1942

Japanese proposed repatriation appvd. by Council Sept. 17. 16

27-E-6

16

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17 (1) (2)

apl'd - Report approved by Licenses & Claims Committee.

VANCOUVER B.C.

CITY OF VANCOUVER

LAW OFFICE CITY HALL

April 2-1942.

Chairman and Members of the
Licenses and Claims Committee,
City Hall.

Dear Sirs: re: P. S. Ross & Sons request for refund of license fee - Fuji Chop Suey Limited

The application of P. S. Ross & Sons, a firm of accountants, for a refund in respect of the restaurant licence granted to Fuji Chop Suey Limited was referred to the undersigned for report.

While the licensee is a limited company we understand that its personnel is Japanese. Under the Federal Trading With The Enemy Regulations the Secretary of State may, when it appears to him that a business is carried on for the benefit of enemy subjects, appoint a controller who is empowered to take over and either continue or wind-up the business. This power has been made use of in this case and Messrs. P. S. Ross & Sons have been appointed controllers and the business has apparently ceased, with the result that the City is now asked to make a refund for the unexpired portion of the licensed period.

It is clear, we think, that the right of the applicant to claim a refund here is no higher than that of the licensee and we deal with the matter on the footing that our report will in general cover all cases of applications for refunds by licensees who, through war conditions, are obliged to give up the businesses for which the licences were granted.

Under the City charter there is only one case in which provision is made for the refunding of a proportionate part of a licence fee. That arises under subsection (142) of section 163 of the Act and applies only where a licence is revoked for cause. Even then if the revocation is occasioned by the violation of any statute or by-law the refund is not to be made. In the case of Fuji Chop Suey Limited there is no question, of course, of revocation. This licensee, through circumstances of which the City has no control, is obliged to cease carrying on business.

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It is of some significance that the charter provides for an annual licence expiring December 31st and until a year or two ago it expressly forbade any proportionate reduction on account of any person commencing business after the beginning of the year. In other words, if a man embarked on a business in the month of October he would be obliged to pay a full year's licence notwithstanding that only three months of the year remained. This was relaxed by a charter amendment in 1939 so that Council could in a proper case accept a half-year's licence, but even now a man commencing business in the last few weeks of the year is obliged under the charter to pay a full half-year's licence.

In most of these cases (and probably in this one) a transfer of the business may be arranged and in that event the benefit of the licence will not be lost to the licensee.

Having regard to all the above, we are of the opinion that the application for a refund should not be approved. No doubt the applicant can, in disposing of the licensee's business, include the unexpired portion of the licence as one of the assets and thus avoid any loss in respect of it. We feel that the policy of the charter is that licence payments are not to be apportioned for the convenience of licensees and the very fact that it was necessary to get a charter amendment to enable a six months' licence fee to be accepted in special cases fortifies our view.

We recommend against any refund in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

(Sgd.) "Chas. Jones"
Chairman (Alderman)

(Sgd.) "John Bennett"
Alderman

(Sgd.) "Frank Jones"
City Comptroller

(Sgd.) "D. E. McTaggart"
Corporation Counsel

(Sgd.) "H. A. Urquhart"
License Inspector

Johnson, proposed reduction
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DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
OF CANADA

WHEREAS it appears to the Secretary of State having considered the report of the Inspector appointed to inspect the books and documents belonging to or under the control of Fuji Chop Suey Limited under Regulation 8, that the business of the said Fuji Chop Suey Limited is, by reasons of its enemy association, carrying on business wholly or mainly for the benefit of or under the control of enemies;

AND WHEREAS the Secretary of State considers it advisable to prohibit the said Fuji Chop Suey Limited from carrying on business except under the supervision and control of a Controller.

NOW THEREFORE the Secretary of State by his duly authorized deputy, GLENN WILLOUGHBY McPHERSON, hereby prohibits the said Fuji Chop Suey Limited from carrying on business except under the supervision and control of P. S. ROSS AND SONS, Chartered Accountants, who are hereby appointed Controllers with full power to supervise and control Fuji Chop Suey Limited in all matters pertaining thereto and without restricting the generality of the foregoing, including power to control all banking arrangements in such manner as may to the Controller appear to be advisable.

The Secretary of State will, in the future, determine what remuneration and expenses incurred, whether for the original inspection and/or the subsequent supervision and control of Fuji Chop Suey Limited are to be paid by the said company.

DATED AT Vancouver, B. C. this twenty-sixth day of February, 1942.

"signed, G. W. McPherson."

Authorized Deputy for the
Secretary of State.

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MAY 2 3 1941

RE JAPANESE LANGUAGE SCHOOLS

Your Special Committee appointed by His Worship the Mayor on January 17th last has held several meetings, some of which were attended by representative members of the Japanese Community in this City, and your Committee has obtained from these representatives, by oral submissions and by written communications, a considerable amount of information relevant to problems incidental to the Japanese people resident in Vancouver.

Feb. 21 Copies to Ald. Jones & Corpn. Coun.

MINUTES February 20, 1942

LICENSES FOR JAPANESE

The Special Committee appointed to prepare a resolution for submission to Council, requesting the Federal authorities, in conformity with their policy of removing adult males of the Japanese race from the Coast District, to order that Japanese who are permitted to remain shall not carry on any licensed business or occupation, met on February 20th, 1942.

After a lengthy discussion, during which a draft resolution prepared by the Corporation Counsel was amended, the matter was laid over pending a further discussion prior to March 2nd, on which date the resolution in final form should be submitted to Council.

The Committee then adjourned.

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MAY 2 3 1941

RE JAPANESE LANGUAGE SCHOOLS

Your Special Committee appointed by His Worship the Mayor on January 17th last has held several meetings, some of which were attended by representative members of the Japanese Community in this City, and your Committee has obtained from these representatives, by oral submissions and by written communications, a considerable amount of information relevant to problems incidental to the Japanese people resident in Vancouver.

The circumstances in connection with the appointment of your Committee are that the question of registration of Japanese in the Province was mentioned by Alderman Wilson at the meeting of Council held on January 13th last, and he suggested that a Special Committee be appointed to draft a resolution expressing the views of the Council in connection with the appointment by the Federal Government of a Commission to undertake the registration of Japanese in British Columbia; for report to Council.

At the initial meeting of your Committee held on January 21st, consideration was given to a communication from Mr. T. Sato, Secretary, B.C. Japanese Language School Association, and Principal, Vancouver Japanese Language School, from which the following is an abstract:

> "It is with deep regret that we have read press reports of the discussion last Monday in the City Council upon the question of Japanese language schools. If we may judge from the press articles, there would seem to be a very great deal of misunderstanding and misinformation in regard to these institutions, their nature and their work. It is with the hope of correcting the more evident misconceptions and thus clarifying the situation that we address this letter to you."

As a result of this communication, the scope of the Committee has been broadened to include the matters which Mr. Sato had introduced, and as the Government had referred the question of the registration of Japanese in the Province to a Commission under the Chairmanship of Mayor Hume of New Westminster, your Committee proceeded to obtain all the information available with respect to Japanese Language Schools, as their operation presents certain angles which your Committee feels it was warranted to investigate.

On January 24th last the Japanese representatives were subjected to very close interrogation, and a transcript of the questions asked by your Committee and the answers given thereto is on file for reference. Mr. Sato was requested to forward a certified copy of the Declaration which was filed by him when making application for incorporation of the Japanese Language School under the Act, and also certified copy of the By-laws.

Your Committee took exception to certain portions of the text and illustrations contained in the books used in the Japanese Language Classes on the ground that undue stress was laid on matters relating to Japanese imperialism and militarism, and begs to report that, as a result of its representations, the passages complained of have been either removed or obliterated.

The question of the effect upon health which attendance in the Japanese Language Schools might have upon the pupils was referred to Dr. Harold White, Director of School Health Services, and his report on this subject points out that a regular day's work at school combined with the usual amount of homework, is all that most children can accomplish without detriment to their health, and that consequently the Japanese children who are required to spend another session in a Japanese Language School after attending the customary daily classes in public school are subject to a strain which will undoubtedly in some cases prejudicially affect their health.

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The Japanese spokesmen maintain that the benefits to parents and students alike which accrue from the teaching of the Japanese language in the schools more than outweigh any disadvantages which may arise from following this course of study.

In response to requests made by your Committee, Mr. Sato has furnished a certified copy of each of the following documents:

1. The registration of the "Vancouver Nippon Kyoritsu Go Gakko (Japanese School of Languages) Maintenance Association" at Victoria under the "Benevolent Societies Act" in December, 1912.

2. The change of the name of the Association to its present one in 1920.

3. The By-laws of the Association as at March 7th, 1941.

Mr. Sato has also furnished the following written undertaking:

"In accordance with our understanding of last Friday's meeting of your committee, permit me to submit this written statement of the undertakings made verbally by myself as Secretary of the B.C. Japanese Language Schools Association.

Firstly, in regard to text books, the last convention of our Association unanimously adopted a resolution favouring the use only of the text books which were approved of by your committee, and copies of which were submitted to you. Actually these are the only books in use now; and I am sure that they will continue to be the only ones used. I feel confident, moreover, that local booksellers will conform to our wishes in public sales of the books.

Secondly, in regard to the health of pupils, I shall place a recommendation before the Association urging the establishment of some system of medical and dental inspection. I should like to point out that the Alexander School, of which I am principal, had at one time established such a service, which unfortunately had to be discontinued because of a lack of finances. I hope we may be able to secure the help of school health authorities and the Civic Health Department in any plan we undertake.

Permit me, in closing, to express to the committee our sincere thanks for the courteous and fair hearing we were accorded at last Friday's meeting. I trust that a like degree of co-operation may attend any discussions which we may have to enter into at any future date."

Your Committee feels that it is appropriate to mention in this report certain matters submitted by the Japanese representatives, particularly as it has been suggested in some quarters that Japanese Language Schools should be abolished:

1. Japanese Language Schools consciously have tried to avoid the teaching of anything that might tend to make Canadian-born Japanese pupils feel less Canadian than they should.

2. A knowledge of the Japanese language is practically indispensible to the average Canadian-born Japanese boy or girl:

   (a) It assists in the relationship between Japanese parents and their children with respect to the training of the children, the moulding of their character and the happiness of the home. These relationships determine in no small degree whether a man is to be an asset or a liability to society, what happiness he will attain as a man, what contribution he will make

Japanese proposed repatriation 16 adptd. by Council Sept. 17

(Continued)

as a citizen to the state. These normal relations are of an abnormal importance in an immigrant family in which there is the constant conflict between an elder generation clinging to old customs, habits and beliefs, and a younger generation growing up in a new environment.

It is stated that the rate of juvenile delinquency for the Japanese section of the City is very low indeed.

(b) It materially enhances the prospect of obtaining employment.

3. No financial assistance whatever is received from the Japanese Government, either directly or indirectly, so far as the Japanese Language Schools are concerned.

Your Committee begs to submit the following recommendations:

1. That approval be given to a suggestion by the Japanese representatives that the Vancouver School Board be requested to consider the appointment of one of the School Trustees or of some person selected by the School Board to collaborate with the Japanese Language Schools Association in educational matters.

2. That the Provincial Department of Health be requested to investigate the question of the influence of attendance at Japanese Language Schools upon the Health of the pupils, as reported in the communication from Dr. Harold White, Director of Vancouver School Health Services.

3. That the Provincial Department of Education be requested to consider the advisability of passing regulations to provide that all text books used in Japanese Language Schools be subject to the approval of that Department; and in this connection it is suggested that the subject matter of the text books should be of general interest to all Canadians.

4. That the textbooks at present in use in which deletions or obliterations have been made be considered as temporary only, and that a further issue of textbooks be prepared as early as possible.

5. That the Provincial Department of Education be requested to consider the question of making arrangements whereby second-generation naturalised Japanese citizens be appointed as Teachers in all Japanese Language Schools, as such persons possess a Canadian background, instead of teachers brought from Japan who naturally possess a Japanese background.

Respectfully submitted,

(Sgd.) "J. W. Cornett"
Mayor

(Sgd.)"Chas. Jones" Alderman
Chairman

(Sgd.) "Geo. Buscombe"
Alderman

(Sgd.) "Halford D. Wilson"
Alderman

Japanese, proposed repatriation approd. by Council Sept. 17.

CITY OF VANCOUVER

ABSTRACT FROM THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VANCOUVER, DATED OCTOBER 20, 1942

PROPOSED JAPANESE REPATRIATION

On September 9th last, the Council considered a Resolution moved by Alderman Buscombe, and seconded by Alderman Miller, with regard to the question of Repatriation of persons of the Japanese race; which Resolution was laid on the table for a period of one month.

On September 17th, the Council appointed a Special Committee comprising Aldermen Miller, Corey and Price, to review the Resolution referred to in the premises, and that Committee now submitted a revised Resolution for consideration;

The terms of the Resolution reading as follows, were discussed, and it was moved and seconded, as shown below:

Moved by Ald. Geo. Buscombe,
Seconded by Ald. H. L. Corey,

THAT WHEREAS prior to the outbreak of the present war the presence in Vancouver of persons of the Japanese race was a constant source of irritation, owing among other things to unfair labor and business practices;

AND WHEREAS the experience of the last few decades has shown that assimilation of the two races is impossible; and that the Japanese standard of living is lower than that of the Canadian people;

AND WHEREAS as a necessary result of the action of the Imperial Japanese Government in making war upon our Empire, the Japanese population of Vancouver is being removed from the Coast of this Province;

AND WHEREAS the dislocations caused by the removal of Japanese from the fishing, lumbering, agricultural and other industries will be adjusted so that when peace comes we shall find that our own people are regularly carrying on all the activities which had formerly fallen into the hands of the Japanese;

AND WHEREAS it would be most unwise at a time when our own returned men will be seeking re-establishment in civil life to permit the Japanese to return and repeat the process of infiltration into business and industry which had become such a source of irritation during the years immediately prior to the war;

AND WHEREAS for many years it will be impossible for persons of the Japanese race to expect sympathetic consideration from our people and in their own interest it will be better for them to join their own countrymen in Japan;

AND WHEREAS the other Provinces of Canada have shown a disinclination to assume any portion of the burden of our present Japanese problem:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this City Council do petition the Government of Canada to take in hand as one of its post-war problems the question of the repatriation of all Japanese-born persons resident in Canada; and the setting up of a tribunal to enquire into the loyalty of all Canadian-born persons of the Japanese race, with power to order the removal to Japan of any whose loyalty to this country is not definitely established and that the continued residence in Canada of Canadian-born Japanese be contingent upon the setting up of such tribunal and a fair distribution of their numbers among all the Provinces of Canada; and that such proportion shall be maintained;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the Prime Minister of Canada and other Members of his Cabinet, as well as to all Members of Parliament representing British Columbia constituencies.

CARRIED;

His Worship the Mayor, who desired to record his vote, vacated the Chair, which was then taken by Alderman Miller, who put the Resolution to the Meeting.

His Worship the Mayor voted in the negative, and requested that he be so recorded on the Council Minutes.

His Worship then re-occupied the Chair.

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Proposal that all Japanese be repatriated after the War.

Moved by Ald. Buscombe,
Seconded by Ald. Miller,

WHEREAS prior to the outbreak of the present war the presence in Vancouver of persons of the Japanese race was a constant source of irritation;

AND WHEREAS the experience of the last few decades has shown that assimilation of the two races is impossible;

AND WHEREAS as a necessary result of the action of the Imperial Japanese Government in making war upon our Empire, the Japanese population of Vancouver is being removed from the Coast of this Province;

AND WHEREAS the dislocations caused by the removal of Japanese from the fishing, lumbering, agricultural and other industries will be adjusted so that when peace comes we shall find that our own people are regularly carrying on all the activities which had formerly fallen into the hands of the Japanese;

AND WHEREAS it would be most unwise at a time when our own returned men will be seeking re-establishment in civil life to permit the Japanese to return and repeat the process of infiltration into business and industry which had become such a source of irritation during the years immediately prior to the war;

AND WHEREAS for many years it will be impossible for persons of the Japanese race to expect sympathetic consideration from our people and in their own interest it will be better for them to join their own countrymen in Japan;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this City Council do petition the Government of Canada to take in hand as one of its postwar problems the question of repatriating all persons in Canada of the Japanese race, and that the Government be asked, at this early date, to promise that in the Peace Conference to follow the war Canada's weight will be used to bring about such repatriation, to the end that the Japanese problem which is now being settled so far as this City is concerned, shall never recur.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the Prime Minister of Canada and other Members of his Cabinet as well as to all Members of Parliament representing British Columbia constituencies.

The subject matter of the Motion was discussed.

Moved by Ald. Price,
Seconded by Ald. Jones,

That the Resolution be laid on the table for a period of one month, and that in the meantime His Worship the Mayor be empowered to consult the Members of Council regarding same. -Carried.

Cancellation of Regular Meeting of Council fixed for September 14th, 1942.

Moved by Ald. Jones,
Seconded by Ald. Bennett,

That the regular meeting of Council fixed for Monday, September 14th, 1942, be cancelled, and that the matter of setting a date for the holding of a Special Meeting of Council to be left to the discretion of His Worship the Mayor. -Carried.

Re Accounts of Standing Committees.

Moved by Ald. Miller,
Seconded by Ald. Jones,

That the accounts amounting to $1,589,704.53, as per the lists submitted to the various Committees, be approved for payment, if properly certified.

(Continued on page 13)

To insert proposed repatriation 16 adptd. by Council Sept. 17.

COPY OF RESOLUTION PASSED BY VANCOUVER CITY COUNCIL ON OCTOBER 20TH, 1942

Moved by Alderman Geo. Buscombe,
Seconded by Alderman H.L. Corey,

THAT WHEREAS prior to the outbreak of the present war the presence in Vancouver of persons of the Japanese race was a constant source of irritation; owing among other things to unfair labor and business practices;

AND WHEREAS the experience of the last few decades has shown that assimilation of the two races is impossible; and that the Japanese standard of living is lower than that of the Canadian people;

AND WHEREAS as a necessary result of the action of the Imperial Japanese Government in making war upon our Empire, the Japanese population of Vancouver is being removed from the Coast of this Province;

AND WHEREAS the dislocations caused by the removal of Japanese from the fishing, lumbering, agricultural and other industries will be adjusted so that when peace comes we shall find that our own people are regularly carrying on all the activities which had formerly fallen into the hands of the Japanese;

AND WHEREAS it would be most unwise at a time when our own returned men will be seeking re-establishment in civil life to permit the Japanese to return and repeat the process of infiltration into business and industry which had become such a source of irritation during the years immediately prior to the war;

AND WHEREAS for many years it will be impossible for persons of the Japanese race to expect sympathetic consideration from our people and in their own interest it will be better for them to join their own countrymen in Japan;

AND WHEREAS the other Provinces of Canada have shown a disinclination to assume any portion of the burden of our present Japanese problem:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this City Council do petition the Government of Canada to take in hand as one of its postwar problems the question of the repatriation of all Japanese-born persons resident in Canada; and the setting up of a tribunal to enquire into the loyalty of all Canadian-born persons of the Japanese race, with power to order the removal to Japan of any whose loyalty to this country is not definitely established; and that the continued residence in Canada of Canadian-born Japanese be contingent upon the setting up of such tribunal and a fair distribution of their numbers among all the Provinces of Canada; and that such proportion shall be maintained;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the Prime Minister of Canada and other Members of his Cabinet, as well as to all Members of Parliament representing British Columbia constituencies.

- Carried.

Japanese repatriation proposed & adopted by Council Sept. 17

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1942

Kyuquot Trollers Co-Operative Assn.

Sept. 12, 1942.

The City Council,
City Hall,
Vancouver, B.C.

Gentlemen:

We have noticed in the papers the action taken by you regarding the Japanese in B.C. and as this Association now consists of over four hundred individuel fishermen we beg to draw to your attention the fact that owing to the Japanese evacuation of the fishing grounds in B.C. we have experienced an increase in the new members of sixty fishermen during 1942 who hitherto could not be absorbed in profitable occupation on the fishing grounds.

We are therefore enclosing a letter addressed to the Right Hon. W.L. Mackenzie King on January 8th in which we set forth our view of the Japanese question. We would appreciate your giving this due consideration in your deliberations.

Yours very truly,

Kyuquot Trollers Co-operative Assn.

Per: "H.E. Beyer"
Secretary.

Japanese, proposed repatriation
referred by Council Sept. 17.

P
Y

Victoria, B.C.

January 8th, 1942.

Rt. Hon. W.L. Mackenzie King, P.C.,
Prime Minister,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Prime Minister:- Re: Japanese in British Columbia.

Our Association has 351 members operating 260 fishing boats on the West Coast of Vancouver Island. We have fish buying stations from Bamfield north to Quatsino Sound. During the 1941 fishing season our catch was 3½ million lbs. of salmon.

We have no Japanese in our membership.

We wish to commend the action taken by your Government in tying up Japanese fishing vessels in British Columbia.

We are of the opinion that this action will not seriously affect the consumer of British Columbia fish. Many white fishermen who have not felt able to compete with Japanese prices and methods, will now become actively engaged in the fishing business.

In order to help out, our Association will establish additional fish buying stations in areas formerly covered by Japanese operations.

When the War is over the absence of Japanese competition on this Coast will be an important factor in helping to re-establish our young men in civilian life.

We wish to give our entire support to those representations which are now being made urging that stronger measures be taken against the B.C. Japanese than have yet been taken. Our fishermen have had a good opportunity of taking note of the unfair business methods of the Japanese, their aggressiveness, and the pains they have taken to acquire an intimate knowledge of the Pacific Coast. The information they have been able to obtain as a result of their numerous activities in this Province has no doubt been made available to the military clique in Japan.

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q. Mr. Fraser, Delegation heard.

SULTATIVE COUNCIL FOR COOPERATION

As a measure of common prudence we urge the immediate internment of all male Japanese of Military age who are Japanese nationals, naturalized Japanese and Canadian-born Japanese of military age whose births have been recorded at the Japanese Consulates.

As a practical measure we suggest that the white fishermen be given an opportunity of purchasing the Japanese fishing boats now under seizure.

For many years the white population of this Province has been troubled by the problem presented by the rapid natural increase of the Japanese. The immediate situation has been bad enough, but we have been worried also by the situation as it will develop in the future, when our children and grand-children will have to contend with the same problem on a very much larger scale. We do not like to think of them being obliged to put up with a large and ever increasing alien population whose standards of living will always be lower and who will not assimilate and whose assimilation will not be desired. In future years this alien population will spread to other parts of Canada and the problem will not be that of British Columbia alone.

We realize that in the past the Federal Government has been obliged to consider the policy of the British Empire which sought to maintain friendly relations with Japan. This is no longer necessary.

We respectfully urge that the time has come to settle this problem once and for all. It can, and ought, to be settled by sending every Japanese, whether born in Canada or not, back to Japan, at the termination of hostilities.

Any failure to follow a realistic policy in this regard will be considered by the people of this Province as arising from the indifference of the other Provinces to a problem which does not at the present time affect them.

Yours respectfully,

Kyuquot Trollers Co-Operative Assn.
Per: "H.E. Beyer" Secretary.

Japanese, proposed repatriation
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FAIRMONT 0454

Sept 9. To Finance. Delegation heard.

THE CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL FOR COOPERATION
IN WARTIME PROBLEMS OF CANADIAN CITIZENSHIP

505 WEST 13TH AVENUE
VANCOUVER, B. C.

Organizations

REV. G. HAYDEN STEWART - CHAIRMAN
LAURA E. JAMIESON, M.L.A.
MRS. R. C. WELDON - SECRETARY
D. R. POOLE

REV. HUGH M. RAE
HELEN HURD
CARLETON ST. C. CLAY
NORMAN F. BLACK, M.A., D.PAED.

MEMORANDUM OF REPRESENTATIONS MADE TO
HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR
and
VANCOUVER CITY COUNCIL.

Wednesday, September 9, 1942

Function and Constitution of the Consultative Council

While everyone recognizes that in time of war some of the peacetime rights and liberties of Canadian citizens must necessarily be curtailed or suspended, it remains one of the duties of the good citizen to protect these rights and liberties from undue invasion or permanent cancellation. Consequently the Consultative Council, of which we are delegates, was organized to provide for co-operative study of wartime problems of Canadian citizenship. That Council consists of representatives chosen by or coopted from numerous organizations likely to have special interest in citizenship and problems relating thereto. The "wartime problems of Canadian citizenship" which in recent months have engrossed most of the attention of the Consultative Council are those relative to Canadian residents of Japanese origin.

The Delegates of the Consultative Council appear as representative citizens concerned for the welfare & honor of Canada

Though many members of the Consultative Council have intimate friends in the Japanese community, it is not as their spokesmen or champions that we appear before you. We are here because we believe that certain policies, the approval of which by this City Council is being urged in some quarters, are contrary to the interests and honour of Canada and subversive of rights inherent in Canadian citizenship. We refer especially to proposals for the wholesale compulsory evacuation to Japan of Canadian citizens of Japanese ancestry.

Let us not go to the enemy for precedents and leadership

It is now all but universally recognized that we are engaged in a war of ideologies. In so far as we allow ourselves to be governed by the ethics of the enemy rather than by those traditional to us as British people, we are adopting the ideology which we have taken up arms to destroy. To commit ourselves to policies embodying the characteristic evil features of fascism and Nazism would be a spiritual surrender involving shameful and ruinous consequences. We protest against the proposed exile of Canadian citizens because we believe it based upon the characteristic Nazi concept of race, which, we submit, is contrary to British tradition and to the facts of science and experience.

Should be no room in Canada for fascist racial doctrines

Nazism rests upon blatant exaltation of racial arrogance and animosities, the development of which would be fatal to the British Empire. In that Empire people of the White race (so-called) constitute a numerically very small minority and policies of violent exclusion and expulsion directed against residents of another colour, or blood, would be likely to have dangerous reactions in other parts of the Empire.

To Mayor, proposed deportation opposed by Council Sept 17.

Expulsion would complicate relations with colored races within the Empire

The Canadian residents of Japanese origin constitute only approximately one fifth of one percent of the population of the Dominion, and those who are Canadian citizens by birth or naturalization one per thousand of the people of this country. If they are wisely dispersed, so as not to constitute a bloc of serious size in any province, and if they are allowed and encouraged, perhaps required, to engage in an indefinite variety of ordinary occupations, like other citizens, they will cease to provide a problem beyond the wit of the Canadian people to solve. Capacity for good citizenship does not depend upon complexion.

Punishment except for breach of law is un-British

It is a basic principle of British institutions that no man shall be dispossessed of his property or otherwise subjected to public punishment and humiliation unless convicted of an offense against the laws of the land. The Prime Minister of Canada, the officers of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and many other official representatives of the Canadian people have been at pains to make clear that against the overwhelming majority of the Canadian residents of Japanese origin no charge of disloyalty or other criminal activity exists, but we are nevertheless being urged to treat them all as public enemies.

Expulsion would complicate the making of durable peace.

We believe that the proposed policy of expulsion would seriously complicate the problem of reconstructing and maintaining a peaceful world when the war is over. Indeed we are convinced that the policy which Vancouver City Council is now considering would be a further contribution toward the most terrifying danger that has ever threatened humanity, namely, the alignment of nations on the basis of colour. The military implications of another world war ensuing from such an alignment of the peoples are too dreadful to be contemplated with equanimity.

Proposed policy would undermine the economic prosperity of Vancouver.

To force back into Japan thousands of people who would nurse in their hearts a justifiable antipathy to the country that had treated them with such indignity would be to create centres of irremediable disaffection to all things Canadian. That this would have a disastrous effect on trade relations, upon which the prosperity of Vancouver so largely depends, is not open to question.

Certainly this is not the time for crucial decisions involving violent clash of opinion and relative to conditions and events belonging to comparatively distant future. Let us not cross our bridges prematurely. Policies relative to repatriation will be matters for co-operative study by great international conferences to which the problems of racial and national minorities will no doubt be entrusted by the Free Nations.

Proposed policy would violate the Christian conscience and the ethical principles of many non-Christians.

Many other reasons could be raised in opposition to the proposed policy of indiscriminate exile but we must content ourselves with only one further basis of protest. We feel that the expulsion of thousands of Canadian citizens would be a violation of the basic principles of the Christian religion and of the ethics of a multitude of good citizens who are not identified with any organized Christian body. Let the authorities go very slowly and be very sure of their ground before committing themselves to action that so many of the not least thoughtful members of the citizen body will feel to be shameful and wicked beyond defense.

We can encroach upon your time for nothing but the briefest reference to the arguments embodied in the preamble of the resolution that is under advisement. "The constant irritation" which the resolution imputes to the presence of persons of Japanese race prior to the war

Japanese, proposed repatriation opptd. by Council Sept. 17

certainly did not involve the whole population and was quite as much the fault of the Whites as of the Japanese; and it is undeniable that many Japanese Canadians enjoyed the goodwill and respect of large circles of occidental friends and neighbors.

In recent decades very great progress has been made in assimilation of Canadain outlook and modes of life, especially on the part of second generation citizens of Japanese stock. The suggestion that the economic welfare of Canada would be bettered by the expulsion of a few thousand industrious and law-abiding workers seems to us absurd. Finally, the assumption that we are going to perpetuate in times of peace the unreasoning animosities incidental to the strain of wartime conditions and events ill-befits the sons and daughters of a nation that has justly prided itself on its traditional magnanimity toward former foes.

We have thus candidly expressed our solemn convictions in the belief that the members of this honourable body will approve candor in a great public emergency and that the views which we have presented are shared by a section of the citizen body that is very large though not ordinarily as audible as some others.

For the foregoing and other reasons we respectfully petition the Mayor and Council of the City of Vancouver to withdraw the Resolution that has occasioned this protest, and to consider the substitution of a resolution requesting the Federal authorities (1) to lay and implement plans for the dispersion throughout Canada of residents of Japanese origin; and (2) to provide for the compulsory post-war repatriation of any Canadian residents of Japanese nationality who may have manifested disloyalty to Canadian institutions, and the voluntary transfer to Japan of such other Japanese Canadians as may desire it at the close of the war.

1947

To Japanese proposed repatriation
dptd. by Council Sept. 17.

MINUTES

September 21, 1942.

REPATRIATION OF JAPANESE

The Special Committee appointed by Council on September 17, 1942, to review the resolution re the repatriation of Japanese which was considered by Council on September 9th and laid over for one month, met in the Mayor's Office on Monday, September 21st, 1942, at 2.45 p. m.

Present: Alderman Miller (Chairman), His Worship Mayor J.W. Cornett, and Aldermen Corey and Price.

Also Present: The Corporation Counsel.

The resolution was read clause by clause, and the six paragraphs on page one thereof were given tentative approval.

Alderman Corey submitted a suggestion for redrafting the latter portion of the resolution.

The resolution was referred to the Corporation Counsel for further drafting, and it was suggested that the following points might be considered for inclusion therein:

1. The lower standard of living of Japanese people.

2. Refer to the fact that other Provinces in Canada have refused to accept Japanese.

3. Certain Japanese desire ~~an opportunity~~ to swear sole allegiance to Canada, and arrangements might be made to give them the opportunity to do so, after which they could remain in Canada.

The Committee then adjourned.

Japanese, proposed repatriation
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adptd. by Council Sept. 17.

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2804, West 1st Avenue,
Vancouver, B.C.
(8) 18th September, 1942

Mr.Alderman
Vancouver, B.C.

Spec. Letter re repatriation of Japanese

Sir:

Your public service accustoms you to taking a long view. Will you graciously permit approach to you from a private citizen, who, with help from many in America and Britain, has made a close study of the way to a more permanent world unity after the war? (I have already written to His Worship, the Mayor, who most graciously replied).

Vancouver is being asked to take the first decisive step in demanding total exclusion of Japanese.

Briefly, the war is not yet won. Does not the proposal now being made, rather obviously invite hostile attention to our shores? What is more important is that to win the war Allied unity is essential. Does not a single-handed action on the part of any of the Allied Nations, especially action anticipating peace terms, tend to put a strain upon the unity now existing between them? Action by Canada without consultation with, say, China, Russia, India, as well as other countries, cannot be a matter of indifference to these countries, considering Japan's keen search for outlets. Does not serious risk attach to the appearance of any nation playing for its own hand?

As for total exclusion from Vancouver or British

1942

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Columbia, are we not up against two facts: admission by quota, the 'gentleman's agreement' assenting to the presence of the Japanese who since 1928 have settled amongst us; and the promise of return made by the B.C.Security Commission? Can either of these be treated as scraps of paper?

We speak of winning the peace. Is not that impossible in any lasting way unless we win the peoples? A discontented Japan, especially if so with any show of justice, would be a permanent menace to the world's peace.

Great as must be the difficulties of rehabilitation, is not facing them the less of two evils? Stringent rules might be made against further immigration for a number of years. But might not Canada provide for such Japanese (already admitted amongst us, some having known no other domicile) as do not prefer to go back to Japan some better alternative than being forced back? – only insisting on the return of those who refuse to become Canadian citizens.

Most kindly pardon my putting these questions. Apart from higher considerations, we cannot afford, by adopting an un-American and un-British policy of total exclusion, to make a permanent enemy of one of the most resolute, and certain to be one of the strongest peoples of the world.

Much warmly felt good will has been shown in city and Province and in the western States of America. Would it be other than a human loss to do anything to neutralize this?

Yours, with deference and respect,

Thiselton Mark

Thiselton Mark

This approach is made to you personally, as too much goes into print for public safety.

Japanese, proposed repatriation opposed by Council Sept. 17.