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Angus MacInnis Papers

~~Dr.~~ Koto Matsudaira,
Office of the Permanent Mission
of Japan to the United Nations,
19th Floor, 460 Park Avenue,
New York 22, N.Y., U.S.A.

JAPAN

Tel. Plaza 1-1883

Ottawa, Canada.
May 8, 1957.

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Angus MacInnis,

Pursuant to my telegram of the 8th May, I am hereby informing you formally that my Government extends to both of you an invitation to visit Japan. You will be the guests of my country for ten days. Because of Prime Minister Kishi's visit to the United States and also the climatic conditions, my Government thinks that this autumn would be the best time for your visit.

You can imagine how happy I am to write this letter to you as the last of my official acts in this Embassy. My best wishes will always be with you during your trip to Japan, and it is with genuine pleasure that I am anticipating the welcome of our people and our Government to two of the most outstanding and faithful friends of Japan.

With all my kindest regards to both of you,

Yours sincerely,

Koto Matsudaira

Mr. and Mrs. Angus MacInnis,
2880 West 39th Avenue,
Vancouver 13,
British Columbia.

The New Canadian, Aug. 24/54.
Japan Invites MacInnis
As Guest of Government

Mr. and Mrs. Angus MacInnis of Vancouver, recently invited by the Japanese Government to tour Japan as guests, were forced to postpone the scheduled trip this fall because of the former Vancouver MP's ill health, according to the local Japanese consulate.

It was reported that Vancouver Japanese Consul Muneo Tarabe informed the Japanese Embassy in Ottawa of the change in plans.

Mr. and Mrs. MacInnis were honored by grateful JCs at the Vancouver JCCA picnic held June 30. They were presented with a power lawnmower. To date, the Vancouver JCCA has collected a total of \$221 towards the Angus MacInnis Testimonial Fund.



2880 West 39th Avenue,
Vancouver 13, B. C.,
August 13, 1957.

Dr. Toru Magiwaru,
Japanese Ambassador to Canada,
Japanese Embassy,
Room 701 Metcalfe Building,
88 Metcalfe Street,
Ottawa, Canada.

Dear Dr. Magiwaru:-

It is with great regret that I am writing to you to say that because of my health I shall not be able to take advantage of the invitation of the Government of Japan to visit your country.

A few days ago I discussed with Mr. Tanabe the possibility of travelling by boat instead of by plane. I thought the ship travel would be less tiring than the plane travel. Mr. Tanabe was kind enough to say that he would undertake to see what could be done in that way and he was very hopeful that something could be done. However, by next morning I had come to the conclusion that the state of my health was too precarious to attempt the trip by any mode of travel. If I were to become ill while in Japan it would be difficult for everyone.

I wish to assure you that my decision indicates no lack of appreciation for the invitation. Mrs. MacInnis and I regret more than I can say that it is impossible to make the trip. I would be glad if my appreciation for the invitation together with my regret for not being able to accept it could be conveyed to your Government.

Yours sincerely,

Angus MacInnis.

May 8, 1957

Copy
Hon. Koto Matsudaira,
Japanese Ambassador to Canada,
Embassy of Japan, Ottawa.

11:45 P.M.

Mrs. MacInnis and I deeply appreciate your telegram
of today inviting us on behalf of ^{your} ~~the Japanese~~ Govern-
ment to visit Japan. Stop We accept it conscious
of the great honor being shown us Stop We note that
the autumn is considered the most desirable time Stop
That would be very satisfactory ~~xxxxxx~~ Stop As we
must make certain arrangements in advance we would
like to be informed as early as possible of the date
of leaving Vancouver, the mode of travel and the
probable duration of the visit Stop I sincerely
hope that the improvement in my health will continue
so that Mrs. MacInnis and I can see your beautiful
country about which we have heard so much

117

Angus MacInnis.

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MR AND MRS ANGUS MACINNIS

TELEPHONED

2880 WEST 39TH AVE VANCOUVER 13 BC.

DEAR MR AND MRS ANGUS MACINNIS I AM EXTREMELY HAPPY TO BE ABLE TO
INFORM YOU BEFORE I LEAVE THAT MY GOVERNMENT EXTENDS TO BOTH OF YOU
AN INVITATION TO VISIT JAPAN STOP I AM AUTHORIZED BY MY GOVERNMENT TO
DO THIS FORMALLY STOP THE ONLY THING IS THAT BECAUSE

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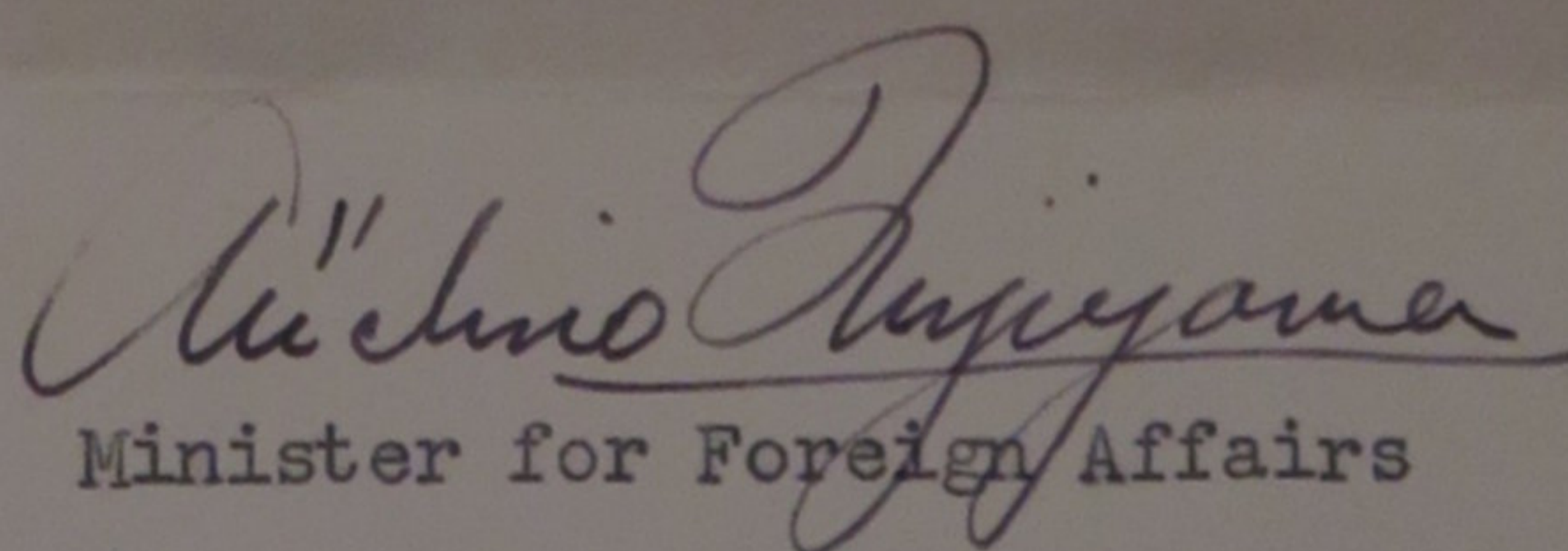
September 14, 1957

Dear Mr. MacInnis,

I am sorry to learn of your indisposition, which now prevents you from coming to our country this autumn.

I sincerely hope that it will not be long before you regain your health and that I and my colleagues in the government may again look forward to the pleasure of welcoming you and Mrs. MacInnis to our country and extending to you personally an expression of our sincere gratitude for all that you have done for the betterment of Japanese-Canadian relations.

Yours sincerely,


Minister for Foreign Affairs

Angus MacInnis, Esq.
2880 West 39th Avenue,
Vancouver 13, B. C.

Japanese Canadians honor MP

Plans to honor CCF veteran Mr. Angus McInnis at the annual picnic next year were made at a meeting of the B.C. Japanese-Canadian Citizens' Association executive committee.

A gift will be presented to Mr. McInnis for his efforts to preserve property rights of Japanese-Canadians in the Second World War.

LAST YEAR he was given the Garnett Sedgewick Award by the UBC Civil Liberties Association for his work in winning full citizenship for Canadians of Oriental descent.

Because of lack of support from local chapters, the committee temporarily shelved the plan for a national emergency conference. It will be reconsidered at a meeting to be held Jan. 3.

Efforts will be made to regain financial support of the chapters. None has paid its dues this year.

MARTHA MURAKAMI, a teacher at Lord Byng school, was appointed to write an outline of Japanese-Canadian history in B.C. for the centennial committee.

Dr. John Shintani was appointed to the committee to assist UBC Oriental Museum, scheduled to open in January.

Something for You from All of Us



Mr. + Mrs. Angus Mac Innis.

This comes to you from all of us

Especially meant to show

That we all think a lot of you,

As surely you must know,

And if just half the wishes

That we're wishing you come true,

A lot of happiness will fill

The days ahead of you.

Sincerely,

Japanese Canadian
Citizens.

THE NEW CANADIAN

An Independent Organ for Canadians of Japanese Origin

20TH YEAR — NO. 76 WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1957 TORONTO, ONT.

MacInnis Donates Own Testimonial Fund to Japan Flood Relief

VANCOUVER. — Angus MacInnis, retired Vancouver MP who was recently honored by the Vancouver JCCA and individuals across Canada, donated the

balance remaining of the "Angus MacInnis Testimonial Fund", a sum of \$131.67, to the Japan Flood Relief Fund.

In a letter of appreciation to Mr. MacInnis, H. S. Saita wrote:

"On behalf of the Vancouver JCCA I would like to express a hearty thanks for your generous donation towards the recent Japan Flood Relief Fund, amounting to \$131.67, which was the balance remaining of the "Angus MacInnis Testimonial Fund" amounting to \$126.67, plus \$5 from an anonymous donor at Chase, B.C.

"After discussing it with my executive members, we decided to gratefully accept your kind donation, although we would have rejoiced if it could have been used for your tour to Japan. However, I am sure the Japan Red Cross Society and the disaster-stricken people of Japan will be exceedingly grateful for your material assistance.

"The official receipt will be forwarded to you from the Committee."

MP MacInnis Honored

VANCOUVER.—Retired MP Angus MacInnes and Grace MacInnis were presented with a token of appreciation by the Vancouver-B.C. JCCA at the annual JCCA picnic held at Belcarra Park recently.

Communications were read from various Japanese Canadian

groups across Canada. In reply to a telegram from The New Canadian on behalf of its readers, Mr. MacInnis wrote:

"We take this occasion to thank the New Canadian with all the sincerity that we feel for their kind reference to the work of Mrs. MacInnis and myself in the interests of citizens of Canada of various origins who were deprived of rights and privileges which were enjoyed by Canadians of other origins. We believe that Canadians today, regardless of racial origin, all have the same rights and privileges before the law. It is our hope and we shall work to the end that all Canadian citizens shall have equality of opportunity in every way.

"Mrs. MacInnis and I enjoyed the friendship of the Japanese Canadians at the picnic on June 30 very much indeed. I was so overcome with emotion when the presentation was made to us that for a few moments I was unable to speak and tears came to my eyes.

"Canada is a great country and there is room in it for Canadians no matter what their origins may have been . . ."

THE
芋の葉の月は轉びて落ちに 逸人
地 木蓮
名月や閑居の窓を開きけり
人 蘭子
又一人友のふねたり橋の月 天浪
追加
去致しまし
諸彦に謹告
十二日ボ
於ての告別
佛教會にて
御多忙中態
且つ又過分
弔電を賜り
く存じます
夢中上さ

New Canadian, Oct. 5, 1963.

THE NEW

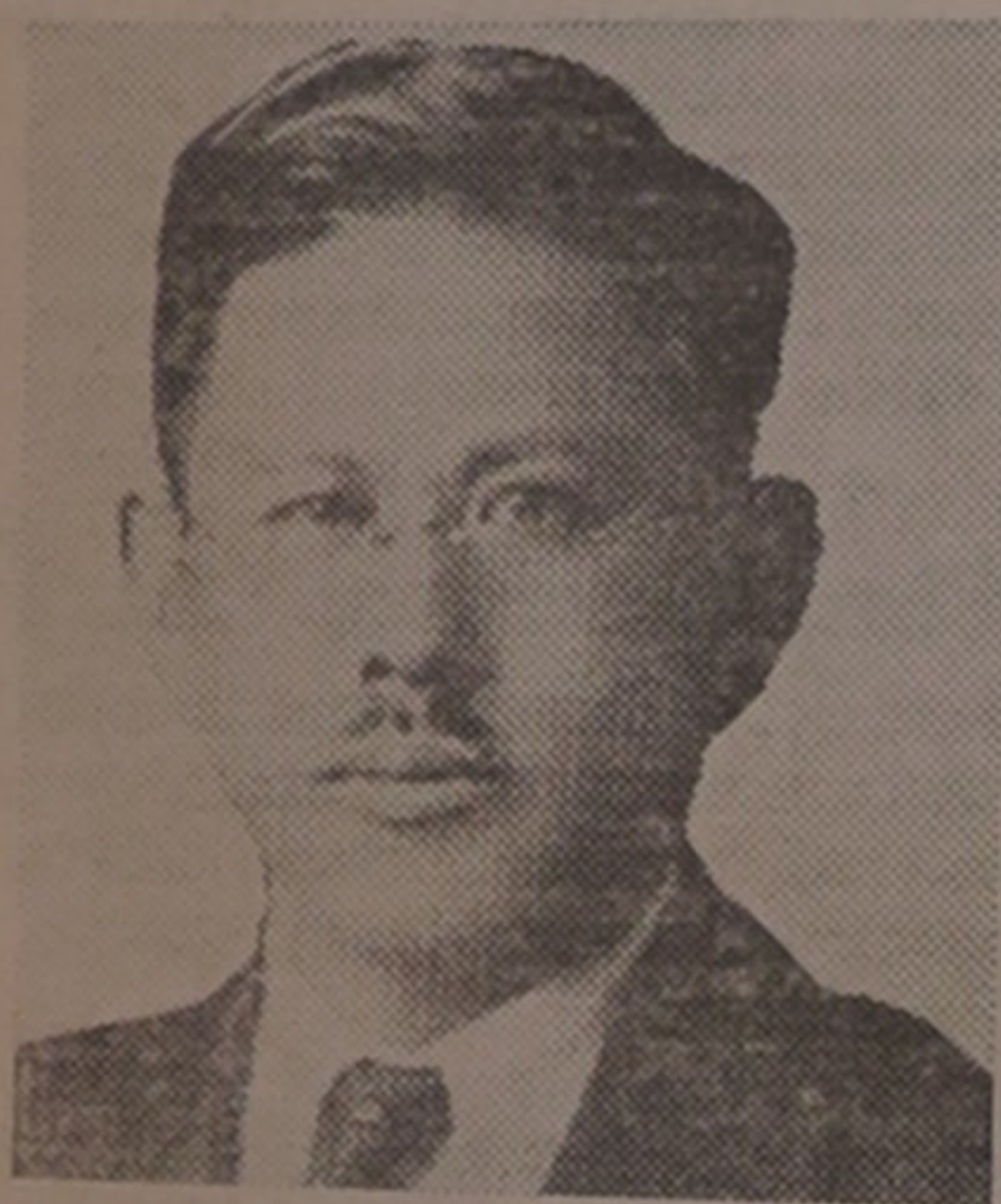
An Independent Org

Vol. XXVII.—No. 77

J.C. Pioneer Labour Union Spirit Still Burning Bright

By T. UMEZUKI

Some 43 long years ago, a group of young Japanese Canadian workers in Vancouver, B.C. organized a labour union under the leadership of the late Mr. Etsu Suzuki. The Japanese Worker's Union, as it was named, was created with special aims other than most trade unions. It was organized in an attempt to bring up the standards of Canada's trade unions and cooperate with them for the general advancement of the working class. This, they hoped, would



ETSU SUZUKI

Leader of the Japanese Canadian Labour Union. Died Sept. 11, 1933 in Japan.

and vicinity," which was affiliated with the Vancouver, New Westminster and District Trade and Labour Council, the district body of the T.L.C.

With this giant step forward, we became directly connected with the main core of the white union's "anti-Japanese movement" and changed their policy from "anti" to "pro" Japanese Canadian.

The Japanese Worker's Union sent delegates to the monthly meeting of the Trades and Labour Council and participated in the activities of the district body and other white worker's unions.

I, personally, picked up much labour union procedural knowledge from attending these various meetings as one of the Japanese Canadian delegates.

The activities of the Japanese Canadian workers were not limited to the economic field only. From the beginning this union aimed to win the full rights entitled to all Canadian citizens for their people—especially the franchise. In this regard, they approached and supported the CCF party which maintained that each citizen regardless of race, color, or creed be given full citizenship rights.

The Japanese Canadian union presented a special resolution to the T.L.C. convention held at Vancouver in 1931. This resolution—the Japanese Canadians wish to have the rights of Franchise and other matters favorably to us—was accepted and passed. (Someday I hope to further elaborate on this with more detailed documents and records).

LAST Sunday afternoon, Sept. 29th, some 30 people gathered at Toronto's Nikko Garden to recollect our union's activities and reminisce of past members. Many interesting stories from the old days were told during the warm get-together which lasted over 5 hours. Many expressed the feeling that the work of the early Japanese Union pioneers will always be remembered. And although many of them have passed away their great work will always remain as a monument to their existence.

During the course of the evening, it was decided to convey special thanks to Mr. W. W. Lefeaux of Vancouver, B.C., who aided our union as councillor, especially when we were working for affiliation with the Trades and Labour Congress. Also, special thanks was offered to Mr. and Mrs. Angus MacInnis, for always fully understanding our plight, and earnestly assisting us in every way, particularly on the franchise question. A collection was taken to send flowers to Mr. MacInnis, who at present is unfortunately ill.

Because notice of this gathering reached some people too late, many sent their personal greetings by wire or letter. The following is one sent to us by Mr. Lefeaux from Vancouver:

Dear Mr. Umezuki:
Re: Camp and Mill Workers' Federal Labour Union No. 31 Vancouver and vicinity and its organ "The Daily People".

I note in your edition of the 25th inst. there was to be a dinner in celebration of the formation of the above Union and the paper.

(Continued on page 8)

New Canadian

Oct. 30 1963. MR. ANGUS MacInnis 2114 WEST 48th AVENUE VANCOUVER 13

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Vol. XXVII.—No. 84

Letter from Vancouver

By T. UMEZUKI

When former members of the Japanese Camp and Mill workers Union met in Toronto at the end of September, they expressed special thanks to our ex-councillor, Mr. W. W. Lefeaux and former Member of Parliament, Mr. Angus MacInnis. It was decided to send a floral gift to Mr. MacInnis who is presently confined to bed.

I asked Mr. Hachiro Miyazawa, former President of our Union now living in Vancouver, to convey goodwill messages to Mr. and Mrs. MacInnis. Mr. Miyazawa arranged a meeting with the couple and one afternoon, accompanied by his daughter-in-law Mrs. Toyoko Miyazawa—wife of the International Woodworkers of America's research director, Jiro Miyazawa—spent a pleasant hour's visit. They presented a pot of beautiful white chrysanthemums to the MacInnis home in the Kerrisdale district of Vancouver.

In a letter received from Mr. Miyazawa, he stated that Mr. MacInnis looked rather frail with his cane but got up from his bed for an enthusiastic hour. He seemed very delighted to see them, had tea together and expressed his deepest thanks for the kindness of his old friends. Mr. Miyazawa felt that Mr. MacInnis's wonderful spirit should aid him in recovering soon.

The following is a letter sent to me by Mrs. MacInnis:

2114 West 48th Ave.,
Vancouver, B.C.
October 16, 1963.

Der Mr. Umezuki:

Mr. MacInnis has asked me to write and thank you for your very kind letter of Oct. 4th. We greatly appreciate hearing from you and read with keen interest the enclosed clipping describing the recent reunion of the members and friends of Camp and Mill Workers' Union.

And then came the visit of Mr. Hachiro Miyazawa and his daughter-in-law, Mrs. Toyo Miyazawa, bearing the greetings of the reunion and a lovely pot of the most beautiful white chrysanthemums. They had tea with us and an hours visit, during which we recalled the old days and old friends, including yourselves. Thank you all so much.

My husband is quite frail now and pretty much confined to the house. He usually dresses for an hour or so each afternoon and we take a drive in the open air, after which he retires to bed again. Severe insomnia makes his nights miserable indeed, and saps his strength so that he can read very little and write not at all. In face of such deprivations and discomforts it is heartening when old friends remember younger days and remind him of when he was active and well.

Please thank all those who were associated with you in the gift and extend the good wishes of Mr. MacInnis. Our kindest remembrances to Mrs. Umezuki and your daughter who seems to be moving around the world and liking it. And thank you once again for your kindness.

Yours Sincerely,
Grace MacInnis
(Mrs. Angus MacInnis)

Union. . . .

(Continued from Page One)

I well remember this matter. It was early in the year 1928 and I always regarded the formation of the Union as a historical point in the integration of workers, no matter what their original nationality.

There was no national distinction in this Union and the affiliation with the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada, as you say, did much for the advancement of the Japanese community and offset to a large extent the anti-Japanese movement among the workers of British Columbia at that time.

In those days we did not have the broadened attitude in the labour movement which we have today and a Union organized by Japanese people caused a lot of interest.

Please give my regards to any of the old members with whom you may come in contact.

Yours very truly,
Wallace W. Lefeaux

The Integrity of Angus MacInnis

Vancouver Sun - March 4, 1964

The rockbound integrity of Angus MacInnis is the characteristic mentioned by all those in public life who mourn his death. They include a long roll of those who supported and who opposed him in politics. He was one of the most respected Canadian parliamentarians of his era.

The quality of his integrity was greater than mere personal rectitude.

The happiness and well-being of the people he served was a passion with him. He was a gentle man as well as a gentleman. The iron in his character was apparent only when injustice fired his heart and mind.

The injustices of the notorious Nanaimo coal strike of 1911 turned him from a Conservative to a crusading socialist. The unjust treatment of British Columbia's Japanese-Canadians during the Second World War led him to stand alone and indomitable against his colleagues in the House of Commons and the hysteria of his constituents.

He could espouse unpopular causes but was never petty nor malignant. In the

end this won him almost as much affection as respect.

These were the qualities which made him a natural ally of a very similar man, the late J. S. Woodsworth, in founding the CCF in 1932. They helped make that early group a spur to the consciences of successive Canadian governments. And sometimes a burr under the saddle.

They never forgot the humanitarian values or let the people and the politicians forget them.

They were convinced socialists, but probably never expected to see a socialist federal government. They were happy in what success they could attain for their philosophy and diligent in their work. They served the people of Canada honestly.

Mr. MacInnis retired from politics before the vexing problems of CCF-labor union merger in the New Democratic Party arose.

He remains in the public memory an outstanding example of the dedicated CCF socialist of the previous decades.

Angus MacInnis

Mar 4/64
Ottawa Citizen

No private member of the House of Commons was held in higher regard than Angus MacInnis of the old CCF, who represented a Vancouver seat there continuously from 1930 to 1957. The news of his death at the age of 79 will sadden all who knew him. Indeed, there were many expressions of regret when he announced his intention of retiring before the 1957 election, because failing health would not permit him to discharge his duties as this conscientious member felt he should. At that time his party leader and desk-mate, Mr. M. J. Coldwell, said that Mr. MacInnis' decision "foreshadows a great, indeed in some ways, an irreplaceable loss to Parliament." That was an opinion with which there could be no disagreement.

Like his chief, Mr. MacInnis began

his career in public service at the municipal level. Like him, too, he failed in attempts to win a seat in a provincial Legislature. But once in Parliament, he steadily gained a reputation, and was regarded as one of the most effective voices ever raised on behalf of labor's rights. Widely travelled, he also became an authority on international relations for his party. Liberal cabinet ministers, whom he faced most of his long sojourn in the House, usually gave him more than ordinary attention when he rose to speak.

Angus MacInnis possessed a warm heart, a store of good sense, and courage (as evident in this B.C. member's championing of the Japanese Canadians during the war). His great natural gifts were devoted to the welfare of others. He will be remembered with affection as well as with respect.