Citizens defense committee newsletters

Citizens Defense Committee
news bulletin members

PRELIMINARY REPORT NO. 1

Report of the Special Meeting called by the Citizenship Defense Committee on March 17, 1946.

1. A preliminary meeting of the committee appointed to study and report on the national federation of Japanese people's organizations was held on March 17 at the Nisei Co-operative Residence, 506 Jarvis St., Toronto, with Shuichi Sasaki as chairman. The meeting convened at 2:30 P.M.

2. Twenty-two persons were present:
Shuichi Sasaki, chairman, Citizenship Defense Committee (CDC)
Mrs. Noboru Hirabayashi, Christian Women's Association
Kinzie Tanaka, Japanese Canadian Committee for Democracy (JCCD)
Toshizo Suzuki, Japanese Canadian War Services Auxiliary
Atsumu Kamino, Judo Club
Eileen Shintani, JCCD
Hikobei Mori, Buddhist Mission
Bunji Hisaoka, CDC
Tokue Kameoka, CDC
Shosaku Ozawa, CDC
Tomokichi Mio, CDC
Rinzo Hagino, CDC
H. R. Nobuoka, CDC
Tats Harada, Nisei Fellowship
Yosh Kishimoto, Credit Union
Otokichi Onishi, CDC
Kunio Hidaka, CDC
Issaku Uchida
K. Hori
Eikichi Kagetsu
Kohei Nakai
Mitsugi Yamashita

3. Persons invited but not present were:
Fred Sasaki, Nisei Fellowship
Tom Morita
Tokichi Ohi
Sam Yamada
Kunio Shimizu
Frank Nakamura
George Yoshie
Harry Miyasaki
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Kitagawa
Yoshio Nakazawa
Peter Yamada
Sokichi Kadonaga
Yoshio Oda
Chizuko Shimano
Roy Shinobu
Molly Fujita
Bill Takeda
Mi Akiyama

4. NEED FOR ORGANIZATION The chairman asked each person to state his frank opinion as to whether or not a national organization was required. The unanimous opinion of the 19 persons who spoke was that a national body was needed.

5. PURPOSES OF THE ORGANIZATION The desired objects corresponded with those of the Japanese Canadian Citizens' Association of Winnipeg:
a) to promote the welfare of Japanese people in Canada
b) to secure all rights of citizenship
c) to assume all responsibilities of citizenship
d) to promote cultural assimilation, and
e) to co-operate with all organizations working for the betterment of Japanese in Canada.

6. PROPOSED STRUCTURE OF THE ORGANIZATION
Mr. Kameoka outlined possible alternative types:
a) a federation of Citizenship Defense Committees
b) federation of all organizations
c) one national organization with branch chapters
d) a combination of a) and b).
Mr. Nobuoka proposed:
a) a central council of Toronto organizations
b) co-ordination with central councils of other areas
Mr. Ozawa proposed an organization built on the federal system:
a) for Toronto - Committee of Citizen's Organizations, funds raised by canvass of $1.50 per family and $1.00 per working person
b) for Ontario - Ontario Federation of Citizenship, work done by the above body, financed by a 50 cent annual fee
c) for Canada - Canadian Federation of Citizenship, work done by the Toronto organization.
Mr. Uchida proposed that all persons join the Japanese Canadian Committee for Democracy, whose objects were the same as those agreed upon by the meeting.
Mr. Kamino stated that, in order to avoid the confusion which would result from having still another organization, the central council, he supported the proposal that everyone join the JCCD.
Mr. Hori stated that one organization, financed by monthly dues, should be open to all persons.

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Issued March 28, 1946, by:
Kunio Hidaka, Executive Secretary
Citizenship Defense Committee
506 Jarvis Street, Toronto

Mr. Mio supported the proposal that everyone join the JCCD.
Mr. Onishi proposed:
a) for Toronto - recommend that everyone join the JCCD
b) appoint a sub-committee to bring in a draft outline for a national federation, which would be studied by the committee.
Mr. Ozawa favoured financing through an annual financial drive.
Mr. Nobuoka stated that one single organization would raise the difficulty of language.
Mr. Uchida re-iterated his support for joint issei-nisei action within the JCCD.

The alternative types of organization were re-stated by Mr. Kamooka:
a) for Toronto - should a central council be formed, or
b) should everyone be urged to join the JCCD.
He favoured the latter.
On a division, two persons favoured a central council, while 17 supported all persons joining the JCCD.

7. Two possible courses were open for the appointing of a sub-committee to bring in a draft outline for a national federation:
a) to select the committee from a JCCD meeting, or
b) to select the committee at the present CDC meeting.
In view of the need for some clarification and recommendation on the future of the CDC as part of the national federation proposal, it was decided that the sub-committee should be appointed by the CDC.

8. Mr. Tanaka, Sasaki and Hidaka were then named a nominating committee, and the following persons selected, were ratified by the meeting:

Mr. Kameoka	Mr. Tanaka	Mr. Ozawa
Harada	Shinobu	Sasaki (ex officio)
Uchida	Onishi	

9. The meeting adjourned at 5:00 P.M.

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N E W S L E T T E R

Issued March 28, 1946, by:
Kunio Hidaka, Executive Secretary
Citizenship Defense Committee
506 Jarvis Street, Toronto

CABINET INTERVIEWED BY CO-OPERATIVE COMMITTEE

Hugh MacMillan, executive secretary, and Andrew Brewin, counsel, Toronto Co-operative Committee on Japanese Canadians, E. J. Tarr, Winnipeg lawyer, representing the Winnipeg Co-operative Committee, and C. H. Millard, national director, United Steelworkers of America and executive member of the Canadian Congress of Labour, had an hour and one-half long interview with Cabinet members on Tuesday, March 26.

The Government group, headed by Mr. King, included the Hon. L. S. St. Laurent, minister of justice; Hon. Brooke Claxton, minister of health and welfare; Hon. Paul Martin, secretary of state; Hon. Humphrey Mitchell, minister of labour; Hon. D. C. Abbott, minister of national defence and Hon. Ian Mackenzie, minister of veterans' affairs and British Columbia member of the Cabinet.

David Croll, Liberal M.P. and M.J. Coldwell, national leader of the CCF accompanied the Committee representatives and introduced them to the Government.

Mr. MacMillan asked that the orders in council on deportation be revoked immediately and entirely. It is reported that, while the Prime Minister and the Minister of Justice stated that they did not want to see any deportation carried out, they were not prepared to withdraw the orders in council at this time, because that might bring on political criticism and stir up opposition. They hoped the whole matter would quieten down and die out.

Mr. King and Mr. St. Laurent said they hoped the Privy Council would declare the orders in council invalid. A hearing by the Privy Council in October would mean the decision would not be given until the end of the year, when the special emergency powers would lapse and the Government would not be able to carry out deportation, in any case.

While not prepared to take the brave step of withdrawing the orders, the Government said no deportation would be carried out without full approval of Parliament, and, furthermore, should any person feel that he was being sent away without his approval, a full investigation will be allowed of all circumstances. The Prime Minister stated that he hoped that "none too many are sent out."

Mr. Coldwell, who has consulted Mr. King on many occasions, states that he has never seen the Prime Minister "so visibly disturbed". It is reported that both Mr. King and Mr. St. Laurent agreed with the stand of the Co-operative Committee.

It was also stated that "serious consideration" would be given to the removing of all restrictions, particularly in Eastern Canada.

Ian Mackenzie called the work of the Co-operative Committee "frothy idealism" by persons unable to face "hard realities".

The delegates had dinner with 15 CCF M.P.'s and after discussion decided that deportation should not be made an immediate parliamentary issue, but advised that all available information be sent to M.P.'s, and as many as possible be interviewed. One Progressive Conservative M.P. donated $25.00 to the Committee.

When asked to confirm the report that no family men would be deported, the Government, while not denying the statement, would not commit themselves at that time.

GOVERNMENT APPOINTS NEW HEAD FOR JAPANESE RESETTLEMENT

It is reported that John MacKinnon, chief of the Alternate Service Section, National Selective Service, has been appointed to take charge of Japanese resettlement. Mr. J. M. Finlay, chairman of the Co-operative Committee, who has had numerous occasions to consult Mr. MacKinnon on matters regarding conscientious objectors, and who has supplied him with policy making reports in his former work, views the appointment with full confidence. The first question, asked Mr. Finlay by the new chief was, "What do you think of dispersal?" Mr. Finlay replied that restrictions and force were working against and defeating rehabilitation measures.

A marked change is expected in the Japanese Division, Department of Labour.

N E W S L E T T E R

Issued April 3, 1946, by:
Kunio Hidaka, Executive Secretary
Citizenship Defense Committee
506 Jarvis Street, Toronto

PLEASE NOTE: Due mainly to the manner in which the information was received and from personal oversight, my NEWS LETTER issued March 28, contained serious mis-statements. This issue, reporting the same interview, makes the necessary corrections and cancels all previous conflicting statements.

MEANING AND IMPORTANCE OF CABINET INTERVIEW

The main points of the interview were covered by the general press, however, it remains for us to bring out some of the important issues involved in the meeting.

The Government having stated that it would facilitate any appeal of deportation orders-in-council to the Privy Council, and to hold forcible deportation until the decision is given, the Co-operative Committee is going ahead with preparations for the London hearing. At earliest, it will be June when the case is heard, and likely October when the decision is given.

Whatever the decision, it is possible that political conditions may be sufficiently improved to permit favourable concessions from the Government. For this reason, it is important that Japanese persons have the full understanding that, should legal means to stop deportation be exhausted and fail, the larger area of political action still remains and must be fully developed and exploited. In addition, there is recourse to legal action on individual cases.

Should deportation be held up until the end of the year, it is also possible that the Government may have its special wartime powers removed on this issue.

MR. MACMILLAN'S STATEMENT

Mr. MacMillan, reporting a very good conference, and one unusually long for the Prime Minister and so many members of the Cabinet, stated the ministers showed grave concern and assured them that full consideration would be given their submissions. The delegation stated that the treatment of Japanese in Canada had to be decided by the people and Parliament of Canada. Government imposed restrictions were the greatest barrier to satisfactory rehabilitation, and the Co-operative Committee was convinced that marked progress would follow the rescinding of these orders-in-councils.

Refuting the claim that the Japanese were a British Columbia problem in which the East should not interfere, it was submitted that opinion in B.C. has changed and continued to change more favourably, and, in addition, one third of the Japanese population was now east of the Rockies, outside British Columbia.

MR. BREWIN REPORTED

For interested groups to be able to meet with the Prime Minister and his colleagues to talk matters over, "was satisfying and attests to the value of democracy", said Mr. Brewin. The Government, acting from political expediency, was timid about changing its policy, even in the face of public protest. M.P.'s, in receiving more letters on this issue than any other for a long time, knew that the public were upset.

The attitude of Mr. King and Mr. St. Laurent, senior members of the Cabinet, led one to believe they desired to drop the entire deportation scheme; however, with Time a great healer, and with the possibility of the Privy Council deciding the matter for them in a manner reflecting no criticism on them, they would prefer to wait until the judicial decision. It was therefore impossible to expect positive word until this final decision, said Mr. Brewin.

REQUESTS MADE

a) Rescind deportation orders-in-council;
b) failing a), have orders amended to refer all cases to judicial tribunal;
c) remove all restrictions;
d) should Privy Council uphold orders, submit orders to Parliament before undertaking deportation; and
e) should deportation scheme still hold, give adequate notice to all persons (to allow preparation for legal action on individual circumstances).

SHOULD PRIVY COUNCIL UPHOLD ORDERS

A vigorous public campaign will be opened should the legal case be lost. Political action work will be renewed in the press, on the platform and in Parliament, with good chances of victory. Toward this end, all M.P.'s are being sent a copy of the Memorandum submitted to the Government.

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CITIZENSHIP DEFENSE COMMITTEE

506 Jarvis Street Toronto

April 9 1946

Dear

A. You are cordially invited to the Second Preliminary Meeting of the Committee appointed to study the formation of a national federation of Japanese people's organizations, to be held at 8:00 P.M., Saturday, April 13, at the Nisai Co-operative Residence, 506 Jarvis Street.

B. 1. The Sub-committee appointed at the First Preliminary Meeting on March 17 to bring in draft proposals, met on Sunday, April 7. Persons present were:

Kinzie Tanaka
Shosaku Ozawa
Tokue Kameoka
Saburo Shinobu
Issaku Uchida
Otokichi Onishi
Shuichi Sasaki
Kunio Hidaka

2. The Sub-committee decided to recommend to the Committee, that prior to the formation of a national federation, a provincial convention be called for Ontario and a provincial federation be formed. It was recommended that this constituent convention be held in Toronto on May 4 and 5, with representatives from all interested organizations in Ontario and responsible persons from unorganized areas.

3. It was recommended that the convention call be issued in the joint name of the Citizenship Defense Committee and the Japanese Canadian Committee for Democracy.

4. It was recommended that all interested organizations send two delegates and unorganized areas send representative individuals.

C. Suggested for the Convention Agenda were:

1. Reports, a) Deportation and Privy Council Appeal
   b) Citizenship Defense Committee
2. Appointment of Committees, a) Constitution and Organization
   b) Ways and Means and Finances
3. Discussion on, a) organization of the provincial federation
   b) financing the federation
   c) organizing new areas
   d) government policy and restrictions
   e) housing and employment

4. National Federation: the organization of the provincial federation is viewed as a preliminary step to a national organization. A recommendation for a national federation will be presented. There will have to be sections on the following:

   a) organization
   b) financing, pooling of residual funds
   c) functions of headquarters
   d) publication and information

Sincerely yours,

Kunio Hidaka,
Executive Secretary.

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Citizens defense Committee newsletters

N E W S L E T T E R

Issued April 25, 1946 by:
Kunio Hidaka, Executive Secretary
Citizenship Defense Committee
506 Jarvis Street, Toronto

FINANCING PRIVY COUNCIL APPEAL

The Finance Committee of the Co-operative Committee on Japanese Canadians, Toronto, reported on April 5 that $10,500 would be needed for the Privy Council Appeal. Various amounts were allotted to its corresponding committees in Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, Saskatoon, Regina, Winnipeg, Hamilton, Guelph, London, Brantford, Lethbridge, Ottawa, Montreal and Toronto. It was considered advisable to keep amounts raised by Japanese people separate, and ask them to raise $4000 of the total.

The Citizenship Defense Committee at a meeting on April 12, accepted the proposal of the Co-operative Committee, and on April 18 contributed an additional $1000. The Civil Rights Defence Committee of Winnipeg, likewise, is forwarding all its available funds received from Manitoba and other provinces, to the Co-operative Committee.

When these amounts are known, the sum yet to be raised can be announced. All areas of Canada are asked to contribute, to make sure that we meet our quota of $4000.

The First Final Financial Statement of the Citizenship Defense Committee to March 28, has been sent to The New Canadian for publication.

COUNSEL FOR THE APPEAL

The Co-operative Committee, in its desire to do everything possible for victory before the Privy Council, consulted a number of qualified persons to recommend a suitable English barrister. The committee is pleased to announce that Sir Walter Monckton, a distinguished British Commonwealth constitutional authority, has been retained, and with Andrew Brewin, will present argument. Mr. Brewin will also represent the Government of Saskatchewan, while British Columbia will have Attorney General Gordon Wismer.

ONTARIO PROVINCIAL CONVENTION, MAY 25 and 26

A recommendation from the Sub-committee of the Citizenship Defense Committee appointed to bring in proposals for a national federation, calls for the forming of a provincial federation for Ontario as preliminary to the national organization. Accordingly, the committee is planning a convention for all Cntario organizations and representative and responsible people from unorganized centres, to be held in Toronto on May 25 and 26. Joint sponsors will be the Citizenship Defense Committee and the Japanese Canadian Committee for Democracy.

Ontario centres are asked to reply and state whether this date is suitable, and give their number of delegates, and persons to be billetted.

There will be no limit on the number of delegates from each centre but persons are asked to stay with friends as much as possible. However, the Arrangements Committee will look after any delegates without accommodation.

TIME LIMIT ON PERMITS AND NO PLACEMENT ALLOWANCE

The Department of Labour states that permits have no time limit and placement allowances are paid to all persons relocating East of the Rockies. The Toronto Japanese Division, Department of Labour, confirms reports from Slocan City that certain categories of persons are on four-month permits and are denied placement allowances.

The Department of Labour, Ottawa, is urged to see that its practices are instituted and any person already relocated but denied his allowance, is re-imbursed.

N E W S L E T T E R

Issued June 4, 1946 by:
Kunio Hidaka, Executive Secretary,
Citizenship Defense Committee,
506 Jarvis Street, Toronto.

PRIVY COUNCIL APPEAL FUND

We are pleased to announce that the $4000 quota allotted the Japanese people in Canada by the Co-operative Committee on Japanese Canadians as part of their $10,500 fund for Privy Council expenses has been met by large contributions and pledges. Large donations were received from the Civil Rights Defence Committee, Winnipeg, the B.C. Civil Rights Defense Committee, Slocan City, the Citizenship Defense Committee, Toronto, and smaller contributions from the Slocan Valley Nisei Organization, Southern Alberta Youth Council, Lethbridge, and the Steveston Japanese Parents and Teachers Association. The Canadian Japanese Association has pledged a large donation. In addition, a considerable number of donations have been received from organizations and individuals.

We are grateful to central committees, organizations and individuals who have worked and contributed to this campaign. We express our appreciation to all local organizations which carried out canvasses in their areas. The wholehearted co-operation of the people in all parts of the country has made it possible for us to fill our quota at this early date.

NEWS ABOUT THE CASE

Mr. Andrew Brewin, counsel for the Co-operative Committee, is planning to fly to England on June 12. In an interview, he said the case brought up some unusual points of law and he was unable to make predictions. A good deal would depend on the attitude of the judges of the Privy Council, since legal argument can be given for either side.

He said that English tradition has been to uphold the liberty of the person, and to rule that the executive must act within the law. He also said the executive was given special powers during wartime.

He emphasized the point that the case would be heard only on whether the Government of Canada had power to pass the deportation orders in council. It would not deal with the repatriation forms, nor whether the signing was voluntary. Should the ruling be adverse to the Co-operative Committee and should the Government attempt to proceed with deportation, then these matters can be raised on cases initiated by writs of habeas corpus, Mr. Brewin stated.

Since legal points alone were to be decided, he said that the people should be prepared to bring out the political and moral issues in a widespread public campaign, should the legal ruling be against them. They should make full use of their democratic privileges to change the law.

Although the case will most likely be heard in June, a decision is not expected until October, Mr. Brewin said. Privy Council decisions were not like those of the Supreme Court of Canada where each judge expresses an opinion, but is one collective judgment. It was not likely that a diverse decision would be rendered, but Mr. Brewin expressed the opinion that the decision would either uphold the Government entirely, or declare all the orders ultra vires. Even when the Government were upheld, statements may be included in the decision to show that the policy was inadvisable. Such statements, Mr. Brewin said, could be used in the public campaign if necessary.

The special wartime powers allowed the Government would expire at the end of 1946 unless the National Emergency Transitional Powers Act were re-enacted. Should the Government proceed with deportation, it may be able to stay proceedings by habeas corpus until the special powers were revoked, stated Mr. Brewin.

CITIZENSHIP BILL

The new Citizenship Act, which is now law in Canada, allows persons who have lived in the country for twenty years to apply for citizenship. We urge all persons who qualify under this clause and other provisions to make their applications.

ONTARIO PROVINCIAL FEDERATION

As a result of a convention on May 25 and 26 a federation of Ontario organizations was formed. The convention recommended that a national federation be formed by provincial bodies and local organizations without provincial ties.

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NEWSLETTER

Issued September 14 1946 by
Kunio Hidaka, Executive Secretary
Citizenship Defense Committee
506 Jarvis Street, Toronto

HON. HUMPHREY MITCHELL OUTLINES GOVERNMENT POLICY

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

a) To repatriate to Japan as soon as possible all those desiring to go voluntarily;

b) To disperse and settle across Canada in 1946 those who have proven their firm desire to remain in Canada, by giving them every assistance and encouragement possible, including the progressive relaxation of wartime restrictions;

c) To delay compulsory deportation until a decision has been handed down by the privy council on the appeal; at which time government policy will be reviewed.

OUR VIEW OF THIS POLICY

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

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

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

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

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

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

NO DEPORTATION SAYS MR. TRUEMAN

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

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

REQUIRED CHANGES IN GOVERNMENT POLICY

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

a) the appointment of a claims commission to restore property and other losses resulting from evacuation;

b) the abolition of discrimination in travel and residence;

c) the granting of liberal assistance for re-establishment, and consultation on policy;

d) the enforcement of accepted standards of housing, nutrition, employment, and education;

e) the granting of Canadian citizenship to qualified Japanese nationals.

JAPANESE CANADIAN PAMPHLET SUPPLIED NATIONAL FILM BOARD

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

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N E W S L E T T E R

Issued December 3, 1946 by
Kunio Hidaka, Executive Secretary
Citizenship Defense Committee
506 Jarvis Street Toronto

CO-OPERATIVE COMMITTEE STATEMENT

Upon the announcement of the Privy Council decision, December 2nd, upholding the orders-in-council giving the Government legal authority to deport certain categories of persons, the Co-operative Committee on Japanese Canadians issued the following statement:

"The Privy Council has decided that, in the emergency of war, the Government has the legal power to exile Canadian citizens for such reasons as seem good to it.

"The sweeping nature of this power requires that the Parliament and people of Canada should be vigilant to see that it is not abused.

"To provide for mass deportations on racial grounds, would indeed be a grave abuse of this extraordinary power. The Privy Council have made it clear that this power of exile was conferred by Parliament solely for the emergency of war. The war is now over. All the Japanese Canadians who wish to do so have left for Japan; the remainder have been resettled across Canada and are making a substantial contribution by their labour and skill to various communities across Canada. The hard feelings of war time have died down.

"We now call upon the Government in the altered circumstances since the orders were passed, to announce that the policy of forcible deportation has been abandoned, that remaining restrictions on Japanese Canadians are to be removed, and that fair compensation will be made for the grievous property losses that they have sustained through no fault of their own.

"The Co-operative Committee and the many citizens across Canada who have joined with them in opposing deportation will not relax their efforts to secure justice for Japanese Canadians. We will seek an interview with the Prime Minister at the earliest possible moment."

CABINET WILL STUDY PRIVY COUNCIL JUDGMENT

The daily press carries reports from Ottawa stating that no further action on the deportation of Canadians of Japanese ancestry will be taken until the federal cabinet has an opportunity to study the judgment of the judicial committee of the privy council.

The report states further: "To many officials here it looks as if time has virtually solved the Japanese question, and with their dispersal across the country no further action of a sweeping nature will be either necessary or desirable."

WHAT DOES THE LEGAL DECISION MEAN ?

Although it is now established that the Government has legal power to deport persons, it does not mean that the policy of deportation will be carried out. Indications of recent months, received from sources close to the Prime Minister, permit the belief that it is not the intention of the Government to exercise its legal power in a program of forcible deportation.

As announced in the above statement, the Co-operative Committee is planning to meet the Prime Minister and members of the Cabinet "at the earliest possible moment", during the latter part of December or early in January, on the issues enumerated and other matters of basic policy.

Citizens Defense Committee
News Letters

GENERAL REPORT

OF THE

CITIZENSHIP DEFENSE COMMITTEE

TO THE

FIRST ONTARIO CONVENTION

MAY 25 AND 26

1946

TORONTO

P R E F A C E

This draft report is submitted by the Citizenship Defense Committee to the First Ontario Convention of Japanese organizations and representatives to supply the necessary factual and interpretative data to form the basic policy for the coming year.

The draft proposals are to be studied and revised in the light of the experiences of the people of all parts of the province. It is hoped that the discussion will yield a united program suited to the varied circumstances of the different areas.

I N T R O D U C T I O N

This convention, the first to be called by the Japanese people in Ontario, is significant as an indication of our return to social conditions sufficiently stable to allow our seeking the organizational means to help us in building a satisfactory community life. We are faced with a large number of problems which concern both policy and organization, and through discussion, we hope to have them clarified. As a result of the many unusual experiences during the past five years, we realize that we must take a more active part in public and governmental affairs.

We assemle at a time when the combined will and determination of the peoples of the United Nations have defeated military fascism in both Europe and Asia. We join the common people in both the victorious and defeated countries in the hope that peace will be lasting, and that democracy will continue to develop and grow in all parts of the world. It is our pledge to give all possible assistance to the democratic peoples' movements in countries formerly under military dictatorship. At this important time in history when the peoples of the world are showing their determination to unite for peace and security, when organizations are being formed to give concrete expression to these desires, we pledge our support to work for unity in this common cause.

The circumstances surrounding our movement to Ontario are not to remain uncondemned; but it is also our task to give assistance in the re-establishment of the Japanese people in their new homes. It is also our duty to work for the complete destruction of political opportunism and racial prejudice, which united to force our movement. We must direct our efforts to make certain that nothing of this kind ever again happens in Canada. All types of racial discrimination and prejudice must be outlawed by the Canadian public. We must unite with other progressive people to eliminate persons who have used the subterfuge of wartime necessity to shield their greed and avarice, from our public life.

Our experiences of the past five years have been a distinct shock to persons who have accepted personal and civil liberties and democratic rights as an established and customary part of Canadian political and social life. We are now more firmly convinced that greater efforts must be directed to the establishment of these rights and liberties. We look upon with alarm and disfavour the detention of persons without trial, without a hearing of any kind and without safeguards against the arbitrary actions of administrative officials. We condemn the forcible eliciting of information from persons and the use of this information to their disadvantage.

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ORGANIZATION

During the past four years, the Japanese people in Ontario have formed organizations in their respective areas. Some were for specialized purposes such as religious worship, for recreation, and for political action. They were formed, in all instances, by groups of people who joined together to pursue a common interest. Group leaders, executive members, and the membership in general, have given their attention to develop a variety of programs which are of interest to the members.

The increasing number of Japanese in Ontario during the past two years has led us to believe that advantages can be gained by co-ordinating and unifying our activity. More recently, when a large number of, threatened with deportation, we have required funds for legal action. In our province-wide appeal for donations, we have seen the need for a single organization for the whole area. With permanent settlement, more stable conditions, and an increasing influx of people, the need for an organization to promote a long range policy, becomes imperative.

Our first purpose is to become an integral functioning part of the democratic community, and to share in all responsibilities and privileges with the rest of the population. We shall co-operate with all organizations which promote democratic development, and we shall strive to enrich our common cultural and political life through active participation. At the same time, we shall be alert to detect and condemn any subversive force which uses racial defamation to disrupt our community and destroy the growing unity of the Canadian people.

To further this primary purpose, we recommend the formation of a provincial organization to represent all Japanese people in Ontario. It is recommended that a committee be named to study the constitution of the Japanese Canadian Committee for democracy, and to adapt this constitution to the circumstances of the provincial organization.

As an additional means to further this end, we recommend the organization of committees in all unorganized areas. The committees need not be formal, but should be sufficiently cohesive to maintain contact with all persons in their areas, and with the central body. When matters of importance arise, these committees will assist in giving out information and report local decisions to headquarters.

The following principles will be basic to any organization affiliating to the provincial organization:

a) the local organization will be in a position to discuss and make decisions on matters of public concern;

b) the organization will not discriminate against a person because of nationality; and

c) the organization and members are pledged to assist the progressive and democratic movements at home and abroad.

FINANCES AND BUDGET

An extensive budget is not proposed for the provincial organization. Expenses will be limited to items like stationery, postage, advertising and travel. Staff, if employed, will not be more than a part-time secretary. These expenses can be covered by a small nominal affiliation fee, and contributions raised on an allotment basis by dances, concerts and other social affairs.

It is recommended that the Provincial Committee draw up a budget to December 31, 1946.

NATIONAL FEDERATION

The circumstances of the past four years have made it clear that a national organization is needed to promote the future welfare of the Japanese in Canada. The events of the past year have made this even more apparent. With the Japanese people now located in all provinces of the Dominion, the solutions for our new problems of living and re-establishment, must receive central direction. Conferences in British Columbia, Alberta, and Manitoba, have concurred in this opinion.

ORGANIZATION

Since the organization is national in scope, and since different areas have their own types of organization, the national body should be an affiliation of all local and existing central bodies.

The central headquarters can submit a draft plan to their contacts throughout the country, to be adopted or amended. It is understood that every encouragement will be given to local initiative and autonomy.

FINANCE

The national federation should be financed on the basis of an annual budget adopted by the national council. Allotments should be allocated to areas according to working population, income and previous contributions.

FUNCTIONS OF HEADQUARTERS

A national organization will require a headquarters or secretariat to carry out the policy decisions of the central body. Its work will be to convert policies into programs and give necessary assistance and direction in their implementation.

It is suggested that the secretariat have the following duties:

a) to act as an information centre for Japanese organizations;
b) to carry on a continuous research project in government policy, and social and economic conditions;
c) to furnish speakers' guides to persons who are asked to address organizations;
d) to prepare articles, leaflets, and pamphlets, for newspapers, journals and the general public;
e) to assist organizations to increase their membership through active programs;
f) to assist in negotiations of various kinds;
g) to seek new fields for employment; and
h) to direct and co-ordinate political action work and financial campaigns.

PUBLICATION

The national federation will need an active and sympathetic press to give full information on all activities. The publication should also act as the means for registering opinions.

While respecting the full independence of The New Canadian, it is recommended that the newspaper be supported and used as the organ for authoritative reports and analyses, by the national federation and all affiliated organizations, on matters affecting the Japanese people.

DEPORTATION AND COURT ACTION

The preliminaries of deportation began with ~~the announce-~~ ment of a repatriation survey for all Canada in the Spring of 1945. Every person in British Columbia was required to state his intention either to go to Japan at the end of the war, or to remain in Canada. Persons in British Columbia were ordered to show their "co-operativeness" by leaving the province if they were to stay in Canada. Non-co-operative persons were to be sent to Japan by a loyalty tribunal. Persons who signed applications for Japan were assured of preference in employment and were assured of relief.

When faced with these alternatives, many persons took the least troublesome and immediately secure choice of signing and remaining in the housing settlements. These persons were also told that their applications could be cancelled, some of them had ailing wives in hospitals, small children and aged parents, and were in no condition to move and settle elsewhere.

The Government was still insistent that all persons who made application be ordered to go to Japan. Persons sent in cancellations but it was doubtful whether these would be honoured by the Government. When the true nature of the survey became known to the general public, a stream of protest began to flow into the offices of the Prime Minister, Cabinet ministers and members of Parliament. Lawyers stated that the applications were revocable, and could not be considered binding. Following this advice, a large number of applications were cancelled.

With the Government apparently not open to change, the issue of deportation had to be made a public issue. In July of 1945, the Co-operative Committee on Japanese Canadians, which had until that time operated in a private way, sent its first delegation to protest before the Minister of Labour about the coercive policy on deportation. The Minister, although disturbed by the presentation, denied coercion.

While opposition to deportation was growing and consolidating, the Emergency Powers Bill, to replace the War Measures Act at the end of the year, was introduced by the Government on October 5, 1945, with a clause which granted the Cabinet specific powers over exclusion, deportation, and revocation of nationality. The Co-operative Committee and similar organizations saw the implications of this clause and called for its deleyion, or,an amendment to provide a full judicial enquiry before deportation. Widespread opposition to the bill forced the Government to withdraw it for redrafting. The revised form, with significant changed, had omitted the objectionable clause.

Meanwhile, in November, lawyers were asked to advise on possible legal action to prevent deportation. It was stated that the Government was without express legal authority to deport persons except under the Immigration and Naturalization Acts. The first plan was to

initiate action in the provincial courts. There were two aspects to the use of legal means to prevent deportation: first, the need to have the case brought before the highest court with the least delay, and secondly, though a majority of the people concerned were in British Columbia, it was thought inadvisable to commence in that province because of possible bias. The opening of cases in provincial courts would have led to conflicting decisions, and the Government was impressed with the need for a direct reference to the Supreme Court of Canada.

A modified deportation plan was announced by the Hon. Humphrey Mitchell on November 21, and some weeks later orders in council were passed to give legal sanction to the plan, on the 15th of December. All Japanese nationals who had applied for Japan were subject to deportation with naturalized Canadians who had not cancelled their applications prior to September 1, 1945. The wives and children of deportable persons were also placed in this category, while Canadian-born persons were free to cancel their applications at any time before their deportation order was issued.

A large section of the public was opposed to any form of deportation without reason, and at the beginning of January, 1946, a second delegation sponsored by the Co-operative Committee had an interview with the acting Minister of Justice and the deputy minister and outlined the objectionable features of the deportation plan. Concurrently, a large and influential body of opinion exerted direct and continued pressure on the Prime Minister to postpone actual deportation, at least until the orders were referred to the Supreme Court for a ruling on points of law.

The case was heard on January 24 and 25, and the decision, given on February 18, allowed the deportation of all classes except the young children who were under sixteen years and wives who had not applied..

While failing to win a complete victory by legal means, for effective purposes, the fact that children could not be deported has prevented the forcible deportation of all groups. The legal issues in themselves are of such importance that the Co-operative Committee is appealing the case to the Privy Council in the hope of having the position of these people made secure. The case will be heard between June and October of this year.

The Government received strong representation to rescind the orders in council on March 26. Although deportable persons are moving to other provinces from British Columbia, they are still legally subject to deportation to Japan. It appears that the Government has modified its policy, however, is not willing to make a formal announcement for fear of criticism. Placement allowances are still refused these people.

Japanese persons and organizations have contributed generously to the expenses of the campaign. The Citizenship Defense Committee contributed three thousand dollars collected throughout Canada, and the Civil Rights Defence Committee of Winnipeg, donated one thousand dollars at the time of the Supreme Court case.

The estimated expenses of the Privy Council appeal are $10,500. The allotment to the Japanese people is $4000. Already $1136.15 have been contributed by the Civil Rights Defence Committee of Winnipeg and $1000 by Toronto. An additional $201.80 have been forwarded to the committee from Southern Alberta. The former Canadian Japanese Association is planning to contribute $1000. Approaches have been made to other organizations to meet the balance of $662.05.

Although the orders in council have not been rescinded through force of public opposition, nor have they been declared invalid by the courts, we can, however, say that the campaign directed by the Co-operative Committee has been highly successful. 10,347 persons were subject to deportation, 6,844 had signed applications and 3,503 were their young children. 2,923 of the persons who applied were Japanese nationals, 1,461 were naturalized Canadians, and 2,460 were Canadian-born. The work of the committee has forced changes to free from forcible deportation, the 2,460 Canadian-born, 3,503 children and a number of naturalized persons, a total of more than six thousand persons.

While it is impossible to predict the decision of the Privy Council, it must be remembered that only points of law, not morality nor politics are being judged by the court. Neither will the circumstances pertaining to the signing of applications be an issue, but should the orders be upheld, the circumstances can be used in further legal action. Should the orders be upheld, a political campaign will have to be carried out to force the Government to abandon deportation. We do not anticipate additional measures to deport these people, should the orders be invalid.

Civil Rights Defence Committee newsletter

GOVERNMENT POLICY AND LEGISLATION

The declared policy of the Government is to move all Japanese out of British Columbia and disperse them across the country. This measure is carried out on doubtful grounds of momentary opportunism without facing the basic issue of racial prejudice. By arrogant action, the Government is destroying one of the fundamental rights of democratic people, the right to live where one choses within the boundaries of his country. This right of residence should take precedence over even free speech and assembly.

It would be a great credit to the honesty and integrity of the Canadian people should they admit that the forced movement of the Japanese from their homes was not for military security but a capitulation to the forces of racial prejudice. Even at the present time, when military security is not an issue, persons are denied a livelihood or even residence in British Columbia, and are systematically ordered from the province. Persons, willingly comply with these orders, but face hardships and difficulties because of the housing shortage. Because of their limited means, satisfactory and speedy resettlement is hindered further by the refusal of the Government to issue placement allowances to persons who can be deported.

The resettlement of the Japanese people should be aided with grants and loans, and in addition, indemnities should be paid for the losses sustained through evacuation. Property losses should be either compensated, or the properties returned to their owners.

The Government is concerned only with the physical displacement of Japanese from British Columbia, and not with their re-establishment into normal society. This policy must be condemned as inadequate. The first requirement for satisfactory re-establishment is the restoring of all rights and duties of democratic citizenship. The Government should revoke its racist laws, and ban all types of racial discrimination. There should be equality of opportunity in employment, including appointments in the administrative branches of the civil service. The right to purchase property and operate businesses should never be questioned.

A significant gain was recently made in the Citizenship Act. Persons who have lived in Canada for twenty years may apply to naturalization, and all persons who may qualify are urged to apply.

Civil Liberties Defence Committee Newsletters

Citizens Defence Committee newsletters

HOUSING AND EMPLOYMENT

HOUSING

In general, housing conditions in all areas of Canada are at a crisis level. The movement of Japanese people out of British Columbia, and their permanent location in Ontario would be greatly aided were adequate housing available. In Toronto alone, it is estimated that 20,000 units, the capacity of London, Ontario, are needed. It is in the face of these conditions that the Japanese must find homes. Rooms and suites are difficult to find, rentals of houses are out of the question, and the only way to live in one is by purchase. Even this does not mean immediate possession but in most cases, there must be a delay of a number of months.

It is our conclusion that housing can be supplied only by the building of additional units under government direction. Unless housing projects are undertaken, the crisis will increase to mounting proportions. Private enterprise has been unable to obtain the materials for a large-scale housing program. It is therefore imperative that the production of all materials be planned and integrated under government authority.

We endorse, as a temporary measure only, the Government's plan to set up hostels. Of particular interest is the hostel planned for Western Ontario, but we consider this no substitute for permanent living quarters which should be available. It is recommended that families be transported only when housing and employment are available.

EMPLOYMENT

A large number of different occupations are open to Japanese in Ontario. In Northern Ontario most persons make their living from the vast forest resources, and a smaller number from railroad work. In Western Ontario and the Niagara Peninsula, a large number of persons are employed on fruit farms, nurseries, mushroom farms and on chicken and mixed farms. In the towns and cities they are employed in a diversified number of industries, businesses and services.

Toronto as the centre of commerce for the nation has also been the home of a few new businesses. Some few persons have also entered the professions for which they were trained.

It is regrtted that persons seeking employment still meet racial discrimination. For our future in Ontario, it would be unfortunate to be typed for certain limited occupations, as was the case in British Columbia. To prevent the development of this attitude, wherever possible, persons should seek to leave the menial occupations and undergo the necessary training for the skilled trades and professions.

We must adopt as a part of our basic policy, a collective determination to be satisfied with nothing less than equality of opportunity with the general population in matters related to employment.

In order to be successful in this objective, we must be willing to admit without hesitation our Japanese ancestry and have other people learn to accept us as such. Our work is to eliminate discrimination and prejudice, and not to seek personal gain at the cost of the survival of these twin evils by our attempts to divorce ourselves from the general Japanese population by claims that we are different.

It is advisable that persons join their respective trade unions as part of the fight against disrimination. It is a basic principle of most trade unions to combat this discrimination. The political action committees of the trade unions often bring public judgment and condemnation upon cases of unfair treatment. We regret that some few trade unions and their locals are at present excluding Japanese workers. It is our belief that these trade unions are working against the welfare and best interests of all working men and women, and for this reason, such instances should be reported to the central body for approaches to trade union councils for remedy.

Japanese workers are urged to give full support to the programs of their unions. Japanese organizations are also urged to support the legislative programs of trade unions. At this moment a nation-wide wages and hours struggle is impending. This campaign will develop into an open public issue in which all alert persons must take part. We urge the Japanese people and their organizations to give whole-hearted moral and material aid to trade unions during this period.

It is our firm conviction that democratic strength depends upon the active participation of all men and women in public affairs. The type of jobs we get, the housing we secure, indeed our whole spiritual and material well-being will depend upon the interest we show in these matters as people believing in democracy. The building of a new world free from the fear of war and want, is a job in which we must all work together. As Japanese people we have another task, we must unite with other progressive people to remove all discriminatory practices and strive to build a united and democratic nation.

Committee on Defense Newsletters

NEWS RELEASE FOR RELEASE: February 20, 1946

Issued by:
Citizenship Defense Committee
39 Grant Street
Toronto Ontario

Telephone: GL 2222

TORONTO - The decision of the Supreme Court, made known to us late this morning, was discussed in summary fashion by the emergency executive of the Co-operative Committee on Japanese Canadians at a meeting called at noon today.

The Committee had to rely on incomplete reports and expect all details tommorrow. Any material change will be transmitted to all Japanese Committees forthwith. Newspaper reports have not been accurate, so far, and are thoroughly confusing. Clarification is attempted in the points outlined below, as they are now known to us:

1. By unanimous opinion, deportation of Japanese nationals is permitted.

2. The Court split 5 to 2 to expell naturalized and Canadian-born.

3. By 4 to 3 ruling, deportation of children under 16 years and wives who have not signed is prohibited.

As yet, we are without information on other points and shall have them released as they are available.

The course of the future is given in the statement of the Co-operative Committee issued to all newspapers and the radio, and reprinted below:

"The decision of the Supreme Court of Canada is a tremendous moral victory for those who have been fighting for the cause of the Japanese Canadians. A substantial part of the Government's scheme of deportation has been held to be unconstitutional by a majority of the Court.

"One part of the scheme, held to be invalid by a majority of the Court, is that which permits the deportation of the wives and children of persons to be deported. Two distinguished judges, the Hon. Mr. Rand the Hon. Mr. Kellock, have further held that other parts of the scheme are also invalid in so far as they apply to Canadian-born and naturalized citizens.

"What is left of these orders as legally valid, cannot be carried out without separating families, depriving wives of their husbands, and children of their fathers; thus making, in effect, widows and orphans of Canadian citizens. The Government of Canada will surely not persist in any such policy of inhumanity, especially as their constitutional power is made to appear so doubtful by the dissenting judgments in the Supreme Court.

"It is not too late for the Government to give heed to the storm of protest which has arisen in every part of Canada. It can withdraw the Orders in Council. The very least it can do is to amend the Orders in Council to make it clear that a full judicial enquiry as to whether there has been disloyal conduct harmful to Canada to find the person guilty, before he is sent unwillingly to Japan. The machinery for this is already available in the Immigration Act which is part of the law of the land, and enables the deportation of aliens who are a danger to Canada in time of war.

"The issue involved is of such crucial importance to the liberties of Canadians generally, and especially to minority groups, and the result of the opinions of the Justices so confusing, that the groups of citizens who have formed the Committees on Japanese Canadians in all parts of Canada, have determined that the case should be appealed to the Privy Council. Instructions, accordingly, have been given to the Committee's counsel, F. A. Brewin, to launch an appeal to the Privy Council forthwith. In the meantime we assume that the Government will halt proceedings of deportation until this matter of such importance is decided by the final court of appeal.

"We urge a continued battled to campaign for justice by all public spirited citizens. No legal justification should obscure the moral responsibility".

N E W S L E T T E R

Issued by:

Kunio Hidaka, Executive Secretary
Citizenship Defense Committee
506 Jarvis Street, Toronto

TORONTO, Feb. 24 - A powerful deputation of senators, members of Parliament of all political parties and representative of all areas of Canada and leaders of church and intellectual life is scheduled to see Mr. King this week to press for total abandonment of forcible deportation.

Asked to serve on the deputation are Col. David Croll, Lib. M.P., J. M. Macdonell and Donald Flemming, Pro.-Con. M.P.'s, Senators Arthur Roebuck and Cairine Wilson, M. J. Coldwell, CCF leader, F. A. Brewin, counsel to the Co-operative Committee on Japanese Canadians, B. K. Sandwell of Saturday Night, E. J. Tarr, president of the Canadian Institute of International Affairs, from Winnipeg, Rev. Canon W. W. Judd of the Council of Social Service of the Church of England in Canada, Father McQuillan of the Roman Catholic Church, and representatives from Montreal and B.C.

If the Government shows no signs of changing its policy, the deputation will ask for a stay in deportation proceedings and will carry out the Privy Council appeal. With it they will intensify their campaign of protest in Parliament and throughout the country.

A Canadian Press dispatch from Ottawa on Feb. 20 stated that the Cabinet is expected to study its policy in the light of the Court judgment. Another dispatch of Feb. 22 by H. R. Armstrong of the Toronto Star stated that deportation will likely be postponed until a judgment from the Privy Council, which may be as much as a year.

Legally the Privy Council appeal is no bar to Government action, he stated, but federal authorities suspended deportation action while the case was before the Supreme Court and it is indicated the same course will be followed if the Privy Council grants leave to appeal. It is almost certain that this will be granted. He also stated that a stay in proceeding with deportation is a matter of Government policy which has not yet been decided, but it is thought this will be done pending Privy Council decision. Should the Government policy change an appeal will not be necessary and the application can be withdrawn.

Meanwhile in Toronto, public support is mobilized at a meeting tonight where speakers will be C. H. Millard, national director, United Steelworkers of America, F. A. Brewin, counsel, J. M. Finlay, chairman of the Co-operative Committee and Hugh MacMillan, executive secretary of the committee. Public protest will be rallied by emphasizing the inhumanity of depriving children of parents, no matter what the strict legal point may be.

A general meeting of all contributors in the Toronto Area is called by the Citizenship Defense Committee for Sat. March 2, at the Church of All Nations. Items of business include the Committee's Report, the Financial Report to Feb. 16, an outline of the Court decision and a report on the future program of the Co-operative Committee, and discussion of the proposal to form a national federation of Japanese people's organizations.

The work of all committees should be directed to mobilizing widespread public protest against deportation. If we can win on the political front, further legal action will not be necessary. We will also be in a strong position to press our other demands concerning property and removal of restrictions.

It is well to be in readiness for habeas corpus proceedings should the Government attempt deportation. Points to be raised will be the absence of consent in signatures, some cases of no signatures at all, the circumstances of the time such as dismissal from work, etc., the understanding and wording of the repatriation forms, other elements of coercion.

Some intimidation of persons who did not carry out immunization may be attempted. Letters have been sent out by the Department of Labour telling these persons to state their reasons for not completing the treatment. We would like all persons affected to understand that they are not compelled to carry out the innoculations, and the department should be able to figure out the reasons.

N E W S L E T T E R

Issued by: Kunio Hidaka, Executive Secretary
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TORONTO, March 4 - The program of the Toronto Co-operative Committee on Japanese Canadians was given whole-hearted endorsation at the General Meeting of the Citizenship Defense Committee on March 2. The Co-operative Committee will name a deputation to see Mr. King at the first opportunity. A vigorous public information campaign will be carried on to give information on the true nature of the Government's deportation plan. A Speakers Bureau has been set up to provide persons to address any organization. Talks have been arranged for the radio. Speakers will be going to schools, universities, Young Peoples and church societies, trade unions and many other groups. When Parliament meets after the middle of this month, further action will be taken in the House of Commons and Senate. A Youth Lobby at the end of the month will be quizzing M.P.'s and Cabinet members on this matter.

Should deportation not be completely dropped, and should the Government try to violate the will of the people, the Co-operative Committee will press for a stay in forcible deportation and carry through their Privy Council appeal. If, in the interval, the Government should commence forcible deportation, habeas corpus proceedings should be instituted.

There should be the understanding that habeas corpus proceedings are no absolute guarantee that the person will be able to remain in Canada. They should be looked upon as a last resort to stop the deportation of the person. A person contemplating habeas corpus action should understand its meaning. He will have to ignore his deportation notice and await being taken into custody. He will then have his lawyer make arrangements to have a judge or magistrate issue a writ of habeas corpus on his behalf. The writ will have to be issued in the name of the jailer or keeper of the immigration shed who has actual custody of the person, and will have to be delivered to him. The writ will require that the jailer or keeper, on or before a specified day produce the body of the person before the court, in order that an enquiry can be made into the legality of the detention.

At any time before the specified date the jailer may make a return to habeas corpus, and show the reasons for detention. He may state that the person is held on authority conferred on the Honourable Minister of Labour and show the deportation order. The return, to be effective, must show that the detention is lawful.

The primary purpose of the writ, as now used, is to have the legality of the detention determined. It will provide an opportunity to question the circumstances under which repatriation signatures were secured, whether the person actually signed the form, and whether he had a clear understanding of the meaning.

If it is ruled that he is legally detained, deportation becomes more imminent, otherwise he should be released. If charged under the Criminal Code, except for offences like murder, a person has the right to ask for bail. If charged with a bailable offense, the person is given his freedom after paying bail and has no right to ask for a trial. Should he be denied bail, he may demand trial at the next assizes; or his release, which means that the charges are dropped; or he is granted his freedom until the charges are again brought up.

Persons who wrongfully detain another can be sued for damages, for false arrest and assault. The detention must be authorized by law. Severe penalties are provided for wrongful denial of writs of habeas corpus. The person is liable to a fine not less than 500 pounds and is permanently removed from holding public office, under English law.

The General Meeting also passed a motion, moved by S. Ozawa and seconded by T. Kameoka, that a committee be set up to study the formation of a national federation of Japanese peoples organizations. A report on all the steps to establish a federation should come from the committee. The opinions of all Japanese Committees will be studied and incorporated in the report.