephenson considered I was his man - and he paid my salary. When the Americans set up a Custodian's office in Washington I was asked to go and tell them what we had done and how we set it up. We had seized a lot of American companies as German-owned.

Mercia - her mother's friend who lived in the same block was waiting up for her daughter - she told her she had met a young man from New York and was going to marry him. The day I got back we had dinner together.

When I was a young guy going to school in Portage I had a friend Bill Montgomery whose father used to grow potatoes and I used to work on his father's farm - we used to deliver potatoes for 50 cents a bushel put them in the bin in your basement for that price - so Bill and I were pals in the Collegiate we wondered who'd get married first, and I said "You'll get married first, Bill, 'cause I don't know whether I'll ever get married." We made this deal whoever got married first, the other would be best man at his wedding. I'd forgotten all about this deal - it happened 10 yrs. before - so I got a telegram from Bill saying he was getting married in Wpg. and remember our promise. He had become a druggist - he said remember our promise, I'm getting married and you're not married. So I said to Mercia "I've got to go to Wpg. to keep this promise so why don't we get married tomorrow and we'll go to Wpg. together and you can meet my folks and we'll meet your

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family in Revelstoke, and she said you're crazy, we've only known each other four months. That doesn't matter, I've made up my mind - she said she'd have to talk about it - Dean Swanson at the Cathedral - we'll take the train, I've made reservations - licence three days - at 6 o'clock - if you can get a licence. I went over to the courthouse, found a judge that I knew, or that my father knew and got a licence, a special licence, there was a war on and I was leaving for the East and wanted to take my bride with me. Mercia - haven't time to buy the ring, gotta get clothes - I went and bought the ring, she's never had it off her finger since the day we were married.

I met her father and mother on the platform - phoned them first - I didn't know anything about the Griffiths. He was a real pioneer - in one of the depressions in Wales - the potato war in Ireland - there was a large family, and one of the uncles took two boys one from each family, all the way to New Zealand. Mercia's father and his cousin - he was 12 - went with the uncle and grew up on his farm and he taught them riding and farming and butchering cattle and her father became a very good butcher and farmer out there and the Boer War came along and he enlisted in the Boer War in New Zealand and he went on a sailing ship taking horses to South Africa then he broke the horses teaching the Br. Army guys how to ride and he stayed after the Boer War in Africa - he went home at the end of the war and then went back and when he went home he met Mercia's mother and suggested they should get married then came back to South Africa and married her. They ran a hotel in Wales - the Britannia Inn, at one time - then having been in New Zealand and South Africa he didn't have much use for the type of life in Wales - when I was there I said I'd like to go and see such and such a church and one of the Welsh people sitting there said, "but, Glenn, that's 30 miles". And Mercia's father he had had too much freedom - he said to his wife, we can go to New Zealand, or South Africa or we go to Canada' cause I'm not going to live my life in Wales. So they came to Canada. Spent the first winter with farmers who immigrated ahead of them. But Mrs. Griffiths thought the prairie was terrible Somewhere near Brandon, a homestead deal. So they went to Calgary where he got a job as a butcher - he was trained - with Burns Abbatoir - this Tom Griffiths didn't want to work for a big corporation, he wanted to work for himself. So he decided the thing to do where they building the railway, and bridges, was to go to Revelstoke working for Burns. Then he sent for his wife, he'd left her in Calgary. He always said he was the only person who'd ever arrived in Revelstoke in a yacht. He had no money to buy a ticket and Burns had said "you've got a job in Revelstoke if you get there." So he went down to the yards and talked to some of his pals, 'cause he'd been working in the stockyards there, and they said "there's a yacht going to Vancouver. Why don't you just get up in that yacht?" And he did, got off in Revelstoke. And when he had the money he sent for Mrs. Griffiths and the children - he didn't know whether she'd like Revelstoke - after he died Mercia and I took her to England, and Wales and then I said let's take her to Hawaii - Mrs. Griffiths arrived in Revelstoke and she said "When I got off the train it was a beautiful sunny day and I looked at those huge mountains", this little person from England, and she said "this must be heaven. I'll live here." Then she walked across the CPR bridge - the only bridge across the

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Columbia - he had a homestead across the river outside of Revelstoke - he had to cut down trees and everything - and she walked across that bridge terrified because she had to cross on the ties and she could see the rushing river below - no planks - and one of his friends helped them move furniture - and when she got across the said "I will never go to Revelstoke until they put planks on the bridge." And I think it was a year until she went back to Revelstoke.

Well, here was a guy who was a real pioneer and here was a young whippersnapper from New York and Ottawa who was a lawyer and his father was a judge and all this and they didn't know anything about me, we just went through on the train. So the next time we went to visit them in Revelstoke, and I could see he was wondering just who the hell his daughter had married. And I was sitting there and he was out plowing with a single furrow plow, digging up the little house garden they had there and he was there with the horse and then he came in for lunch. And I said: "Well, if you're tired of plowing how about letting me go out and take over?" He looked at me and didn't say a thing. But he knew bloody well I was going to make circles instead of straight furrows - anyway I went out and plowed back and forth with this single furrow plow of his - and we became friends. That broke the ice. He said: "This young fellow knows something about farming." I knew all about the theory of plowing, and of course I knew that the bloody horse knew how to blow. I unhitched the horse and took the harness off and put everything away and the atmosphere was different. 1942.

my photographic memory - meetings - I memorized everything - when I start to tell a story it gets so bloody involved. It's like when I phoned my father and mother and wanted to introduce my bride and they didn't even know I had a girlfriend. I'd only known her a few weeks -

Oh son, it isn't true, you can't do this - and Mercia said: "Mrs. McPherson, this is Mercia - 'they ended up thinking she was wonderful. I had made up my mind (accident Peggy - big lump on my neck)

McKenzie Campbell and Driscoll were paying me \$50 a month I got a call from Aikins secretary saying that Mr. Aikins wanted to see me - I say to McKenzie, an elderly lawyer - for some reason Mr. Aikins wants to see me and McKenzie said oh, they're going to offer you a job I said what do you mean they're going to offer me a job? And he said Oh, you're father's now Chief Justice so they'll want you on their staff. I said You're kidding. No, he said. But I'll tell you one thing. We can only afford to pay you \$50 a month, but he's going to ask you how much I pay you and you tell him \$75 a month. If they hire you that's what they'll pay you. So I go over to see Aikins and they'd made a definite appt. for me - 2.30 in the afternoon. Great big office, switchboard, secretaries sitting around - I'm sitting there right at 2.30. 2.45 goes by, gets close to 3 o'clock and I got up and went over to the receptionist - would you tell Mr. Aikins that I have work to do in the McKenzie Campbell Driscoll law office, I have some appointments and if he'd like to see me

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he can give me a call and we'll arrange a time - and I walked out. I get back to the office and McKenzie says what happened? I said I didn't even see Aikins. And McKenzie says But you walked out? I said sure, I walked out. I work for you I don't know what he wants even. He said, They'll be back. Sure enough, they phoned. Mr. McPherson, could you come for an appt. at 3 p.m. tomorrow. So I go over at that time and I was ushered right in to Mr. Aikins office. He said We'll like to have you join our firm and we had a little chat and he said how much is Mr. McKenzie paying you? I said \$75 a month. He said well, that's too much. We don't pay our graduate lawyers that much. I said well, that's fine, Mr. Aikins, I'm quite happy where I am. And I walked out. Back to the office and McKenzie is laughing. I said what's going on? He said I just had a call from Aikins Loftus - Harold phoned me and wanted to know what we were paying you and I told him we're paying you \$75 a month - they hired me at \$75 a month. MacAulay was head of world Red Cross - very clever lawyer, always worked in Winnipeg.

Can do Amos and Andy word for word - whole programs. Big dam on river - we turned augers by hand - drilled holes to rock so surveyor would know where the bed rock was. (This was the survey crew)

Robert Service - when the war broke out he was in France - he went into Vichy - because he stayed in France he lived in enemy occupied territory - we were seizing all the assets of the Rothschilds who had their big bank in Paris and I was the guy who wrote the regulations to seize these properties - anybody living in occupied countries, any of his assets, bank accts or shares vest in the Custodian and we will protect these shares and prevent the Nazis from forcing him to move his gold from Montreal to New York and so we, in a sense, were protecting. Mr. Ilsley, Minister of Finance, agreed with me when he found out what I was talking about but he was very mad at me, at one time, because he called me into his office and said: "Do you know what you've done? You've just declared all Frenchmen in France enemies" I said "That's right, Mr. Ilsley". Well, he said, d what do you think that does to the government, as far as Quebec is concerned? "I said, "but I don't think you understand why we've done this. Nazis are occupying Paris. There's German-owned gold in Montreal and there are corporations in Canada that are owned by Baron Empau (Check!) who owned the big ski place - Domaine d'Estival (check!) - above Mt. Tremblant and I seized the ski area to prevent the Nazis from forcing him by torture or any other way to transfer his assets in Canada to the United States who were neutral." So my major job was to find the enemy assets in and the assets of everybody in occupied countries to protect them. And to find the German assets so we could keep them and use them at the end of the war as reparations. Which we did. That's why I was Canada's delegate to Brussels on the Reparations Agency - we turned Baronn Empau's ski resort into a rest camp for the RCAF. And we seized the assets in Canada of the Bata Shoe Co. So I explained all this to Ilsley, that at the end of the war these people were going to be grateful to him and to us because we were going to give them their

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assets and whatever the income and the interest was - and we would charge the cost of the Custodian's office against the German and Japanese assets. The Canadian taxpayer never paid anything for my services and my office.

Ducaine de la Vidal (check name) was the Belgian rep. on IARA - I was the Canadian delegate - I was on the military mission in Berlin for two years with Gen. Pope and I was also Canada's rep. on the Reparations Agency (IARA) in Brussels. And I was one of the Committee of Experts, so-called - A Brit, a Frenchman, myself - because of our background we were considered experts, on reparations, where I was studying the Treaty of Versailles. Ducaine de la Vidal in the first World War was a British agent - when I first met him he was the head of the Banque de Bruxelles - he was captured by the Germans and he was sentenced to be executed. In the Second World War the British got in touch with him and asked him to damage a bridge across the canal and rebuild it under the noses of the Germans so they would have one bridge that would support tanks. (This guy was captured as a spy and was going to be shot and the British bombed Brussels and he escaped and got to England. And he had been very badly treated by the Germans - had his nose broken and so on - the British then sent him to a plastic surgeon in Harley Street in London, and the surgeon was fixing up his face which had been smashed by his torturers - the Surgeon said to him "I'm rebuilding your face, what kind of a nose would you like? And this was a young guy - and he said "I'd like a banker's nose." After the war this guy goes back to Belgium and he finally becomes the head of the Bank of Bruxelles.

The reason it became critical to settle these disputes (longstanding in Custodian's office) was that the Minister - the Finance Dept. - wanted to sell govt. bonds in Europe and particularly in Amsterdam which was one of the world's top money markets and it couldn't sell them there because they were blacklisted on that stock exchange. That's what triggered Coleman saying - come down and close the office - we solved it for Mr. Dunning.

Explaining it bottom of page 2 - you have to look it as as far as the Enemy are concerned, German people living in Germany, you were seizing their assets to prevent them from using them to their advantage during the war - and 2nd, you wanted to keep them in Canada because, under the Treaty of Versailles these would become reparations to Canada to compensate for the costs of war. And so it applied to anybody - to any German co. or banks. Once the Germans occupied another country we had another problem. We didn't want the Germans to get the assets of the people in those countries by forcing them to, for example, telling the Bank of Montreal to release the gold bricks to South America or Brazil. The regulations applied to the countries occupied by Germany for the protection of the owners of those assets. So we took over and we operated companies that were owned in Paris by Paris bankers or by French citizens. We ran the companies for their benefit during the war. Same thing in Vancouver after Pearl Harbor. All the Japanese companies from Japan operating here and owned in Japan their assets vested in the

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Custodian.

Dutch financial houses claimed that the Custodian had seized CPR shares that belonged to their clients who were Dutch people and were not German. And that the Custodian, therefore, should release these shares to the Dutch bankers as non-enemy shares. All during the period of dispute the Amsterdam Stock Exchange was closed to trading in Canadian securities. And this was embarrassing to Canadian govt. and particularly to the Minister of Finance who wanted to sell govt. bonds in this major money market. And that was really what triggered my going to Ottawa.

We weren't always interested in big companies the size of General Aniline or Ansco film or International Nickel or CPR - we had other types of companies, such as the Flycatcher company. Remember those old sticky rolls of paper that they used in farm kitchens - you pulled them down and flies got themselves caught on the sticky stuff? Well, we ran that company during the war. We seized that company - German-owned - I think it was Erickson Flycatcher Co. - I had to run that company during the war. We also seized a circus.

Domestic Fuel - In wartime you do things and you get away with them because everybody wants to cooperate or appear to cooperate. In my job, and particularly when I got mixed up with the British Intelligence - they realized that we had pretty good regulations because here was McPherson who was able to get banks to alert him to bank accounts and so on - which the Swiss banks would never do. But the Canadian banks were cooperating in the war effort. But I had friends who knew what I was trying to do and I would get a call saying "there's a fellow here who's trying to move gold to New York, McPherson, do you know anything about it?" And I'd say "Well, give me a little more information" and they would, and I'd say "well, I'll come down and see about it." And that's what happened with Bata. This lawyer told me that this gold was owned in Switzerland and Canada had no right to block his taking it out. And I said "well, you're not taking it out. We'll talk about that after the war when I find out who really owns it." If we had let him take it, the gold would have gone to Brazil where Jan Bata had gone.

The regulations worked because Canadian business cooperated. And where some business man had information he would give it to me. And the British Intelligence in New York were really fighting an economic war, as we were, and when they wanted to know something they would get in touch with me and say, "do you think you could find about this?"

I went down to Washington and New York and took one of the British agents with me to the meeting and didn't tell the people I was talking to - they assumed he was with the Custodian's office and I had all kinds of information about intercepted mail that had been intercepted in Bermuda, and the British had given me information about companies. I had this British agent - he wanted to know what was going on so, as the Custodian's representative I set up a meeting

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I was then working for Canada but I'd been authorized to work with the British. This was the kind of thing that went on. The custodian was not an organization that just existed unto itself. It had to have cooperation from the Custodian in South Africa, and the British MEW, and we exchanged information and if we found that we had a deposit of gold somewhere in Montreal or Toronto we would then, if something indicated that there was gold in South Africa or Australia, we would advise them that they'd better look into such and such a bank because we had information - there was a lot of cooperation between Custodian people - they weren't all called Custodians - we cooperated with India, for instance - wherever there were international companies - somewhere I have a huge chart of EK Farben's interests around the world -

You've seen the memo where Coleman said I could cooperate with the British and they wanted to know if I could go down and Coleman said "McPherson operates unto himself, he seems to go anywhere and he can cooperate with you but if he gets us into trouble we'll deny we gave him permission." The result was that I was helping other people and when they were setting Alien Property Custodian office in Washington I went down for a meeting - they wanted to talk about how had we done it?

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JULY 17,

FOLDER NO 6-7

Interviews, newspaper clippings, 1994-1995

Glen McPherson Canada

TRANSCRIPT - Nov. 5/94 Florence Carroll (and later Glenn McPherson)
Japanese situation 1941-2 - had access to confidential files - met the Japanese'

Japanese very pleasant - in Custodian's office, interviewing them, felt sorry for them - so confused and so upset, the women particularly, when they knew they had to give up everything to go to these camps -

We were always told not to harass them, to take the information about their assets and their bank accts. but not to make them feel more uncomfortable than they already were - we had to do it with all of them, there was no guarantee that if we kept somewhere and sent some away that we would have the good ones and the bad ones separated. We knew there were bad ones - if you listened - you knew there some of them that could be dangerous. Particularly with the boats, the larger boats that could go out to sea and meet other boats.

We tried to make it as pleasant as we could - we tried to use interpreters - when the stuff was sold, it was appraised and a fair price put on it. And that money was given to the Japanese - I think a lot of the animosity was in people's minds. The Japanese had attacked Pearl Harbor so all Japanese were bad, supposedly. But you get a different picture when you hear about all the things they could do and they might do and you had no control over - and that they were running loose. You didn't have the control over them. If they were out in fishing boats, you had no control. What was done had to be done. I know there was a lot of discussion, and a lot in the papers about it,

I think Glenn agonized over it - he used to get quite upset over it, over some of the remarks that were made. He was in the senior position - Glenn had said not to make them uncomfortable - but I think they got fair prices, we used independent appraisers - not our office staff -

run to Squamish. So then
be. I began to study the
nervous and upset. And
Powell Street neighbor

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People have accused me of being racist. I deny that. But I could see trouble ahead - because the Japanese were so identifiable and they were clustered in a community as Japanese, and we were at war with their mother country, - I was already aware that some of these Japanese sent their children to Japan for their education, and there were 150 Japanese fishing vessels off this coast with charts, with radios, (Prince Rupert, Steveston) and everybody was worried. Mind you, there were some people here who had Japanese gardeners, and of course there was no problem with them. Others had gone to school with Japanese and "these were good people, no problem with him". So if you were Japanese living in Vancouver and the citizens of Vancouver were demanding they be war-wise, because you are identifiable, and the citizens of Vancouver were demanding they be moved. The Military took over the old Vancouver Hotel - the new one was being built, all construction stopped - the military moved into the old hotel at the corner of Georgia and

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TRANSCRIPT

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About the Japanese - I had said they'd have to move the Japanese - if they didn't move them, and the war went badly, because they were so identifiable on the streets of Vancouver, 25,000

Japanese - somebody's going to get mad and somebody's going to get killed - I said it would be the war went badly, because they were so identifiable on the streets of Vancouver, 25,000 Japanese - the Japanese were in the Aleutian Islands - the American navy, the Pacific fleet very dangerous - the Japanese were in the Aleutian Islands and I told Stephenson Intelligence was basically gone - there was no highway to Alaska and I told Stephenson Intelligence was basically gone - there was no highway to Alaska and I told Stephenson Intelligence organization the Canadian govt. is going to have to move the Japanese off the coast because if they don't and the Japanese start coming down the coast from Alaska you're going to have major that. Well, that was

Japanese - a lot of native-born Japanese there - also Vancouver is a great target - you only see So I came to blow up a couple of bridges in the Fraser Canyon and this great port would be cut off from the east. A race of people who, in Vancouver, are not very popular with the white people. Whether they would sabotage anything or not is not the burning question - it's a question of if the war with Japan goes bad vigilantes could go amuck.

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trying to figure out trouble, all the time up Vancouver to Squamish. So there were major considerations. So I didn't look at what the sabotage might be. I began to study the situation from the citizens' point of view here. And they were very, very nervous and upset. And because the Japanese had lived in an area of Vancouver, basically - the Powell Street neighborhood, and Steveston,

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About the Japanese - I had said they'd have to move the Japanese - if they didn't move them, and the war went badly, because they were so identifiable on the streets of Vancouver, 25,000 Japanese - somebody's going to get mad and somebody's going to get killed - I said it would be very dangerous - the Japanese were in the Aleutian Islands - the American navy, the Pacific fleet was basically gone - there was no highway to Alaska and I told Stephenson Intelligence organization the Canadian govt. is going to have to move the Japanese off the coast because if they don't and the Japanese start coming down the coast from Alaska you're going to have major problems with these people. Not because they're disloyal to Canada - some of them were born here but in a group of 25,000 there is going to be nucleus of enemy agents - they're bound to be there - nobody will admit it but it's inevitable that they're there so I argued that. Well, that was why they said "well, we'll send him back to Vancouver and let him set this thing up." So I came out here.

were Germans in this coun
in what you can call conce
Kananaskis - two kinds of

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trying to figure out if there was any real danger. For instance, if somebody wanted to make a lot of trouble, all they had to do was blow up two bridges in the Fraser River Canyon, and it would tie up Vancouver. You only had to blow up the CPR and the CNR - the BC Railway didn't even run to Squamish. So there were major considerations. So I didn't look at what the sabotage might be. I began to study the situation from the citizens' point of view here. And they were very, very nervous and upset. And because the Japanese had lived in an area of Vancouver, basically - the Powell Street neighborhood, and Steveston,

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TRANSCRIPT - taped interview with Glenn McPherson May 20/94 Kay Alsop Tape 7

Two phases - one was my working with the British directly, coming out here, and my cover at the time was tht I was Counsel for the Custodian in Ottawa - Bill had arranged all this so that people wouldn't know that I was here for British intelligence so I spent a lot of time talking to people and assessing what was going on - Harold Winch, the head of the CCF, was demanding the Japanese be moved, and the local newspapers were screaming that the Japanese should be moved, the town was having blackouts, and people were thinking about bomb shelters and worrying about submarines bombing the west coast of Vancouver Island, and there was gossip that a submarine had surfaced and shelled the cable station over there. The Japanese were moving up the Aleutian Islands to Alaska, and there was no road to Alaska. The navy was basically gone so people were really worried. I talked to a lot of people - there was an organization here called The Black Dragon Society - whether friendly or not is up for grabs - (not the point?) but it was a society with members who were very prominent Japanese -

There were two categories of Japanese - Japanese who were Japanese and Japanese who were naturalized Canadians or born here. The Japanese who were Japanese, like the Germans who were Germans in this country, if there was any suspicion at all, the government interned them in what you can call concentration camps. They were quite nice camps - there was a big one at Kananskis - two kinds of Japanese. I was interested from the point of view of the British in trying to figure out if there was any real danger. For instance, if somebody wanted to make a lot of trouble, all they had to do was blow up two bridges in the Fraser River Canyon, and it would tie up Vancouver. You only had to blow up the CPR and the CNR - the BC Railway didn't even run to Squamish. So there were major considerations. So I didn't look at what the sabotage might be. I began to study the situation from the citizens' point of view here. And they were very, very nervous and upset. And because the Japanese had lived in an area of Vancouver, basically - the Powell Street neighborhood, and Steveston,

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CHAPTER 3:

Little did McPherson know, when he said goodnight to the gorgeous blonde Mercia, that he'd see her again in less than three weeks. He'd written her a short note from New York - addressed to 'Miss Merci,' at the address she'd given him. (He couldn't remember her last name, and didn't know how to spell her Christian name.) But, he wrote in the note, his return to the West Coast was in the lap of the gods.

Held already reported his overview of the so-called "Japanese problem" to both Stephenson and to Dr. Coleman. Coleman had said, pointblank, that King's Liberal government would never agree to the removal of West Coast Japanese. Politically it wouldn't be wise. Indeed, so positive was he of King's refusal that he offered to bet money on it - and he wasn't a betting man. But neither was Glenn. Yet Glenn was so sure of his facts, and the absolute necessity of moving the Japanese out of the danger area, that he bet the good doctor a dollar that King would reverse his position.

A few days later Stephenson called Glenn into his office. He'd heard from Coleman and Glenn had won his bet. The Canadian government was now convinced that the Japanese must be relocated back from the coastal area. And, since it would be the Custodian's responsibility to administer and protect their assets in that case, Coleman wanted to borrow Glenn back, on behalf of the Canadian government, for an indefinite period. Bill Stephenson agreed to this, on the understanding that Glenn would remain on his British Intelligence payroll, and be able to report regularly to his New York office.

In a briefing in Ottawa before McPherson left for Vancouver, Coleman told him that his part in this "serious step" ahead would be to protect Japanese property. (The actual job of moving the Japanese would be the responsibility of The B.C. Security Commission headed by Major Austin Taylor, a Vancouver industrialist.) He was given no job description, only warned that "under no circumstances was the Minister (Ralston?) or the government to be involved in any political debate. If that happens," Coleman had threatened, "it's off with your head."

Arriving January 7, 1942, McPherson immediately started hunting for staff - not an easy task, since most young people were in military service, and most employable older people were working for defence plants. *

*Glenn himself was never allowed to join the military because his Custodian experience slotted him as "essential and valuable" to the Canadian government. His draft notices were deferred.

TRANSCRIPT INTERVIEW - FLORENCE CARROL, Glenn's secretary - Nov. 5/94

Mr. Reed (check which one) started to interview the Japanese people and they came in droves because they'd been told by the police that they had to come there - we had to get information about all their assets, their bank accts. and where they were, and sometimes it involved using an interpreter. During this time I was doing Glenn's confidential mail and Mr. Reed and I were doing the interviewing and Glenn had said "Don't embarrass them any more than you have to," he was very gentle with them, and you couldn't help but feel sorry for them. They were upset and befuddled and didn't know what was going on. You had to prompt them sometimes.

As time went on Glenn would delegate some of the work and we had other men in the office as well as the girls. Sometimes they weren't done the way he wanted them done or as fast as he wanted them done. I wound up listing firearms, ammunition and radios that belonged to Japanese. We had to get them appraised and we always got top-notch appraisers so we'd get a fair price on them - it was all listed by the police, and kept in storage, was appraised when it was gathered up. It was appraised after we took it over - we didn't have the stuff in our office. The records were kept by the police and transferred to our office after. We didn't handle it in our office.

Mr. Reed and I ended up selling fish boats. The man who'd been assigned the job wasn't getting it done and so after I got through with ammunition and firearms Glenn said: "How would you like to sell fishboats?" Mr. Reed and I went out to New Westminster where they were all moored - where the Quay is now - we prowled over these fish boats. We had expert appraisers, and an auctioneer (CHECK!) sold them.

In 1942 Glenn was recalled to Ottawa - he was married by that time - they wanted him to stay in Ottawa and leave this office in charge of someone else. In Ottawa he'd been using girls out of the steno pool so he asked how I'd like to move to Ottawa so off I went. I was supposed to have three weeks holidays on the way down but I got a wire from Glenn saying "please come right through and we'll have holidays later. I got there just after the first of February, 1943.

I worked four nights a week, and every other Sunday - he was a hard worker and you had to be a hard worker to work for him. (Glenn had an apt. on the north side of Ottawa - the day before Marilyn was born Mercia came down and had lunch with me. Spry as all get out.)

Glenn was liaison officer between Canada, Britain and the United States.

He was over in Germany and came back ill and he and Mercia decided they should drive back to Wpg. -

How would you like to go to Brussels? I'm going to take my family - I'm missing so much time with my family - and if I take my family I might as well take my secretary. Halifax - troopship, all bunks, no private cabins -

2)

Glenn and Mercia had a house, and a maid, and Mme. Jeanne - cocktail parties at the house, ~~disparities~~ from other countries - from IARA -

The Japanese situation in Vancouver in 1942 - came to Vanc. in Oct. '41 - we were given the impression that we should not harass them - try not to make them feel more uncomfortable than they already were. People you talked to - you knew that there were some of them who could be dangerous, particularly with the larger boats that could go out to sea and meet other boats - we tried to make it as pleasant as we could for them - when the stuff was sold it was all appraised and that money was given to the Japanese - when you heard all they could do, and if they were running loose you had no control over what they might do. What was done had to be done. Glenn agonized over it. He used to get quite upset over some of the things and some of the remarks that were made. He was the senior in the office.

But I think they got fair prices for all their stuff - it was independent appraisers.

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