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Glenn McPherson Fonds Correspondence, newspaper clippings, notes, interviews, photocopies, 1938 - 1994

FOLDER No. 6-5

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ORIGINAL ORDER

Copy - Memo. Oct. 8/42. to 5?

re: evacuation

I have seen Capt. Taylor several times and he is in the City now on leave from Terrace and he confirms the statements in the report that a great deal of propaganda has been done against the Coast Indians and that they are extremely hostile to the Whites, particularly around Rupert.

One of the criticisms of the report was that the Japanese were in the strategic areas before they became strategic. Anyone who cares to go into the facts will be satisfied that is not true, at least as regards some strategic areas.

A Japanese called Takamoto, who owned and operated the Fernridge Lumber Company at Haney, bought a mill on Stave Lake from Nels Lougheed, a former Minister of Lands in this Province. I interviewed Mr. Lougheed and he advises me that the deal was completed in 1941. The mill site is directly above the big power dam on Stave Lake. The electric development having started in 1908. Water is piped ~~from~~ to this lake ~~to~~ for another lake and Mr. Takamoto also has a large operation on this other lake.

As regards the Pacific Deep Sea Cable station on Vancouver Island, my information is that this was started in October 1902. The original land deals as regards the Cable station started in 1883 and my information is that the Japanese were notthere then but have settled there since and particularly in the area around Ucluelet which is a strategic point with military bases.

Risuke Hamade owns a house on lot 282, the property of the Lytche Estate under the control of S. S. Littleton. Mr. Littleton informed the B.C. Police that the Japanese first moved onto this land about 25 years ago, and the estate has 19 houses formerly occupied by Japanese. This property is directly across the bay from Bamfield. I do not know that these statements really prove anything or could hope to influence the people who read the report, particularly if the people in charge here are asked for opinions.

I was at Revelstoke last Saturday and Sunday and it is a divisional point for the C.P.R. with huge locomotive shops and round house. The town is situated in the valley and no trains can get in or out except with pusher engines according to information supplied me by a train official. West of the town and within a mile and a half of the main line, I drove by houses occupied by the Japanese.

Some time ago you asked about the police using Japanese as interpreters and I have not had a chance to send you a note but I investigated and was informed by a reliable source that Mr. Sasaki, who had been employed by the Postal Censorship, had left them and been employed by the R.C.M.P. and was there at least three or four days before August 26th. Of course he may be gone by now but these reports do help to substantiate the reports sent to you by

LIONEL SPELLER

I had a lot of respect for McPherson - he located a Japanese-Canadian in Richmond who was making false passports - between him and Oscar Orr they put this Jap behind bars for seven years. Glenn McPherson I often wanted to contact him.
I might run an ad in the personal column. Mart Shore knew our Hong Kong veterans were fighting this because this chap Miki - was lying through his teeth about the claim for the money. It was the biggest mistake Mulroney ever made but of course he was looking for votes. He kept saying they were interned. They were not interned. They were only removed. You know I grew up with them. The other thing, he kept making references to the RCMP had nothing on them. Well, we didn't have any RCMP in those days. We had our own Provincial Police force.
At the time that Miki was pressing the govt. to pay them compensation, he was smart enough to know that the two top men in our Provincial Police force had died - when he kept saying that the military had nothing on them, he was smart enough to know that General Pearkes, Brigadier Rockingham, Col. Kent, Brigadier Cabledew (check spelling) all the top military men in B.C. they had all died, so there was no comeback. Gen. Pearkes only lived about a quarter of mile from me. In the early days my father worked on Pearkes' father's farm at Brentwood - I knew him well. The same with Col. Aubrey Kent. He had a music store-radio business uptown. I interviewed all of those men. But the govt. at that time had never consulted them about the Jap-Canadians in B.C.
McPherson was on that property thing but between 1948-52 and the federal govt. had offered to pay the Japs back at '41 prices whatever they had lost - well they had around $6 million in claims that they had paid out but during this time - and this is where McPherson did his research whenever they put in a claim for farmland or a fishing boat, he investigated. He caught about 11 of them who had put in false claims. So the Japanese, in order to save face, well, that killed it all. They quit 'because he announced it. And along at that time he had found out that that Jap - a schoolteacher in Burnaby or Richmond, was making these false passports - there were over 300 Jap women living in B.C. who didn't have a passport or citizenship or anything.
Something else - the Japanese had a very large fishing fleet at Prince Rupert, you see? And in Jan. '42 when the National Defence ordered all the Japanese fishing boats in at Pr. Rupert - you know (this is when Inspector Owens and Carmichael of our old Provincial Police were there and they knew about it - do you know that every Japanese fisherman had a Japanese navy uniform? I made my business to find out.
I was on W5 and Fifth Estate - I want to get back on there because there's so much false information getting out - I was on the same program as Glenn - the man's name was Malling - I was on with a couple of Hong Kong boys - one from Toronto, one from Quebec - (727 6640 in Victoria) I have the names of five Japs who got that $21,000 who wore the Japanese uniform. When Japan attacked Pearl Harbor there were over a thousand Jap-Canadians over in Japan getting military training.

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ART JONES - A Japanese family operated grocery store at 41st and Granville - furniture and furnishings evaporated - came to say goodbye. Gardeners had expensive cameras. I went to Tashme to do a story for the Sun. We were preoccupied about news on war fronts - guns in Stanley Park and at the university - There was hysteria, there was a threat - a serious concern -

Public Affairs Branch, Ottawa, (RCMP) - (613) 993 1085 phone, or fax (613) 993 5894
Glenn Wright.

Joseph Montebello- Glenn still operating under code of secrecy - . what constituted enemy territory how did they know what companies to seize - the reporting is there but the reader wants a little more color - elaboration, setting the tone, wants to be swept along, to be part of it. Set the tone.

DAVID MOON - Mar. 22/95 - West Van. - Your friend was probablky told what to do - he was appointed by the govt. and represented their policy. The Japanese were moved for <u>our</u> sake as much as anything. On the Coast here we were wide open - it's probably fantastic to think that they might have taken all of North America but here, at least, they would have been a nuisance - I think their thinking was that no troops would ever leave the West Coast or even North America if they were hopping down the Coast here. Their policy was, of course, to sweep through South East Asia and then to India and so on, this was more of a nuisance campaign here, but certainly they were in the Aleutians and likely to move down the Coast.

I was head lifeguard at English Bay and I used to train two nights a week down at Discovery and I was on my way down to, walking along the front - we lived right on the beach there - it was a dull day, tide was going out, it was quite wavy out there, stormy, and we saw this thing out there, and it seemed to be a sort of tower with wires going off in two directions and there was no hull showing, and it was moving against the tide and it wasn't moving with the waves, wasn't rocking, it was distinct enough, although it wasn't a clear object we were looking at - after about 10 minutes it suddenly disappeared. Alex Gregory (check spelling of Alex) who ran that big fish and chip place which all the jazz people knew - he and I and another fellow watched but we heard nothing about it. However I did report it, although I thought at the time they would probably think: "here's this young naval officer in training - imagining all kinds of things" And I never heard anything more until I read just the other day that Ferguson Point had been shelled - and a week later Estevan got shelled. So I firmly believe that we saw a Japanese submarine out there in the bay. But I haven't read anything else about it.

It ws suspected in those days that some of the Japanese fishermen were Japanese navy reserve types. It ws suspected - and it's very likely - that there were supply depots hiddenall along the Coast. I know in the First World War - although the Japanese were our allies then - all hell broke

loose because the Japanese were taking soundings in Esquimalt Harbor - which they didn't need to do, in the middle of the night - they'd been given charts -

I think these people who are so concerned about it now have no idea of history - you can't rewrite history - it was drastic, locking them up, but they didn't mistreat them, they put them in half decent buildings, gave them fuel, it was done in a hurry, but we weren't in any better buildings when we vets went to UBC after the war. Same old type of huts. If you're in a war you've got to fight a total war. The Allies had their backs to the wall for a number of years during WWII and the Japanese coming in at the end of '41 made it that much worse. So you had to take drastic action.

I think Pearl Harbor shook us just as much as it did the Americans. and they did the same thing - picked up their Japanese -

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belonging to them. Under the trying conditions I think the Custodian's organization did a fantastic job. But I didn't stay here that long. I was here three or four months, I guess, until they'd moved the Japanese out. Then they had the group of Japanese tht went back to Japan and we put them on a train - they went East and boarded some ship in Halifax, and there was an exchange of people - so there were Japanese who elected to go back to Japan. (They were sent from the East coast because we didn't have any ships going out of here to Japan - and it ws all handled by the Spanish govt. - the Spanish govt. was the protecting power - Frank Bernard was the Spanish consul, he represented Spain, he was the protecting power - you get Frank Bernard to tell you the story about the Japanese, and he'll agree with me that we did a fantastic job under the conditions. Sure, people suffered, but so did the Canadian soldiers that went to war. And eventually Japanese went into our armed services -

Wartime, you know, it's easy for people to complain about what was done, but what would they have done? I always say - they were moved and nobody will ever know what might have happened if they hadn't been moved. Was I right or wrong? I can't prove it. But I was convinced when I made my first report to the British that if they didn't move the Japanese, Japanese would be killed in the streets of Vancouver.

(From Sound HeritageVolume III published by Aural History, Provincial Archives of British Columbia): Not many of the Japanese are bitter about their wartime evacuation and loss. Most accept it as a natural consequence of war, although this may be a comparative acceptance because they felt fortunate to have been in Canada during the war rather than in Japan. The tales of those who did return to Japan at the end of the war were filled with descriptions of destruction and hunger.

I don't deny there were inequities, and that we made mistakes. In some cases we may have sold things too cheap. But we were under such pressure.

Kagetsu on Vancouver Island owned timber,

2)

Fred Field was head of Frederick Field, Chartered Accountants, and they were the agents here for P. S. Ross and Sons of Montreal - they didn't have an office here but they used Frederick Field - a man by the name of Guy Holt was second in command in P.,S.Ross - the president and top executives of P.S.Ross said they would work for the Can. Govt. for a dollar a year in the war effort and Guy Holt was assigned to work with the Custodian and we used Price Waterhouse and P.S. Ross in the East, and here in the Marine Bldg. Price Waterhouse they were the Custodian's representatives when the war broke out with Germany. And we used them to handle companies that we seized out here, German companies and so on. So we were using Price Waterhouse. Well when the war came along, the first thing I found when I went back to New York and then Bill Stephenson loaned me back to Canada and Coleman sent me to Vancouver to set up the Custodian's office, I was told that P.S.Ross in Montreal had an agent here by the name of Field - happened to be a Conservative - Price Waterhouse were doing the German work, and somebody, not me, decided that Guy Holt would come out here with me and we would meet together with Fred Field and Field would do the Japanese work as a rep. of P.S. Ross of Montreal and that saved a lot of time because you didn't have to educate Field if P.S. Ross were going to tell Field what we were interested in and what we were doing. The thing about P.S. Ross was that the head man in Montreal was on the Athenia with C.D. Howe when it was torpedoed and Howe was saved and the head man of P.S. Ross was drowned - crushed betwen the lifetoat and the hull of the ship, was the story Iheard - then Guy Holt automaticall became the head of P.S. Ross for Canada and he worked for the Custodian and worked very closely with me all during the war and he never charged anything - a dollar-a-year man - that doesn't mean the firm didn't charge for the work their accounting people did = they did - but you had sthe services of a senior partner.

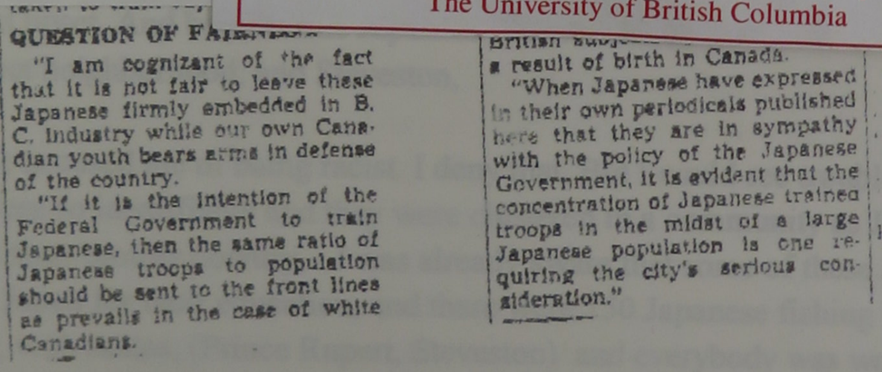
Price Waterhouse had been appointed Custodian agents prior to '39 and they looked after German, Italian and sthe enemy property. It wasn't until Pearl Harboro that the Custodian retained Fred Field and Co. and they were agents for P.S.Ross.

We had acctg. agencies in Halifax and the Maritimes - and there was that situation with the circus and we had to bury the bloody elephant - I don't know how we got rid of the elephant.

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

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QUESTION OF FA

"I am cognizant of the fact that it is not fair to leave these Japanese firmly embedded in B. C. industry while our own Canadian youth bears arms in defense of the country.

"If it is the intention of the Federal Government to train Japanese, then the same ratio of Japanese troops to population should be sent to the front lines as prevails in the case of white Canadians.

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a result of birth in Canada.

"When Japanese have expressed in their own periodicals published here that they are in sympathy with the policy of the Japanese Government, it is evident that the concentration of Japanese trained troops in the midst of a large Japanese population is one requiring the city's serious consideration."

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

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JAPANESE T... FEARED B...

A resolution a... Council to endorse a strong note to the minister of national defense, opposing military training of Canadian Japanese without assurance B. C. Nipponese will not receive further privileges for their service, was placed before the civic finance committee this afternoon by Alderman H. G. Wilson.

"Will the Japanese in B. C. ask and receive the vote from Ottawa if they are drafted into His Majesty's service?" Ald. Wilson asked in a letter covering his resolution.

"An assurance to the contrary should be given to B. C. by Ottawa before definite steps are taken to train Japanese in B. C."

QUESTION OF FAIRNESS.

"I am cognizant of the fact that it is not fair to leave these Japanese firmly embedded in B. C. industry while our own Canadian youth bears arms in defense of the country.

"If it is the intention of the Federal Government to train Japanese, then the same ratio of Japanese troops to population should be sent to the front lines as prevails in the case of white Canadians.

"The balance of ... military age should be stationed in Eastern Canada and away from the Pacific coast where the United States and Canada are expending millions against a possible attack from Japan."

It is pointed out in view of Japan's hostile attitude towards Greta Britain and its opposition to anything that savors of British influence, the establishment along Canada's Pacific Coast of large numbers of highly-trained soldiers who are Japanese is to court eventual trouble.

"Japanese in British Columbia must beplaced in a different category from that of other British subjects in that they are not British subjects by choice but as a result of birth in Canada.

"When Japanese have expressed in their own periodicals published here that they are in sympathy with the policy of the Japanese Government, it is evident that the concentration of Japanese trained troops in the midst of a large Japanese population is one requiring the city's serious consideration."

SEP 24 1940

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

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

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

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

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Granville - I was convinced that one of the major problems was the fishing fleet - we need the fish for fhe war effort, we needed the wood, we needed the lumber, we needed the cypress spruce (CHECK THIS!) to build the mosquito bomber . For example, one of the big timber companies in the Queen Charlottes was the Queen Charlotte Timber Co. owned in Japan.. And there were other companies Japanese-owned, , like the Japan and Canada Trust - a financial institution. There was a Japanese newspaper here. And you have to assume that there were people here who recognized that with the Japanese moving into Alaska - boy, just wait until they land on this coast.

I talked to a lot of people, and I told Stephenson I was ready to come home. He said, "Don't put your report in writing, but stop in Ottawa and tell Dr. Coleman in confidence what you are telling me. So Dr. Coleman can inform his Minister. So I flew to Ottawa, told Dr. Coleman in my opinion the Canadian government would have to move all the Japanese from the West Coast of Canada and they would have tomove them across the Rockies which of course they couldn't do because Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba wouldn't accept them. That's why they were blocked off in B.C. to begin with in the early days. I toldColeman that the people of Vancouver - all you needed was one horror story and somebody - a Japanese - could be killed. And he might be a Canadian citizen because you couldn't tell from looking at them whether they were born in Canada or Japan. The point was - as I told Coleman - that they must be moved for their own protection. There were 25,000 and basically all in the Steveston, downtown Vancouver and Prince Rupert communities. Coleman said "Mackenzie King will never do it, the govt. will never move these people.They're Canadians." I said: "I know they're Canadians, and there are some that aren't Canadians, and we can't afford to take the chance. Anyway, they may wish that they'd BEEN moved if things go wrong in the Pacific because of the non-Japanese people here.

Coleman told me I was wrong - they never would move them. I said, "Well, Doctor, I'm not a betting man, and you know I'm not a wealthy man, so here's a dollar. I'll bet you a dollar that the Canadian government will move the Japanese" And I left for New York. I reported toStephenson. He listened, quietly as always. I guess he reported to London. Next thing that happened, on January 7th my boss, Stephenson, calls me into the office and he said "Glenn, you've won a bet . You're up a dollar. I just had a call from Dr. Coleman - the govt. of Canada is passing an act and they're moving the Japanese. And they want to borrow you to go back to Vancouver, to set up the office to administer the Japanese property. I've told Dr. Coleman that we're agreeable for you to go back there, but you remain on my British payroll, at this time in any event. And I've told him that you have to have the right to report to me."

So the cover was Counsel of the Custodian. I got on an airplane and flew out here - and the basic theory behind the takeover of the property was that the Custodian would, in a sense, become a trust company for the Japanese. First problem was to get them on side to believe that we weren't

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going to steal everything. Vandals were already smashing windows on Powell Street. Japanese farmers out in the Valley were worrying about their security, and things were going from bad to worse.

I set up a liaison committee between myself and the Japanese . Sometime around then I got a call from New York saying "Glenn, there's a chap going to be standing on the steps of the Vancouver Hotel on such-and-such a morning - maybe two or three days from now - and he's going to have a newspaper under his left arm. We hope he's going to make it but he's being chased by the Americans and we've got to get him out of the States." (He was Canadian but he was born in Japan, his father had been a missionary in Japan but he was working for British Intelligence in California and the Americans, once they were in the war, didn't like having a British Intelligence working in California.)

I'd never met him, but Bill said: "Could you go down and meet him and see what you can do for him? We want to get him into Canada." So I went down the street to the Hotel Vancouver and there was this fellow standing on the steps. I said: "My name's McPherson, you're (his name) . He said: "that's right." I said "Well, come on with me. We'll go down to my office."

He said: "Well, what about the fellow standing on the corner over there?" I said: "Who is he?" He said: "I dunno but he came on the same plane as I did, and he followed me here." I went over to the fellow and said: "I don't know who you are, but I thought I should tell you that Mr. X is an official of the Canadian government -I've just hired him - so you'd better go home."

So I hired this guy - he worked for the Custodian - he spoke fluent Japanese but nobody knew it. I'd have him accompany me to a meeting with the Japanese, they would discuss things back and forth between them in Japanese, and he would sit there and listen then tell me later what they'd said. Believe it or not, do you know where he ended up? Working with the CIA in Washington.

I went to Washington one time and I phoned his office and said to the woman who answered the phone: "May I speak to (X)? " She was astounded. "How do you know he's here?" I started to laugh: "Oh, I know he's a spy and he's working for you people. You tell him to call me."

He called back in a few minues and he said: "If you knew the trouble you've got me into! How did you find out where I was?" I said "I just used my head".

(Back to the Japanese) The Custodian was, in a sense, going to be a trustee. Now, there were lots of problems - for instance, the govt. took their cars away, and put them in Hastings Park. Hastings Park gets the rain in the winter, just as West Vancouver does, and if you left cars sitting out (especially in those days) they're going to rust out. Nobody told me what day the war was

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Glenn McPherson Fonds
Correspondence / Newspaper clippings, notes, [illegible]

going to end. So how long were the cars going to sit in Hastings Park? And rot and rust? Well, I, as Custodian, had the cars valued - I'm not saying it was done the next day but months later - See, first of all we were not allowed to sell anything. We tried to administer, tried to run their shops, for instance, on Powell Street. But who was going into a Japanese shop to buy anything? In the middle of a war with the Japanese? So what did we do? Well, my people would go into the shop - they would take stock, and we'd get the cooperation of the Japanese themselves, because they were worried about their merchandise and their own debts, and the people who oweod him money. So the Custodian would collect the money owing to each individual shop-keeper, would pay off any debts the shop-keeper had already agreed to pay, then took stock and would ship back to the manufacturer whatever we could and get a credit in his favor. We opened accounts for all these Japanese and kept a record on the basis that at some time in the future we would return to them their money or their property - again, nobody knew how long the war was going to last. We took perishables - we said, there;s no point in keeping these stores open because nobody will go into them.

Farmers - up there they were raising strawberries and raspberries - and these farmers up there, when you/re going to move them, what do you do with the farms? Well, the govt. of course, wanted the farms in production in the interest of the war effort. On the other hand, who would go and work on a Japanese farm? He'd be thinking - "Once the war's over I'll be kicked off, and the Japanese owner will get the farm back and I've maintained it all this time for HIM?

A problem. What to do?

Well, there ws no provision to sell them so we would try to protect them. So my people would go into a farm and they would find that the house had been ransacked by vandals which you can expect - maybe the sink has been stolen and the stove is gone or wrecked - we tried to have security people going around but you can imagine trying to protect all the farms in the Fraser Valley - (ours was a big organization, our offices were in the Royal Bank, maybe 100 people alogether, but we had agents in Prince Rupert, for instance, and we'd have somebody in Chilliwack watching the farms,) It became a real problem because we had no authority to sell anything and the Japanese weren't moved yet to a large extent - it took time to move them. And I was sitting there trying to protect all that property.

I was the senior guy here - the Custodian - and I had F. Field and Co., Chartered Accts. helping with the accounting, I used everybody I could get to help me. But in the first place it was a question of trying to set up a trust company without knowing where the beneficiaries were going to be, how long they were going to on their farm or were waiting to be moved into Hastings Park, - going to be moved into Alberta? No bloody way - the governments of the Prairie provinces didn't want them - to start with. They did want them when they found out they needed experienced help to work their sugar beet fields

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And you had all these fishing boats. Well, first a Japanese Fishing Committee was set up, not by us, and the fishing boats were all put under control of this committee. (I could get you the names of the men who were on the committee). AustinTaylor, for example, was on the security commission, they set up a security commission with Mr. Shearus (CHECK NAME SPELLING!) who used to be the head of the Provincial Police when we had a provincial police, and Commissioner Mead (CHECK SPELLING!) of the RCMP and Austin Taylor (CHECK SPELLING!) they were the three commissioners and we tried to work closely with them and occasionally there were some problems and a little friction . Then there was the committee set up to sell all the Japanese Fish boats because the govt. wanted to get them back fishing to catch for the war effort. There was they called the Japanese Fishing Vessels Disposal Committee and they sold the fishing boats - I wasn't responsible for that - they seized them, they put them in Steveston, some of them in Vancouver harbor and some up at Prince Rupert, these fish boats, with the idea of getting them back into production - I don't know whether we got the money or whether their committee held the money but this didn't happen overnight. We're talking about months going by, and the government trying to make up its mind what to do. And I'm sitting there wondering how in the world we're going to administer all this - all these cars, and farms, and stores and the stock - we were collecting debts owing to the Japanese and and we were paying their debts.

We had a special Japanese committee and we got along fairly well with the committee and they realized that the Custodian was trying to do the right and fair thing . We were agreed that, once they got out of here and settled and they set up that town of Tachme (CHECK!) and the Japanese were not in concentration camps - the Japanese nationals who were, for some reason, taken to camps like Kananaskis - You know, the people who are so critical now of what happened at that time just don't know what the feelings, what the emotional climate, was like at that time here on he West Coast. And they weren't in London when Hitler was destroying London and killing 40,000 people there. Anybody who tells me we shouldn't have bombed Frankfurt and Cologne and these places where the factories were that were turning out munitions and tanks and j- well, they've never been through a war. Many of the most critical people today weren't even born at that time and have no idea of what it was like.

As far as the Japanese were concerned, they were in a very difficult situation here. The war was going wrong, the Japanese were occupying Hong Kong, Canadian troops who had gone there were now prisoners, and here you had these Japanese on this coast and we were trying to move them withouit any problems and today everybody says it was wrong. Well, if they hadn't moved them and they'd blown up the CPR tracks in the Fraser Canyon what would these people say then?

You know, one of the things I said at the time, there were problems and there were inequities

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and we made mistakes. We sold things maybe too cheap. One of t things was the timber limits. The government wanted the timber - I think HR McMillan was the timber controller in Ottawa, or something, and Japanese companies owned a lot of timber, Kugetsu on Vancouver Island owned timber, Queen Charlottes had a lot of sitka spruce - what did we do? We got the best timber cruising guy - what's his name now? - we got him, anyway, and we had him cruise timber for us then we put it up for sale, we advertised it in order to get the mills operating again, and get the timber out which we needed. So we sold the Japanese companies - and we had two branches: There was the enemy branch which was what I was used to where we seized property in this city and throughout this province - timber companies, whatever they were, if they were owned in Japan by Japanese companies or by Japanese people who were in Japan, we seized them. They were direct enemies under the Custodian's rules and we had the right to sell their property. So we sold timber limits and got them back into production and we had Eustice Smith who was the outstanding timber consultant here and he did all of the appraisals for me. We advertised the companies for sale and we took the highest bidder.

There's an interesting story at that time. That's when the Koerners first came here - they were the people who were the first to take kilns and kiln-dry - everybody talked about Douglas firs and cedar, and they, coming from Czechoslavakia and having been in the forest industry there, they said that hemlock could be kiln-dried and would be good lumber and they set up drying facilities, the Koerners did, and they bought from the Custodian some of these timber limits. But they bid against McMillan-Bloedel and everybody else, and the impression we got at the time was that the British Columbia people bidding against the new arrivals from Czechoslovakia - the Czechoslovkians didn't realize they were buying a helluva lot of hemlock. And that it wasn't as valuable as oak and cedar. But the Koerners got established here and more power to them. And they were great citizens for British Columbia.

But one of the points that I made when I was interviewed by W5 - they were here 2 and a half hours in this house - and I was on their TV program for a minute and 20 sec. - I tried tomake two basic points - obviously they wanted to make their story that the Japanese were mistreated. I told Malling that he wouldn't print my story, that they wouldn't put what I said on because they were determined to make the case for the Japanese to get compensation. I made two points - I said, you know, the Japanese hd the opportunity after the war to file claims against the Custodian at a Royal Commission headed by Mr. Justice Bird - I think there were three other judges across Canada - there were big ads in all the papers across Canada advisin the Japanese that they had the right to file claims before the Royal Commission and the Royal Commission would be awarding compensation if they thought it was justified. And I said "you'll never put that on your program" and he said he didn't know there'd been a Royal Comnission and I said, "well, I know because I was appointed Counsel to it." I said "I came back from Berlin after the war and the govt. asked me to come to Vancouver to be Counsel to Mr. Justice Bird to defend the

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Custodian's position. I said "The Commission made some awards to the Japanese - one of them was the Fraser Valley farms - the Soldier Settlement people had bought a lot of the farms and I think some of the Japanese were compensated on the basis that the price they'd received was too low.

The question is - what would you have done with the cars rusting at Hastings Park? Would you have kept them, not knowing when the war was going to end,, or would you have sold them because you knew if you didn't sell them they'd be worth less eventually? Well, we sold them. (This is all to Eric Malling) The other thing, Eric, tha you should keep in mind, and maybe you'll not agree with me - the best thing that ever happened to the Japanese community of Vancouver was to be moved - you look at the Japanese in Canada now - they're no longer living in little tight enclaves like Powell Street or Steveston - they're scattered across Canada -they're very successful in Toronto in the electronics business, they've been very successful in Lethbridge, they have been absorbed into the Canadian fabric as against being in a local area where they were racially identified. dislsiked by many people because they were successful. We distributed them - and, I wanted to know from Eric, how many of the claimants that are raising hell with the govt. and the Custodian, how many of them were children at the time and don't really understand what pressures and concerns there were.?

Well, I tell you, there were mistakes made. And the Royal Commission - we went to Kamloops - and had hearings and the Japanese could come and make a case and the judges listened each judge had his own group - but this ad, you know, when I showed that to W5 they never showed that on TV to show that the Japanese had already had a day in court, tht some of them had been compensated. I remember they made quite a case out of the fact that some house on Powell Street had been sold for something like $10,000. Yea, I said, that's right, but surely you're not going to tell me that the Custodian should have paid them what the price is today! So anyway, after wasting two and a half hours and giving them all a drink out here on our patio, I think I was on a minute and twenty seconds.

You're thinking about 25,000 people - you would like to have moved their furniture with them, you know. You would like to have settled them in an area like Lethbridge right away, but you couldn't do that because we still hadn't made a deal with the govt. of Alberta. I don't know how else you would do it.. Did we have a time frame? They were being moved into Hastings Park and we were getting from the Japanese Committee - Mr. Austin Taylor's committee - we would be told, and we tried to lengthen the time - one the problems about the committee was that they would tell us on Monday morning that they were moving, say, 50 families out of the Mission area and they were moving them on Monday and they would tell us that on Sunday afternoon. Well, how do we get people up there to sit down with them - do you know, we would sit down with the Japanese and those that felt they could trust us, they'd give us a detailed list of the

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Glenn McDonald Fonds
Correspondence, newspaper clippings, notes, interviews, photographs, 1936 - 1994

Glenn McPherson Fonds Correspondence, newspaper clippings, notes, interviews, photographs, 1934 - 1994

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furnishings in their house, you'd make a list of their assets for them, and we had people going around up there in the Valley and sitting down with the Japanese, listing property belonging to them. Under the trying conditions I think the Custodian's organization did a fantastic job. But I didn't stay here that long. I was here three or four months, I guess, until they'd moved the Japanese out. Then they had the group of Japanese tht went back to Japan and we put them on a train - they went East and boarded some ship in Halifax, and there was an exchange of people - so there were Japanese who elected to go back to Japan. (They were sent from the East coast because we didn't have any ships going out of here to Japan - and it ws all handled by the Spanish govt. - the Spanish govt. was the protecting power - Frank Bernard was the Spanish consul, he represented Spain, he was the protecting power - you get Frank Bernard to tell you the story about the Japanese, and he'll agree with me that we did a fantastic job under the conditions. Sure, people suffered, but so did the Canadian soldiers that went to war. And eventually Japanese went into our armed services -

Wartime, you know, it's easy for people to complain about what was done, but what would they have done? I always say - they were moved and nobody will ever know what might have happened if they hadn't been moved. Was I right or wrong? I can't prove it. But I was convinced when I made my first report to the British that if they didn't move the Japanese, Japanese would be killed in the streets of Vancouver.

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506 Royal Bank Bldg.,
Vancouver, B.C.,
February 4, 1948.

Dr. E.H. Coleman,
Under Secretary of State, of Canada,
West Block,
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Doctor:

I have been busy discussing various problems with Mr. Shears, Mr. Hunter and Judge Bird. It is my intention to proceed to Kamloops on Sunday with the Commission. I find that Mr. Shears has been doing a great deal of work in assisting Mr. Hunter, with particular reference to the cross-examination at the time of the Hearings, and I have advised Mr. Shears that as he is familiar with the work, we should both proceed to Kamloops. The future will then be discussed. We have agreed that Mr. Shears should proceed east with the Commission, but in view of the ambitious programme which apparently means that the sub-Commissions will be sitting at the same time, considerable work will have to be done in Vancouver to prepare files for such new counsel as may be appointed.

Up to the time of dictating this letter, neither the Commissioner nor Counsel have been advised as to the names of the local lawyers, and both the Commissioner and Counsel have expressed considerable concern to me in this regard. I had lunch with the Commissioner the other day and he mentioned this question, and Mr. Hunter has mentioned it on several occasions. They have suggested that I might be able to do something to stir up the Department of Justice, but I am reluctant to interfere in any way as I feel it is the responsibility of Counsel, who is in direct touch with the Department of Justice.

The Commissioner has indicated that he thinks I may be useful to him as an outsider, both in making suggestions as to how Counsel should conduct his cross-examination, and in getting ideas across in Ottawa, because I am familiar with the Ottawa set-up. It is only on this basis that I refer at all to the question of the appointment of local lawyers.

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The Commissioner is anxious that local counsel should attend the sessions so that they can acquire some knowledge of the manner in which the Commission is hearing evidence, and in order that they can be instructed as to the background and policy at the time the Commission sits in their locality. They will then be in a better position to represent the Government and this will avoid the necessity of a Custodian representative calling upon them at a later date. Counsel has advised that he forwarded an air mail letter to Ottawa yesterday, asking for names of the new counsel. From a practical point of view, it seems to me that their arguments are sound, and that there should be no further delay in appointing counsel. If you agree, any suggestions you can make in Ottawa would be greatly appreciated.

Counsel has suggested that I should take up with the Department of Justice a question raised by the Commissioner in an informal chat which Counsel had with him, the question relating to the "fair market value" of the assets. I am reluctant to do this as I do not want to appear to be interfering, but in view of the request, I do feel that I should mention the problem to you for such action as you may decide to take. The question at issue is as follows:

The Japanese Counsel contend that to arrive at a fair market value for the purpose of making awards under the terms of reference, the Commissioner should take the condition of the property as at the date of evacuation, but the property should be valued on the basis of the market value of property in that condition as of the date of sale. In other words, the Japanese should obtain compensation for the deterioration if any, between the date of evacuation and the date of sale.

Government Counsel takes the position that "fair market value", reading the strict wording of the terms of reference, means as stated therein, "fair market value thereof at the time of sale". He further argues that the valuation is

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obviously to be based on the condition of the property at that time. The attitude of the Commissioner appears to be that he is anxious to settle all of these claims in such a way that there can be no further criticism of the Government's action, and that it cannot be suggested that the Commissioner was unfair because of the basis upon which he arrived at a "fair market value". As requested, I am only pointing out to you the obvious results of accepting the argument made by Counsel for the Japanese.

The Japanese Counsel says that the Japanese should be compensated for the deterioration of their assets during the period between the vesting of the assets in the Custodian and their sale. If this argument is accepted, as regards land, it may be accepted as regards chattels and any other form of property. Counsel for the Japanese, if he knew that he had sold the Commissioner the idea and if he knew the Government was sympathetic, might enlarge the entire field of claims by saying that ~~they should be compensated for loss of income, profits etc.~~ The Government Counsel argues that the wording of the terms of reference is clear - that it is the value as at the time of sale and that it would be almost impossible to find out at this late date what the actual condition of the assets was at the time of evacuation.

The Commissioner has suggested that I should have a talk with him about this problem and it has been indicated to me that I should express the Government's view in order that he may not appear to go contrary to the wishes of the Government. I do not know whether Mr. Varcoe or yourself would be prepared to give me an opinion, but if you do, I have no doubt I can get it across to the Judge without in any way creating the impression that the Government is attempting to influence the Commission.

You will recall that in the discussion we had about the Veterans' Land deal, I told you it was my recollection that I had attempted to protect the Custodian from criticism in case the Director sold farms for more than he paid the Custodian. You advised that you had not heard of this. I am enclosing an extract from the Minutes of the Advisory Committee which supports my memory.

I agree that there is no undertaking by the Director, but I have no doubt that if Mr. Barnet made the recommendation, it would have been acted upon. The question now arises as to whether or not the profits they made should be paid by the Custodian and credited and paid to the Japanese, thus reducing his claim. I have discussed this matter with the Commissioner in order that he might be aware of the fact that the Custodian took reasonable protections to guard against a re-sale at a higher price, and he is turning over in his mind whether or not any adjustments should be made at this date. In case he raises the point again, it would be interesting for me to know your views, and if possible the views of the Director of the Veterans' Land Act, although it is not necessary that any decision should be arrived at at this time.

You may be interested to know that the Commissioner indicated that I can do a useful job in making suggestions to Counsel, and possibly you had it in mind that I might be able to guide him a bit in his cross-examination in regard to laying the groundwork insofar as the Government's defence is concerned. Strangely enough, this very point was made to me by the Commissioner during the first meeting I had with him.

Yours very sincerely,

G.W. McPherson.

GWMcP/gn
Encl. 1.

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Ottawa Canada K1A 0M5

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State
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CANADA

Ministre d'État
Multiculturalisme

COPY
TO: MR. GLEN McPHERSON

JUN JUIN - 5 1986

Mr. Frank P. Bernard
Piccadilly Enterprises Ltd.
1100-700 West Georgia Street
Post Office Box 10025
Pacific Centre
Vancouver, British Columbia
V7Y 1A1

Dear Mr. Bernard:

Thank you for your letter of May 20 and enclosures, regarding redress for Canadians of Japanese origin. I very much appreciate receiving your views on this important matter.

There have been times throughout our history when minority cultural and racial groups have suffered as a result of fear and intolerance. The experience of the Japanese Canadian community during and after the Second World War is a prime example.

As a government, we are committed to creating a society that ensures equality and justice for all its citizens. Guided by this principle, we hope to arrive at a solution that is acceptable to the Japanese Canadian community; and one that will involve, inform and benefit all Canadians.

Again, thank you for conveying your thoughts on this issue. You have my assurance that your comments will be taken into consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Otto Jelinek

Otto Jelinek

Ref.: 3280-9

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ninety-two different centres and that the Commission, who is supposed to be in

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May 20, 1986

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Honorable Otto Jelinek
Minister of Multicultural Relations
Parliament Buildings
Ottawa, Ontario

Dear Mr. Minister:

I feel that you must by now have read my brief, or at least had representations from many, about our strong opposition to compensation or apologies to the Japanese. Many responsible citizens have no doubt beseached you already.

What possibly could be the motive of the Canadian politicians responsible, for even considering these injust claims - an injustice to the Canadian people? An insult to the people who were responsible for Canada's security during the war years - not to mention the Canadian soldiers who suffered and died at the hands of the Japanese.

It grieves us all to think that no consideration for compensation or apologies for the Japanese atrocoties to Canadian Prisoners is on your agenda, whilst you consider extorting millions of dollars from the Canadian citizens, to buy the votes of this ethnic group, which under wartime conditions was more humanely treated than any similar group in the history of warfare. McKenzie King, not to mention the minister responsible, and those in charge of the B.C. Security Commission - Austin Taylor, Len Boultbee, Alex Eastwood - RCMP Commissioners Jack Mead, John Shiras, Bulldog Fripps, and many other patriotic citizens must be turning over in their graves - an apology to the Japanese is the equivalent of spitting on their graves!!

Be strong - be fair! The Canadian people that know the facts do not want this to happen. Strangely enough, most of the media, and in particular the CBC have stonewalled most attempts to give the other side, fairly, to the Canadian people. This attempted blackout would make an interesting story in itself, if you would care to hear it.

One of the few commendable things Trudeau ever did was to stoutly declare that "not one penny was owed to the Japanese". One week after our Conservative party came to power, the minister responsible couldn't wait to announce that he was acceding to the Japanese blackmail - organized by young activists who were not even alive at the time of the Japanese removal to "evacuation" camps - not "concentration" camps! Mostof the older

Mayor

entire Japanese-Canadian
ile. Most people nowadays
mistake. But evi-

generation who were alive during that era do not wish to be associated with this shameful claim on Canada.

Hoping, that you can take a strong stand in Parliament to put an end to this unjust burden on the Canadian people, I remain

Yours sincerely

F. P. Bernard

FPB/gdt

P.S. To answer your critics from the NDP you might remind them that it was their party in B.C. under the well known Harold Winch and Mrs. McGuiness who cried out in the press that the Japanese be removed forthwith from the coast. If you don't already have the press clippings of these days. I can't provide you with them!!

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INTERVIEW - FRANK BERNARD, Sept. 22/94

Column by Paddy Sherman, Citizen, '84 - head "Unmasking Canada's '42 Racism - in one paragraph it says - "Senior military and police officials protested in writing that they were not a security threat, that the problem was whites trying to promote trouble" - that's so far from the truth and I met all the police. I met everybody from Ottawa - there wasn't one that wasn't firmly convinced that the Japanese were a threat to the security of Canada. Not one. Who were the senior officials that he is referring to? That's what I'd like to know. Nobody's ever asked that question.

We had the greatest police force in the world at that time, and the roundup of the Japanese so quickly under terrible stress and fear - no other police force in the world could have done it. - they had them all, every last one, within two weeks. They knew where every one was. I used to brag about it - our RCMP used to be above prejudice , above politics, they did a fantastic job. That's my opinion, as a Canadian. I was in a very unique position. I was a Canadian, inthe Army Reserve getting prepared to go over and kill Japanese during the evenings, and during the day counselling them as the Spanish Consul. I was thrown into this position. I was 25 - my father had just died, he was the consul for Spain - he died in May, '40 - then came Pearl Harbor - I got a cable from the Ambassador saying tht Spain under the International Geneva Convention has been selected as a neutral nation to be the protecting power on both sides. And that I was to await further orders which eventually came. I was to do this and to that.

There was no Spanish representation between here and Montreal. I was 25, stranded in this job. I was training at night in the Reserve Army on Campbell St., marching up and down with a gun, learning how to kill Japanese . And called upon to protect Japanese interests. And they left me in that position. I thought they would send a superior - they did for one year, 1943, I think, but through most of the tumultuous times I was the one and only. And that's where I got to know the RCMP. I think Bulldog Drummond was the supt. and he was one of those oldtime NorthWest Territories types - and Jack Mead was famous - the first thing I did when I got these orders was to go and see him because he was right across the street from where myoffice was, and I said "what should I do? I'm a Canadian first" And he said: "You stay where you are because we know who you are - they may send somebody we don't know. And who wouldn't have the reliability." He said: "You just stay and do your job." So I did. And I had the most interesting four years of my life.

I didn't meet Glenn until some time after he arrived, but we had parallel routes so right away the Protecting Power meets the Custodian - because every Japanese that I interviewed was concerned about his property, so I'd say "Go and talk to the Custodian".

About Canada trying to deport all the Japanese - it never became law - it was suggested by a small group of prejudiced people -

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scattering our fifth columnists across Canada. I know that [illegible]
ninety-two different centres and that the Commission, who is supposed to be in

2)Frank Bernard contd.

As Spanish Consul did you know the Japanese consul or the vice consul? I never knew them. One of my first jobs was gathering up all the diplomats - the Consul General, and all his staff, and prominent citizens who were being sent back to Japan - famous ship? - I had to charter a B.C. Electric bus, 2 busloads of them, and take them to the consul's residence on Angus St. - keep them under surveillance with RCMP postage and wait until the train arrangements were made and have them driven to the CNR station and put on the train and taken to New York. From which they sailed with diplomats from all over the U.SA too - all gathered in New York. I was charged with gathering them all up here -
Prominent citizens? I went to school at King George High School and my next-door pal sitting through four years of high school was a Japanese by the name of Tada Wahi (CHECK !) - There were no racial problems in those days, he was oneof the gang, played football, hockey with the rest of us. I got the shock of my life when I was gathering them up in that consuls residence on Angus to see that he's on the list. Which was my first proof that there were disloyal Japanese among the Nisei - my first proof, not the last, that a kid grown up in Vancouver had chosen to go back to Japan to fight in the Japanese army. That was my first shock of what the dangers were - that you never knew who was loyal and who was not.

Strangely enough, I had charge of that piece of property, that beautiful big home on Angus all during the war - it was empty and I had to inspect it and make sure and then after the war it was sold by the Canadian Govt. (I suppose the Custodian) and people moved in and I forgot about it. And 10 or 15 years after the war when the Japanese appointed the first consul after the war he phones up a real estate agent and wants to buy a house - the agent shows him this house and they buy it - the same house.

The mood in Vancouver in December '41? Alarmist, panic - we read the headlines every day, one victory after another, sank the Repulse, took Hong Kong, took Singapore, we expected them to land in Australia any day. Absolute panic. Glenn would have picked up on that.

The Canadian Govt. ws absolutely buying votes with Japanese redress - for 50,000 votes there's not one of them wouldn't sell his soul. Not one today.
Canadian public doesn't know the facts - we've tried and tried, lots of wonderful citizens have tried,
My father was a Conservative, and when I was younger I worked for the Conservative party, I ws the one who got Diefenbaker elected (remember the Follow John campaign? I started that) but over the years I have come to admire Mackenzie King who was Liberal and I didn't like him at all in the early days. But because of what he did during the war - he held the country together when nobody else could, certainly they can't now. Wartime, the conscription problem, the

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scattering our fifth columnists across Canada. I know that
ninety-two different centres and that the Commission, who is supposed to be in

3)
Frank Bernard
The French-Canadian problem at that time, it ws terrible, he held the country together and made us fight as a united nation and he supervised the problems, the handling of the Japanese, with the help of Dr. Coleman and others, in the most humane system that's ever been used in wartime. I respected Austin Taylor, Len Boultbee and Alex Eastwood - three great citizens - and when Mulroney apologized to the Japanese it ws like he spit on their graves. It was an unforgiveable insult to them - an apology for what they did? He spat on their graves to get 50,000 votes.

Keenleyside? Never knew him well but I never had too much respect for him. He ws a very left-winger - in my book he was a commie.

One of the most famous Japanese I got to know was Dr. Hayakawa who became a U.S. senator in California - he sponsored the bill in the U.S.Senate that English was the official language of the United States. We don't allow anybody in Canada todo that.

Never in the history of warfare has an evacuation been as well-handedl. Never in the history of warfare has an enemy population been so humanely handled. During the war the standard of living of 80% of the Japanese was raised. They built schools and hospitals better than they ever had in Steveston or on Powell St., they had good-paying jobs - they had the right to strike - would they ever have had the right to strike in Japan? I was called out to settle strikes -

Their goods and chattels were sold at market value - but there was no market so, yes, the prices sound ridiculous. There was no market for anything - you could buy a car for $50 because there was no gas. There were thousands of them sitting out there and nobody wanted them - and I staunchly defend Glenn as Custodian - there wasn't one cent that was misappropriated. - he was meticulous. Fred Field, too. But - you could buy a 100 acres of land for a thousand bucks.

The money was sent to the office of the official Custodian in Ottawa - they got every cent that was coming to them, it wasn't much. But what did the Canadians get in Japan? But a hole in the ground.

Ernest Maag - representative for the International Red Cross from Geneva Switzerland. He travelled with me on many trips - actually I was reporting to him - he must have sources of memoirs in Switzerland. A wonderful guy. We all enjoyed him. The RCMP, Austin Taylor, Len Boultbee, Eastwood.
Incidentally, the Japanese camp managers mostly came from the car business, did you know that? The car business was wiped out, no gas, no cars, and these top business men were out of work. And the B.C. SecurityCommission under Austin Taylor tapped most of them and made

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ninety-two different centres and that the Commission, was to be in

4) Frank Bernard

they and their wives - (a dozen camps) and set up housekeeping, and supervised these camps.

Every month the RCMP would send an inspector and drive me around - I was the only one they could talk to in private and any complaints - very few complaints - I repeat, in those meetings, many times, in the beginning particularly when it seemed so evident, later on not so much, they'd say: "Just wait until our people get here - tell the Canadians, wait 'till our people get here."

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But one of the points that I made when I was interviewed by W5 - they were htwo points - I said, you know, the Japanese hd the opportunity after the war to file claims against the Custodian at a Royal Commission headed by Mr. Justice Bird - I think there were three other judges across Canada - there were big ads in all the papers across Canada advisin the Japanese that they had the right to file claims before the Royal Commission and the Royal Commission would be awarding compensation if they thought it was justified. And I said "you'll never put that on your program" and he said he didn't know there'd been a Royal Comnission and I said, "well, I know because I was appointed Counsel to it." I said "I came back from Berlin after the war and the govt. asked me to come to Vancouver to be Counsel to Mr. Justice Bird to defend the Custodian's position. I said "The Commission made some awards to the Japanese - one of them was the Fraser Valley farms - the Soldier Settlement people had bought a lot of the farms and I think some of the Japanese were compensated on the basis that the price they'd received was too low.

The question is - what would you have done with the cars rusting at Hastings Park? Would you have kept them, not knowing when the war was going to end,, or would you have sold them because you knew if you didn't sell them they'd be worth less eventually? Well, we sold them. (This is all to Eric Malling) The other thing, Eric, tha you should keep in mind, and maybe you'll not agree with me - the best thing that ever happened to the Japanese community of Vancouver was to be moved - you look at the Japanese in Canada now - they're no longer living in little tight enclaves like Powell Street or Steveston - they're scattered across Canada -they're very successful in Toronto in the electronics business, they've been very successful in Lethbridge, they have been absorbed into the Canadian fabric as against being in a local area where they were racially identified. dislsiked by many people because they were successful. We distributed them - and, I wanted to know from Eric, how many of the claimants that are raising hell with the govt. and the Custodian, how many of them were children at the time and don't really understand what pressures and concerns there were.?

Well, I tell you, there were mistakes made. And the Royal Commission - we went to Kamloops - and had hearings and the Japanese could come and make a case

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and the judges listened each judge had his own group - but this ad, you know, when I showed that to W5 they never showed that on TV to show that the Japanese had already had a day in court, tht some of them had been compensated. I remember they made quite a case out of the fact that some house on Power Street had been sold for something like $10,000. Yea, I said, that's right, but surely you're not going ere 2 and a half hours in this house - and I was on their TV program for a minute and 20 sec. - I tried tomake two basic points - obviously they wanted to make their story that the Japanese were mistreated. I told Malling that he wouldn't print my story, that they wouldn't put what I said on because they were determined to make the case for the Japanese to get compensation. I made to tell me that the Custodian should have paid them what the price is today! So anyway, after wasting two and a half hours and giving them all a drink out here on our patio, I think I was on a minute and twenty seconds.

We're talking about months going by, and the government trying to make up its mind what to do. And I'm sitting there wondering how in the world we're going to administer all this - all these cars, and farms, and stores and the stock - we were collecting debts owing to the Japanese and and we were paying their debts.

You're thinking about 25,000 people - you would like to have moved their furniture with them, you know. You would like to have settled them in an area like Lethbridge right away, but you couldn't do that because we still hadn't made a deal with the govt. of Alberta. I don't know how else you would do it.. Did we have a time frame? They were being moved into Hastings Park and we were getting from the Japanese Committee - Mr. Austin Taylor's committee - we would be told, and we tried to lengthen the time - one the problems about the committee was that they would tell us on Monday morning that they were moving, say, 50 families out of the Mission area and they were moving them on Monday and they would tell us that on Sunday afternoon. Well, how do we get people up there to sit down with them - do you know, we would sit down with the Japanese and those that felt they could trust us, they'd give us a detailed list of the furnishings in their house, you'd make a list of their assets for them, and we had people going around up there in the Valley and sitting down with the Japanese, listing property

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Interview - Glenn - Sept. 15/94

Fishing Vesselss Commission had a hell of a job to do - everybody was convinced they were all in the hands of the enemy, which wasn't true. Custodian had nothing to do about selling them but once they were sold (to get them back into the industry in the interests of our war effort which is the federal govt. wanted, they wanted them to get back out there and fish), but there were approx. 100 boats that they didn't sell, so they turned them over to the Custodian to look after.

There were problems in finding the boats, and collecting them and getting them into Steveston and Prince Rupert. I went up there to Pr. Rupert, to look at the fleet up there, and the Custodian ended up with approxl. 100 boats which the Fishing V. Commission couldn't dispose of - partly, I think, because of the lack of crew. There were no young fishermen (men) here. They'd enlisted and gone.

So you had three different govt. organizations and they weren't so well coordinated - one might upset another - and they didn't all report to the same Minister - Paul Martin was one of my ministers, so was McClarty - but I'm not going to start digging up all the dirt - Austin Taylor's dead, Mead is dead. I happen to be the only guy alive, really, who was involved in all this. So I will say what we did, and what happened,

We had the job of trying to protect the farmhouses in the Fraser Valley , for instance, when the Security Commission moved people out, but it was almost impossible. Physically we didn't have the people - there was a war on and people weren't too interested in protecting the Japanese people or property -

How come some property sold? Well, the timber rights - Mr. Kugetsu - he owned timber limits and was logging in Deep Bay , Vancouver Island, then there was the Queen Charlotte Timber Co. - my memory is that that was owned in Japan by a Japanese corporation - and that had stands of Sitka Spruce, and we wanted to get it. You had a distinction between the assets of enemy people, and the assets of Canadian Japanese - some of whom might have been agents of the Japanese govt. - nobody ever established that. But the Custodian originally in his regulation, regardless of the movement of Japanese, once Pearl Harbor occurred, the Canadian Custodian was vested with all of the Japanese property in Canada that was owned in Japan by Japanese, not by people here. Anything owned by Japanese corporations or by Japanese banks etc. that was enemy property.

In addition to that there Orders in Council passed when they decided to move the Japanese. And when they decided to move the Japanese there was no authority to sell the property - anything. The Custodian was given the responsibility of protecting the Japanese property - our job was to

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ninety-two different centres and

make inventory. When the poor guy down in Japan town on Powell St. was taken out of his store by the Taylor Commission and taken to Hastings Park, somebody had to into the store and see that the door was locked, and that the merchandise was looked after in one way or another. One of our people would go in, send back what could be returned of the stock to the suppliers, have it credited to the retailer, pay off any debts that the Japanese owed in the area. Then we'd have an accounting of what we'd done with that store and its assets, and eventually the money was given to the Japanese owner. In the beginning we were a trustee for the Japanese to protect their property. The money would go in to the State Dept. in Ottawa, I don't know how the wheels moved, but the Canadian Japanese who were moved out of this province got all of their money back that we seized or sold. (I didn't stay here until the end).

We protected their property, and we tried to run the businesses for them. We ran some of the logging camps - we hired Eustace Smith, one of the outstanding appraisers to appraise the timber for us, and all that, and the govt. said "We've got to get this timber into production for the war effort." So along came an order - after the Japanese were moved out of here - that they had to authorize the Custodian to sell the property. Hell, a lot of it was perishable. For instance, all the cars in Hastings Park - that's a good example. The 112 fish boats we got from that commission , those too. In the very beginning perishable things we would sell - if they were in the store, vegetables and so on although that was hard to do because what Occidental would go into a Japanese store? And if he did, he'd think that the money would be going back to the Japanese owner. and you just have to refer to some of the newspapers of those days - Harold Winch was demanding that the Japanese be moved. And other political parties were demanding Ottawa move them.

Well, Ottawa collected them all here and then they had the problem, where do you move them? They weren't welcome in Alberta, Manitoba or Saskatchewan or Ontario - this was a B.C. problem. So they said "well, we'll have to move them into the interior and get them away from the Coast". Not concentration camps - they revitalized some old mining and ghost towns, they built a town called Tashme (check) and they put in schools and housing and they weren't under barbed wire. The only thing they didn't have was transportation.

Some of the Japanese were working for the Commission - like Morii (?) - and they asked the RCMP for their cars, radios and cameras. - if you wanted to avoid riots, there had to be some Japanese connection between the Commission and the Custodian - and we worked with the Japanese Committee and they worked with Japanese that they trusted like Morii - and I can't prove anything against Morii - there were some Japanese who didn't like him kind of afraid of him -

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3)
There were other people here who were looking into the Japanese at that time - some of these stories that you have read in my notes to New York were to give New York information that I was hearing here. (A hearing - Philpott - look it up)

Douglas Dewar - here before the war started - head of Peat Marwick in New York - retired to Caulfeild, built a lovely home at Culledon in the Okanagan - offered to be a dollar-a-year man - in those days the Bank of Canada (Graham Towers head) he worked as an adviser when they were setting up Foreign Exchange control 'cause this was new, the idea that you couldn't go across the border with an American dollar in your pocket, you had to declare every nickel you had in American money. We had to get the money for our war effort. So they took your U/S/ dollars and gave you Canadian for them. Dewar was experienced - a chartered acct. - he was then appointed as head of Bank of Canada's Foreign Exchange office out here.

There was Prof. Fred Reid, dean of law school - we knew each other. And Edgar T. Read -

Re - evacuation deadline - you'd have to see Order in Council for that - that ws passed, then the Custodian's Order in Council was issued giving him the responsibility of protecting Japanese property. Originally we were trustees, to itemize the Japanese property, talk to the Japanese owner if you could - we had people running around out to Hastings Park getting them to sign a sheet saying this is everything - we had other places where vandals had broken into places in the Valley and stolen things -

Locheed 12 - new hotel - concrete structure all the way up to the 18th floor but not finished between 9th and 18th floors - they didn't finish it during the war.

R.H. Young - he was in British Intelligence - he was a difficult guy - he was Eurasian - I don't know what ever happened to him - he disappeared eventually - he'd come and tell me what he was hearing in the community - you know how people are in wartime - they'll sell their uncle - I don't think I was ever that impressed with him - he wasn't my guy - I don't even know what part of Br. Intelligence he was in. Because the cardinal rule if you worked for Stephenson was that you didn't know if you didn't have to know. All I was told was that this guy would contact me.

(Alexander? - he ended up in the CIA in Washington so whether he was a double agent or a triple agent I wouldn't know.)

Ralston was Minister of Defence - never my minister. The problem is typical of govt. bureaucracy - I came out here with all these wide powers - I could do anything - Coleman said, well, you've got the job out there, just don't get the Minister in trouble.

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June 27, 1942.

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TO:

FROM:

Re: Situation here

I am enclosing Photostats and a translation of same which speak for themselves insofar as Etsuji Morii is concerned. This man has been evacuated to Minto in the interior which is just over the Cascade Mountains, said mountains forming the Eastern boundary of the protected area. Minto is a ghost town which certain prominent Japanese have been permitted to take over, voluntarily evacuating themselves and maintaining themselves there. If I can I will attach to this memo a list of the important Japanese who have been permitted to go there by the Commission. In any event, Morii is there, Kagetsu is there and Noritake, who is now on his way back to Japan, was to go there together with his chief henchman Hara.

From a security standpoint, the Commission work seems to have failed miserably, not due to the fact that they did not want to evacuate the people but due to the fact that none of the other provinces would take them and Ottawa did not take a strong stand in the matter for obvious reasons. The result is that in the town of Minto you have, in my opinion, the most dangerous fifth columnists, the leader of which is friendly with the police and the Commission and while they will deny that they employ him on salary, they cannot deny that he has acted as liaison and is primarily responsible for the original trouble between the Commission and the Nisei, who resent being bossed by an enemy subject, a gangster and, in their opinion, the leader of the Black Dragon Society here. If you read the attached translation you will see that Morii is quite definite as regards the Japanese Empire.

Another copy of this magazine, which I have not been able to obtain, is in the hands of the police and contains Morii's picture alongside a picture of the Editor. I am enclosing a translation of the statement made in that issue but cannot get the paper to make Photostats. A committee of white people have approached both the Commission and the police and have sent translations of the magazine to the Minister of Justice, the Minister of Pensions and National Health and, I believe, to the Prime Minister, but with no apparent results since Morii is still at large. At least when he was in Vancouver he could be watched but now he andhis gangsters,not dependent on the Commission for maintenance, since they were allowed to take thei. money, are living in an interior town about fifty miles from the P.G.E. Railway, which is hauling in important supplies, and about sixty to eighty miles from the C.N. and C.P. They are also near Bralorne Mines and I have been told, although I have not confirmed it, that there is a large B.C. Electric Power Plant in this area.

I have spoken to several constables in the R.C.M.P. and they have admitted that they are greatly disturbed over the situation but because of the "friends at court" as it were, they have been forced to use kid gloves with the Japanese. I don't know whether or not this information will be too late in reaching our friend who is going to start something North of you, but since he has a complete report I am taking the liberty of sending him a copy of the Photostats and the translation. I will, of course, take precautions and not send it by regular mail.

Contrary to the B.C. Security Commission Chairman's statement that the evacuation would be completed before the end of June, I am attaching figures which show what the real situation is. I do not think there is a chance of the evacuation being completed before the end of July and in fact almost as fast as they evacuate them, they are having to intern them for disturbances raised outside of the area. Contary to the setup the other side of the boundary, we are scattering our fifth columnists across Canada. I know that they are already in ninety-two different centres and that the Commission, who is supposed to be in

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charge and know where the Japanese are, have issued permits to eleven hundred and they have not even their names and do not know whether the Japanese left under the permits or not, or where they have gone.

Rumour has it in semi-official quarters that the chairman is looking for an excuse to quit before the roof falls on his head. Knowing the man as I do I do not think he will quit but rather expect him to take some arbitrary or drastic action suddenly and then if criticized in the smallest degree by the Government, he will resign in protest that the Government itself would not assist him in relocating the evacuees and that the Government Departments here have not co-operated with him.

I can see grave possibilities in having Morii and his gang just behind the Cascade range in case of an invasion. Given a little dry weather, I think they could set the mountains on fire at the opportune time and disrupt communication. I think that psychologically if all the Japanese were loyal on the outbreak of war, they will now be at least Anti-Canadian due to the way in which the evacuation has been handled and their families split up. This, in my opinion, creates an extremely dangerous situation when you consider that they are working for miles through the mountains within a stone's throw of the Canadian Pacific.

Most of the Japanese despise Morii and this is an additional reason why everything possible should be done to have him interned. The police have shown no interest whatever in the magazines presented to them and in fact one of the Commissioners stated that Morii had explained the matter satisfactorily.

With regards Teigo Noritake, who is being repatriated to Japan, another Japanese named Chonuske Tanaka has also left with him. A statement was made in the House of Commons in defence of the pro-Japanese element in External Affairs, that Japanese subjects were being exchanged for Canadian citizens. This is not strictly true and it might be worth arranging to have a few questions asked in the House about this.

Noritake, it will be remembered, was naturalized a Canadian, was arrested by the F.B.I. in Seattle, was released at the instigation of Dr. K and had a letter to prove that K had arranged his release, and you have a copy of same. He was born in Japan and has resided in Japan alternate years over the last fifteen or twenty years. He boasted for several months of his Canadian citizenship and of how proud he was of it but he has the manner of a man who is used to speaking with authority and it is reliably reported to me that in the station when the train left, a group of Japanese who were down at the station saluted Noritake and he returned their salute. He also shook hands with the Japanese.

As regards Tanaka, while I have been unable to find out anything very much about him, he is the owner of a Canadian fishing vessel "Yamagi" and only Canadian citizens can be the owners of Canadian fishing vessels.

I have heard nothing from you and so do not know if the chap is coming back who was here but he might be useful for a while if you have no use for him there. If he likes the big timber he might camp out for a while in various neighbourhoods. I would appreciate it if you would let him see this memorandum since he will be able to add considerable background for you. In view of his former association here with the police he could not work for me.

I might add that I have been rather outspoken with both the Commission and the police and while I do not discount the ability of the Chairman, he is what one might politely term as bull-headed, and the Commissioner of the police is a grand chap and anxious that nothing should come out that will show that they have been asleep or have been too anxious to please certain elements in Ottawa.

It will interest you to know, that in spite of sinkings on the Coast and bombardment, this city is not even bothering to have blackout drill and the big bridge stands out an easy target with all lights shining.

John McPherson Fonds
Correspondence, newspaper clippings, notes, interviews

May 19, 1942.

MEMORANDUM

Re: Kagetsu

I talked to Kagetsu today and he told me that while he had educated Dr. Hori, when the doctor returned from university he did not come to see him to thank him and has never paid back the money, and he therefore does not like Dr. Hori. Against this should be kept in mind the fact that Dr. Hori is interned.

Kagetsu stated that in 1941 he was honored by the Japanese Government, together with one other person on this continent, a Japanese from the United States, and they went to Japan for some kind of a ceremony. He said he represented the Canadian Japanese and the other man represented the American Japanese.

Kagetsu wrote a letter asking for the release of his cars to take to Bridge River and Minto City under the Commission's evacuation scheme and ends the letter by saying that he needs the cars since he is shortly to be employed by the Commission in the inspection of timber in the interior. After getting the letter I called the Secretary of the Commission and began by saying I presumed the man was crazy, thereby putting the Secretary on the spot, he having to say he was and there was nothing in it. In view of Mr. Kagetsu's past and the information which Mr. Lyons has in Seattle, it will be interesting to watch what the Commission do with him.

GWMcP/FC.

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Glenn McPherson Fonds
Correspondence, newspaper clippings, notes, interviews, photographs, 1938 - 1944

May 19, 1942.

MEMORANDUM

Re: Teigo Noritake

Mr. Noritake is on his way to Japan and his actions make the police rather ridiculous. His past arrest in the States should be kept in mind; a letter from K and a book autographed by K.

Hara and family, Onoh and family, are all a part of the Timura group and they had the freedom of Vancouver right up to train time.

GWMcP/FC.

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Correspondence, newspaper clippings, notes, interviews, photocopies, 1938 - 1994
FOLDER NO. 6-5

May 19, 1942.

MEMORANDUM

Re: Japanese Consulate

A. H. Young told me that right up to the removal of the Consular officials, while the Consul himself was held incommunicado, you could see his wife and the Vice Consul. He says that the Vice Consul spent a great deal of his time at the Nippon Club and much to his amazement hs has had Japanese come to his office and tell him they had seen the Vice Consul who told them to come to see him before they came to see Mr. McPherson. It looks as if the Mikado was controlling Powell Street right up to the time they left.

GWMcP/FC.

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McPherson Fonds
Correspondence, memos, clippings, notes, 1937-1974
FOLDER No.

COPY

501 Royal Bank Bldg.,
Vancouver, B. C.
May 2, 1942.

Confidential

Major A. C. Taylor,
Chairman,
B. C. Security Commission,
Marine Building,
Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Major Taylor:

Re: Mr. Morii.

As a result of the interview which took place in your office a few days ago Mr. Thornton has endeavoured to prove the statements made by him and I advised him that if he could do so, I would forward a report on the matter to the proper parties. Since Mr. Morii is not employed by your Commission and on the suggestion of Ass't Commissioner Mead, I have forwarded a report to Col. Hill. A copy of my letter to him is enclosed for your information.

Yours truly,

(G. W. McPherson)
Authorized Deputy of the Secretary
of State and/or Custodian.

GWMcP/FC

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ascertained that this was not according to the fact and that this party and his wife were not only residing in the City of Vancouver but were in the process of packing their personal effects to go to the sugar beet area, leaving Vancouver, according to their statements, on Sunday, April 26th.

Glenn McPherson Fonds
Correspondence, newspaper clippings, notes, interviews, photocopies, 1938-1974

May 4, 1942.

List of Japanese Nationals of non-official status to be repatriated, family name being shown first:

Nishio Ipei
Nishio Hama
Nishio Tomitaru
Nishio Kazuyazu
Nishio Rei
Nishio Norikazu

Ito Sokichi
Ito Misao
Ito Makato
Ito June

Katukawa Shinpei

Noritake Teigo

Nara Takeo
Nara Ryu
Nara Shigeru
Nara Hiroshi
Nara Atsuko

Ono Isamu
Ono Shima

Tanaka Chonosuke

The above list is the list of persons that the Japanese Government requested be returned to Japan on an exchange but out of this list only eight persons are going. The Nishio and Ito families are not going on the grounds that they wish to live in Canada. These two parties are partners in the Import and Domestic Silk Company, operating on Granville Street. Mr. Nishio has been working very closely with Mr. Morii in the evacuation scheme, acting as liaison officers with the B.C. Security Commission and the R.C.M.P. The company is connected with the Nikko Shokai of Japan and Mr. Nishio is married to a daughter of Mitsui. The request for him and his refusal to go may have been arranged to improve his reputation here.

Mr. and Mrs. Ono are not going because Mrs. Ono has a two months old baby and they do not feel that the trip, which will take two months, should be made at this time. Mr. Ono worked for T. Timura and Company of this city, and is a friend and associate of Mr. Noritake.

As regards the eight people who are going, the name "Nara" should be "Hara" and this party works with Mr. Noritake in the Timura company and the Japan and Canada Trust Savings Company. Mr. Noritake is the party who was detained in Seattle, subsequently released and has had his freedom around this city ever since the outbreak of war. When I asked him why he was going to Japan he stated that the Japanese Government might want to know what is going on here. I consider him the most dangerous of all the Japanese listed since he is highly intelligent and must have full information concerning almost any matter he cared to interest himself in since December 7th.

These people are allowed to take hand baggage and $285. U.S. The balance of their funds and property will be controlled by the Custodian. Noritake's family reside in Japan and his wife is a daughter of T. Timura.

These people are going East tonight on the C.N.R. with the official Consular party which will number about twenty-five. It appears that the Consular party's baggage will not be examined because of diplomatic privileges and it is, therefore, obvious as to who will carry any documents of interest to the Mikado.

GWMcP/FC.

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[illegible] that this was not according to the fact and that this party and his wife were not only residing in the City of Vancouver but were in the process of packing their personal effects to go to the sugar beet area, leaving Vancouver, according to their statements, on Sunday, April 26th.

COPY

501 Royal Bank Bldg.,
Vancouver, B. C.,
May 2, 1942.

Confidential

Col. C. H. Hill,
Officer Commanding,
"E" Division,
R.C.M.P.
Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Sir:

Re: Mr. Morii

As you have no doubt been advised by members of the B.C. Security Commission, certain rumours relating to the above party were brought to my attention by a Mr. Thornton, who states that he was previously attached to the Japanese Consulate. I advised the Commissioners of these remours and arranged an interview with the Chairman of the Commission for Mr. Thornton. Mr. Thornton repeated the rumours to the Chairman and, after considerable discussion, the Chairman advised that Mr. Morii was not working for the B.C. Security Commission and I am not informed as to whether or not he is working for your detachment. In any event, in view of the liaison existing between this office and your office both here and in Ottawa, and on the suggestion of Ass't Commissioner Mead, I feel that the rumours should be brought to your attention, for such action as you may desire.

As to the bona fide of Mr. Thornton, he made several statements which were fairly easy to verify to my satisfaction. He stated he had supplied certain information to the Naval Intelligence in Ottawa and he produced for my examination a business card of Mr. Norman Senior the then Secretary to the Minister of National Defence, which card contained an introduction for Mr. Thornton to Commander Nelles in Ottawa. He also made a statement that a census had been made of persons of the Japanese race residing here on the instigation of the Japanese Consulate prior to the outbreak of war and he had extracted a form from the Japanese Consulate file and forwarded it to Naval Intelligence in Ottawa. He produced for my examination a copy of a form which appears to substantiate this statement.

Being satisfied as to the bona fide of these statements of Mr. Thornton and in view of the fact that I do not wish to be classed with rumour mongers in these difficult times, and particularly in view of the serious nature of the rumours, I considered it advisable to obtain some confirmation of Mr. Thornton's statements before bringing the matter to your attention.

Statements made by Mr. Thornton were to the effect that a certain Japanese lady, as a result of representations made to her and in view of the fact that her husband was held in the Immigration Shed, placed some money in a box of chocolates and delivered the chocolates to the above party's home, and that subsequently her husband was released. The statement was made at the interview with the Chairman of the B.C. Security Commission that the party referred to, namely, Mr. Shokichi Hosaki, had a tumour on the brain, had been found insane and had been removed to an institution. Subsequent to the meeting I ascertained that this was not according to the fact and that this party and his wife were not only residing in the City of [illegible] but were in the process of [illegible]gar beet area, leaving Va[illegible]y, April 26th.

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Notes, Photographs, 1924-1994

ER No. 6-5

I arranged an interview with Shokichi Hosaki and Mrs. Hosaki on Saturday April 25th. The interview was conducted in the office of Mr. Frederick Field, Chartered Accountant, and there were present Mr. and Mrs. Hosaki, Mr. Thornton, Mr. Frederick Field, Miss Fox of the Custodian's staff, a Japanese lady as interpreter, whose name is unimportant, and myself.

Mr. Hosaki produced his police registration card Number 06636, a receipt from the Immigration authorities for $10.50, and a statement which indicates that he was detained on February 20th at 5 P.M. and released on March 4th at 1:30 P.M. The $10.50 paid to the Immigration authorities appear to cover meals and his detention had nothing to do with the B.C. Security Commission or the police departments.

Mrs. Hosaki stated she did not know why her husband was picked up but she was greatly disturbed and a friend, whose name she would not give, told her to get in touch with Mr. Morii who would no doubt assist her. She admitted she purchased a two pund box of chocolates at a corner store operated by a relative, whose name she would not give, and that she did put some money in the box, the amount of which should would not state, and that she did take the chocolates and the money to Mr. Morrii's place on Cordova Street. She stated that when she arrived there Mr. Morii was out but that there was a man there and she gave the box to him for Mr. Morii and subsequently her husband was released. I have discussed this matter with Mr. Taylor of the Immigration Department and, of course, relaize that the release had no connection whatever with the gift to Mr. Morii, if any such gift were made.

Another matter which I feel should be brought to your attention since it deals with the above party, is information given to me by Mr. Wright, Manager of the Sun Life Assurance Company, whom I assume is a well-known and reputable citizen of this city. Mr. Wright came to my office yesterday morning to turn over to the Custodian a cheque for a Mr. Kobayashi, a former agent of the Sun Life in this city. His reason for coming was because he believed this party had been interned. On checking the records I found this man was not so and he was surprised since Mr. Kobayashi had told him personally that he was going up to the R.C.M.P. to ask that he be interned. I considered this a strange request by a Japanese and asked Mr. Wright to clarify the statement. Mr. Wright stated that this party was their best salesman among the Japanese and that he had absolute confidence in him and he did excellent work in the recent Victory Loan campaign. Mr. Wright stated that Mr. Kobayashi advised him that he was not prepared to deal with Mr. Morii as to the terms of his evacuation or prepared to make any arrangement for deferrment and that he felt so insulted over the fact that Mr. Morii appeared to have some control over the evacuation that he would sooner be interned than come under his control. He left Mr. Wright's office with the intention of applying for internment but appears to have been evacuated rather than interned so the cheque was not accepted by this office.

Mr. Wright stated that Mr. Kobayashi advised him that Mr. Morii had collected a considerable sum of money for obtaining deferrments for Japanese. Mr. Wright further stated that he would be prepared to make this statement at any time to the chairman of the B.C. Security Commission. However, since Mr. Morii is not working for that Commission it appears to be a matter more directly concerning your department.

Mr. Frederick Field, Chartered Accountant, advised me some time ago that Mrs. Nagata, the wife of an internee, came to see him with a story about Mr. Morii demanding $300.00 from her for some organizational work. He advised me that his advice to her was to tell Mr. Morii to come and see him. Mr. Morii did not come.

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Glenn McPherson Fonds
Correspondence, newspaper clippings, notes, interviews, photographs, 1937-1994
FOLDER No. 6-5

COPY

This information is given to you as information received by the Custodian's office. Neither myself nor anyone in this office has any personal knowledge as to the truth of the statements made but since there seems to be some connection between Mr. Morii and your department, I thought that the information should be given to you.

Yours truly,

"G. W. McPherson"
Authorized Deputy of the Secretary
of State and/or Custodian.

GWMcP/FC

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MEMORANDUM

Re: Teigo Noritake

1. Connected with the Japan and Canada Trust Savings Company which is owned by the famous Tamura family of Japan.

2. Married to a daughter of T. Tamura, who is a member of the House of Peers, Japan.

3. Is related to Kodama who is also married to a daughter of Tamura.

4. Noritake and Kodama were the heads of the Tamura & Company, shippers of Lumber and flour to Japan. Mr. Kodama went to Japan last August of September and is still there.

5. It was the policy of these two men to go to Japan alternately remaining about 6 months at a time.

6. Early in March, while talking to a Japanese on a street car, Noritake said "We must all help Japan".

7. Noritake was arrested in Seattle at the outbreak of war with Japan and was released after he wired H, from whom he later received a letter congratulating him on his return to Canada and expressing the hope that the relationship between the Orient and Canada would be improved as a result of and after the termination of the war. The Police claim that Noritake was not released because of any wire but because the American authorities, realizing he was a Canadian Jap, deported him.

8. Has always been an intimate friend of Japanese Consuls.

9. Noritake and Kodama often went to Seattle on business.

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October 8, 1942.

MEMORANDUM

Re: Evacuation

I am enclosing this memorandum in duplicate so that can have a copy.

You asked me about a Doctor being killed in one of the camps by the Japanese but I have not been able to confirm this rumour. I do not think it happened because there would have to be a coroner's inquest and even with the censorship we have, I doubt their ability to keep it out of the press.

The Japanese have all been evacuated from Hastings Park but there are still about 2200 in the city. The Commission states they will have them out by the end of this month and I am keeping my fingers crossed. They have had considerable trouble building houses in the interior owing to the shortage of lumber and rumour has it that trouble is brewing in several of the camps owing to housing conditions.

I sent a clipping about Mori which you will have seen and I understand that an article about NORITAKE is appearing this Saturday. The News Herald, according to my information, is starting a campaign against the R.C.M.P. and the Security Commission and they have hired as one of their reporters, Mr. Thornton, who is known to you, and who previously worked for the Japanese Consul. He is a man who cannot be trusted as far as we are concerned but has apparently gone to a lot of trouble to dig up facts which will appear in the article, a copy of which will be mailed in an unidentifyable wrapper to one of your people. A copy will also go to Tommy in case the other does not get through.

I know you felt that the newspaper articles should be stopped and I tried to do this in a roundabout way but the Editor, Mr. Philpott, is the crusading type and thinks there is something rotten. Thornton is trying to contact and I don't know where he is but he should be warned not to reply since Thornton is the type that might draw your people into the publicity which they hope to get for the paper. Philpott, according to Thornton has been summoned East to confer with Ottawa officials, apparently on the article about Mori, but Thornton contends that the censors have not tried to block it and Philpott is bound he is going ahead.

They have been trying to get a photostat of Dr. K's letter to NORITAKE and while they suspect I have it, they have not come out and asked for it directly and I, of course, will not give it to them.

I was in Prince Rupert last week and after hearing rumours that the Coast Indians up there look so much like Japanese that it is hard to tell them apart, I wandered around but must say that I felt that the people I saw were Indians and not Japanese.

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I have seen Capt. Taylor several times and he is in the City now on leave from Terrace and he confirms the statements in the report that a great deal of propaganda has been done against the Coast Indians and that they are extremely hostile to the Whites, particularly around Rupert.

One of the criticisms of the report was that the Japanese were in the strategic areas before they became strategic. Anyone who cares to go into the facts will be satisfied that is not true, at least as regards some strategic areas.

A Japanese called Takamoto, who owned and operated the Fernridge Lumber Company at Haney, bought a mill on Stave Lake from Nels Lougheed, a former Minister of Lands in this Province. I interviewed Mr. Lougheed and he advises me that the deal was completed in 1941. The mill site is directly above the big power dam on Stave Lake. The electric development having started in 1908. Water is piped ~~from~~ this lake to another lake and Mr. Takamoto also has a large operation on this other lake.

As regards the Pacific Deep Sea Cable station on Vancouver Island, my information is that this was started in October 1902. The original land deals as regards the Cable station started in 1883 and my information is that the Japanese were not there then but have settled there since and particularly in the area around Ucluelet which is a strategic point with military bases.

Risuke Hamade owns a house on lot 282, the property of the Lytche Estate under the control of S. S. Littleton. Mr. Littleton informed the B.C. Police that the Japanese first moved onto this land about 25 years ago, and the estate has 19 houses formerly occupied by Japanese. This property is directly across the bay from Bamfield. I do not know that these statements really prove anything or could hope to influence the people who read the report, particularly if the people in charge here are asked for opinions.

I was at Revelstoke last Saturday and Sunday and it is a divisional point for the C.P.R. with huge locomotive shops and round house. The town is situated in the valley and no trains can get in or out except with pusher engines according to information supplied me by a train official. West of the town and within a mile and a half of the main line, I drove by houses occupied by the Japanese.

Some time ago you asked about the police using Japanese as interpreters and I have not had a chance to send you a note but I investigated and was informed by a reliable source that Mr. Sasaki, who had been employed by the Postal Censorship, had left them and been employed by the R.C.M.P. and was there at least three or four days before August 26th. Of course he may be gone by now but these reports do help to substantiate the reports sent to you by .

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I do not know whether or not you care to have any further information on the problem here at the moment, in the matter of a rebuttal to the reply concerning the report but I am of the opinion that it is hopeless to argue with the people who read the report and I am hopeful that the army will wake up before it is too late and take over the entire province insofar as counter-espionage and sabotage are concerned. I am afraid that the Hongkong attitude - "It can't happen here" - stillprevails. I will keep you informed of future developments if opportunity offers.

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MEMO

September 29th, 1942.

Mr. Jinshiro Nakayama is the secretary of the Japanese Black Dragon Society in Canada and is chief assistant to Mr. Morii. The Mr. Takuzo Iiyama who is mentioned in the News Herald of September 26th is comparatively unimportant. Nakayama is in Minto with Mr. Morii at the present time. This information comes from Mr. Young.

Mr. Nakayama, who is mentioned in one of the issues of the Sokoku, is Mr. Morii's chief assistant and, in addition, Nakayama was active in the affairs of the Nippon Club.

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August 29th, 1942.

MEMORANDUM

Re: Report

I sent you a brief note with the Professor but think that I should elaborate upon it at this time. Basically the report is correct and the arguments put up by Barnes weaken rather than strengthen his case in my opinion.

The principal point upon which he criticises anything I have said is the question of Young being the Solicitor for Morii. When I told you this I had it from what I would consider the best source possible, namely Mr. Young. I understand our friend has evidence that Young did represent him, and he will deal with this in his report, since he has been in touch with Young several times within the last week. I have always realized that Young is thoroughly unreliable, but could not see that he had anything to gain from claiming to be Morii's solicitor if he was not, except that he may have hoped to strengthen his position with me, since he may be working for the very people he accuses Morii of working for.

The Professor's comments were right to the point but I doubt if anything will be gained by continuing the discussion since Barnes and the people here are pretty well fed up with the entire situation.

The interesting and most damning thing as far as Barnes is concerned is the fact that he admits they are not doing their job because they are afraid of certain people in Ottawa.

The Japs are still in town and are roaming around the streets but the Commission has announced that the evacuation will be completed by the end of September. This I doubt, but hope that it will come true, since I will then be able to return East.

It is reported that the Army is sending two divisions here, so at least they are worried about the possibility of attack, and when it comes it will be interesting to see what Morii's gang do in the interior.

The refusal of Nishio, Ito to return to Japan may mean everything or nothing. Nomaki has gone back and what better way

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to get in with the Police than to have Nishio~~-~~Ito, who could have discussed the matter with Nor~~i~~take, refuse to go.

As to the Japs being in the important points, before they became important, this is a matter that will require investigation of Land Titles, which will take some time, but I am following this up.

I think our friend's source, as to the sale of fish to Takamura from Suintula, was obtained from what I consider to be a reliable source, but his conclusions are not necessarily correct, since it is well known that the people on this Island were Communistic.

Up to a few days ago I am informed by a reliable source that a Mr. Susaki was being used by the R.C.M. Police as an interpretor.

It is interesting to note that this office has just received a letter from Don Tani, whose address is given as 480 Kennedy Street, Winnipeg, the letter being dated August 24th, in which he states in part as follows:

> "To keep your information correct, reference 11392, none of us are in the R.C.A.F. My brother Kanao at the present time is engaged in Defence work in Montreal. He served in the Canadian Army in Ontario, while the furthest I got was a run-around at the Recruiting Depot in the Vancouver Federal Building. I am fortunate enough to be employed here in an Aricraft Overhaul Shop and like the conditions very much." [Kanao lives at 1170 Dorchester Street, West, Montreal and is thirty-one years of age. Don is 26.]

The father is Matasubo Tani and he is at Camp 1, Stirmark Contracting Company, Amesdale, Ontario, and his Police Registration Numberis 07500. I do not know the nature of the work that he is engaged in.

The denial that any Japanese are in vital Defence Areas may be questioned, in view of the pictures attached, which have appeared in the local press on the days shown. I do not think anybody can deny that the Harbour is a vital Defence Area. I think the evidence that Risuke Amada bought a house in Ucluelet overlooking the Air Base, etc., after the outbreak of war can be proved by searching the titles, but this is a long and cumbersome procedure and I believe that our friend's source is reliable. I will, however,

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have this looked into and write you as soon as possible.

On the question of evidence of propaganda among the Indians, our friend supplied this information and I am writing to a personal friend of mine to try and get some inside information on this. You will realize that my time is taken up completely, even to the extent that I have a dictaphone at home and dictate there at night, and I have very little time to do this work, as quickly as you might like. I am, however, following it up and will send along the information in due course.

In the meantime I suggest that when our friend arrives in the East it might be worthwhile your personally talking to him there. I have put the "Fear of the Lord" in him and feel that he will cause no trouble whatever nor will be be indiscreet.

The result of moving the Japs out of this area to their new locations in the mountains is obvious, and the most disturbing feature is that where beforehand we had them between our Army and the Enemy, we now have our Army between them and the Enemy and I can assure you that the whole attitude of the Japanese has changed from a docile people to a rather antagonistic attitude, possibly due to our own methods of handling them.

The argument that the Nisi have never gotten along with the Police and they, therefore, were ignored and the advice of the enemy-born subjects taken, is not sound since it is obvious that having been educated in our Universities where they excelled as scholars and feel they have certain rights as Canadian-born citizens, they are not amenable to being pushed around by Police Authorities.

I notice that one of our friends has a new and important job and it is to be hoped that he may be able to exercise some influence on the D.M.I. to take a stronger stand.

It looks as if my statements, for which I was severely criticised, namely that the "Evacuation was a mess" have had results in Ottawa, and the Commission is beginning to get tough. I will look for further developments and possibly even some violence, within the next few weeks.

It was suggested to me that a Doctor had been killed in one of the Camps, but I have not been able to obtain any information which would verify this and doubt its accuracy, since I feel that if there had been any such occurrence there would have [illegible] inquest and I don't see how it could

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be kept out of the papers. I have heard that a white man was badly beaten by the Japs because of his attentions to a Japanese girl and this may have been justified. I have not confirmed this.

All developments will be reported in due course.

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July 29th, 1942.

MEMORANDUM

TO:

FROM:

Re your memorandum of July 20th, which arrived safely, I am enclosing a copy of the statement Morii prepared for the Committee.

Norman advises that he loaned the magazine to the Police and has been unable to get it back. If I get it by tomorrow, I will have it photostated and enclose it. I do not think he will get the magazine, because the Police and the Commissioners appear to be trying to protect Morii.

The evacuation has developed to the ridiculous point that the Commissioners are taking no real interest and Mr. Morii is using the Commission's set-up and generally controling the evacuation through them. His henchman, Mr. Nishiguchi, is also in town.

The Commissioners are the same as originally appointed but Mr.Mead has returned to Ottawa and is in charge of the C.I.D. Shirras has returned to Victoria and Taylor is still here, although paying little attention to the evacuation and more to his Ship Building. The work is really being managed by Mr. Eastwood, a former Automobile salesman and a hardworking, well-meaning chap.

Morii was not arrested but was evacuated to Minto, I believe as a result of the general public criticism. I have not checked the last few days, but understand that he is still in town, having returned here, apparently to arrange future evacuations.

I do not think there is anything I could do to stop the newspapers publishing a story on Morii, but since it has not been published up to date, I doubt if it will be published. I am not sure of the date of the Illegal Entry Commission, but will try to get this and add it before closing this memorandum. As to the evacuation generally, it has become more or less of a farce.

Since I wrote you last plans have been changed and the Japanese who were along the right-of-way of the Railroads and in strategic positions are being moved.

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Statements have been made in the House by the Minister of Labour, and in the Press by many other people that the Japanese as labourers on the road were very useful. Statements are now being made that they were really practically useless and they are being moved for two reasons -

(1) To unite them with their families.
(2) Because they are in strategic places.

Previously it was denied that they were in strategic places.

At the moment (I cannot say whether the plan will be changed before you get this, since they change plans so rapidly I have given up hope of co-operating) the plan is to bring the Japs back to Hope, which is the boundary of the Protected Area and is a main railway centre. There they intend to clear them through the station at the rate of two hundred a day and have one Constable on duty. In an endeavor to co-operate with them along the lines of a plan that they outlined, whereby the Japanese would be cleared through two days a week, we sent a man there, but found that they are going to clear them every day in the week and are moving them through so fast we couldn't examine them without practically moving the whole staff over. This is absolutely impossible and entirely unsatisfactory, so I have refused to co-operate in this regard.

While this is the plan, it is obvious that many of the Japs are coming back into Vancouver. I do not have the figures available to show how many of them are here at the present time. The statement made recently that there are only one hundred and fifty-seven (157) able-bodied Japs in Vancouver is too ridiculous to require denial. One only has to walk down the street to realize there are hundreds here.

We have found in some instances that where a farm was vacant and we were making arrangements to rent it, when our inspector visited the place again he found the Jap had returned. How he got back into the area I do not know. We have also found that when we try to locate a Jap who is supposed to have been evacuated and are told by the R.C.M. Police that he is, for example, at Red Pass and left for there some weeks ago, he actually registered in Vancouver at our Branch Office two days previous to our inquiry. It is obvious, therefore,

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that not even the Police know where the Japs are. As far as the Commission is concerned, I am informed that while the Japs are checked as they board the trains to leave, they are not checked on their arrival, and the only way the Commission knows whether they got to their destination or not is when they write in and tell them.

We tried to obtain a list of all evacuees and their addresses, so that we could correspond with them, and, naturally, applied to the Commission, who should know who has gone and where, but we found that they did not even have a card index and our staff had to go down there to their offices, examine their files and make a card index for this office, the condition being to our seeing the files at all, that we would make a duplicate for them. The Commission, therefore, is operating on our card index, and there have been thousands of changes of addresses recorded.

The latest move, which is quite disturbing, is the fact that the R.C.M. Police in Ottawa are writing letters to the Japs who have been evacuated outside of the Restricted Area, advising them that there is no law against their having their Cameras, Radios and Automobiles, and we are now being besieged by these Japs, by letter or in person, they coming back here for a holiday, to release these articles to them.

I have written Ottawa to try to have something done to stop this nonsense. The law does permit these people to have these articles outside of this area, but it seems strange that we would facilitate their getting them by releasing what was seized in this area from them.

The original plan was that the Japs would be moved far to the East, and it may be that on the Prairies, Radios, Cars and Cameras were not so important, but they are now being moved pincipally into the interior of British Columbia and it is ridiculous that they should be allowed to have in particular their Cars and Radios. For example - the Moryson Camp at Minto, is just over Mission Mountain from the B.C. Power Dam, and I am told it is thirty miles by road. I should think that if we are seriously trying to save rubber and gasoline, these are people who can do without automobiles. As regards giving them Radios, the situation is fantastic. While I was absent a case arose where a Jap in the interior, who was a Radio Expert, requested the R.C.M. Police to let him

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have his Radio Equipment, which he had left in this area, and they arranged to ship it to him, stating that since the equipment was not assemblied into a Radio it did not come within the Order-in-Council. We now have in the interior a Japanese Radio Expert with this equipment, who can no doubt build short wave broadcasting and receiving sets and, if the Radios are now released to them, he would be well supplied with parts to break down and make portable radios for his saboteurs. This might not be necessary, since no doubt they would be at liberty to talk matters over on the local telephones.

I cannot understand the attitude of the Police and Commission as regards the possibility of a fifth column, but feel it is due to the fact that the Police and certain people in Ottawa have built up, over a period of years, the feeling that the Japs are one hundred percent loyal and they are afraid that if it were proven that Morii was a leader of the Black Dragon Society, the prestige of the Force would suffer. They, therefore, have to maintain a "Hong Kong attitude" of mind.

From a standpoint of security the situation is heartbreaking, and the only solution I can see is that the Army step in, take control of the evacuation and the general security of this Coast. Any steps you can take along this line might have satisfactory results and it might be a good idea to give up further negotiations with the Police and contact the Military Intelligence, whom I know are greatly concerned about the matter here. All of the information which you have might be put into their hands for action, but my position in the matter must be absolutely protected, if I am to be of any use in the future.

I am enclosing a clipping taken from the local newspaper, which will be of interest to you.

Encl.

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[illegible] of the Japanese in British Columbia.

BY SAFE HAND

TO: G.200 July 20th, 1942

From: G.500

C 517

Thank you for memoranda on the Japanese evacuation, Norman's notes, and enclosures. These are most useful to us and we are glad to have them. We shall be grateful to have any further information and comments which you can send.

We are anxious to obtain a copy of the statement on Etsuji MORII prepared by the Naturalised Japanese Committee and submitted to the R.C.M.P. Mr. W.H.H. Norman indicates that he has a copy of this statement "in his desk".

Has Norman still got the copy of "SOKOKU" magazine which contains MORII's photograph? The copy was given to R.C.M.P. and then returned to Norman. We should like very much to borrow it.

Norman's statement says that the check-up on Japanese illegal entries was made by the Keenleyside Commission in 1928 and 1940. Can this be confirmed? Our information was that it took place in 1938.

Could we have the names of the present members of the B.C. Security Commission? There seem to have been changes since we last heard.

Could we have a copy of the list of Japanese internees which was compiled by your staff?

We are also anxious to know under what circumstances the (temporary) arrest of MORII took place. Do you know, in particular, what warning MORII had of his arrest, and what kind of questions were put to him by the police?

You mention that the story of MORII may break in the press. If this should happen, it would spoil the plan recommended in our report for the simultaneous and individual arrest of MORII, members of his guard, and his associates. It seems essential that MORII, as well as the others, have no warning of such action, otherwise the arrests may be fruitless or at any rate less fruitful than we hope. If you can prevent the story breaking prematurely, it would be good to do so.

In strict confidence and for your own information only, we have sent a copy of our report on "Japanese Activities in British Columbia" to Commissioner Wood. We asked for his comments on suggested lines of action, and otherwise tried to put him on the spot. We said that no other copy had left our office. If he fails to respond, we intend to take other steps which will probably produce results.

I am sorry you had such a discouraging time as Custodian, and still hope your efforts will lead in the end to a more satisfactory solution of the whole problem of the Japanese in British Columbia.

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JAPANESE

IN THE MATTER CONCERNING THE ACTIVITY, BEHAVIOR AND CONDUCT OF ETSUJI MORII, DEEMED PREJUDICIAL TO THE SAFETY, DEFENSE AND WELFARE OF THE STATE, WE LAY THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION.

First in regard to the methods used by Morii to form the "Wartime Security Committee".

1. Morii himself volunteered to form the three member liaison committee.

2. He has accepted Nishio, a Japanese National, as a member of the liaison committee.

3. He has appointed his subordinates and favourites, among them Ju-jitsuists, to the Wartime Security Committee.

4. Nearly one half of the supposedly one hundred and fifty members of the Wartime Security Committee are Japanese nationals. Some of the persons have gained their appointments by making substantial contributions to a fund created by Morii, a portion of which he had started, was to assist in the evacuation expenses of needy families. To date this relief has not been given out in any extent to justify his appeal.

5. He has assured the members of his committee that they will be the last Japanese to leave the protected area.

6. In order to raise this fund he has appealed to and coerced the comparatively prosperous persons for financial contributions.

7. He has used his influence and position to secure permits to remain even for persons dependent upon the large contributors.

In regard to the Character and Behavior of Morii:

1. He has had no legitimate profession or occupation but has gained his livelihood for the past several years from the returns of his gambling club.

2. He has been a strong pro-fascist and an advocate of militarism and nationalsim.

3. He was until a few months ago, president of the Canadian Chapter of the "SOKOKU-KAI" (Fatherland Society) a sister organization to the Japanese "BLACK DRAGON", which is similar to the German Bund.

4. He has advocated the principles and encouraged the functions of the Soloku-Kai for many years, through lecturing and distributing the magazine "Fatherland" the official organ of the above society.

5. There is substantial evidence to support the charge that to date he and his associates have acted in a cold blooded manner.

6. He himself has committed one murder ✱ and been accused of another.

7. He has used his subordinates on numerous occasions to threat and exert physical violence, to attack and assault persons.

✱ Note made by "H" - 2 yrs. suspended sentence on a murder charge in 1921, there was an argument with an old man on the street, Morii threw him by Ju-jitsu on the sidewalk; he died of injuries.

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Under these threats and acts of violence the majority of timid and good citizens of Japanese race had no alternative but to bear this undesirable condition. Consequently Morii became even more aggressive and sought even greater power and control of the Japanese population. All his activity has had the effect of suppressing democratic thought and action.

In forming his previously mentioned large committee and in his present work in carrying out the total evacuation of Japanese persons Morii is acting in his usual undemocratic manner. At no time has he attempted to form an organization representative of the Japanese population, nor has he consulted capable and worthy members of the Japanese community. As a result the intentions and activity of the Japanese Liaison Committee were not made known to the Japanese population in regard to total evacuation, and this in turn created and deepened the anxiety and anguish of the fearfilled mental state of many persons.

We believe that we have reasonable grounds to look with suspicion upon the activity of Morii and certain members of his Wartime Security Committee as a serious menace to the safety of the state.

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June 30, 1942.

MEMORANDUM

I have been advised this morning, but have not confirmed it, that Morii has been in the city for the last five days. He is reported to be here at the request of the Security Commission for the purpose of organizing the evacuation of an additional three thousand Japanese to a self-sustaining camp somewhere in the interior of British Columbia.

I am enclosing some clippings which will interest you.

I have not received any communication from anyone so do not know whether or not my friend is coming back. Our friend (?) here has various Japs available down there who might be of use to you but he, of course, is not particularly anxious to be helpful but if you want their names and addresses I think I could get them.

Several of the Japanese have been given permits to drive cars in this area and my organization has found a wireless broadcasting set which, in my absence, they turned over to the police. This was too bad since I might have had a lever to work something through Ottawa.

There is a possibility that the whole history of Morii may break here in the papers and if so I will arrange to get copies of it to you.

I am sending you the information in duplicate in case you may wish to send it to Montreal.

I hope you had a safe trip and will be pleased to do anything I can for you here. I am handicapped but I think you can, from the context, determine your different people I refer to.

I am enclosing the last edition of the New Canadian which will give you an idea of what is going on. This paper is printed under the control of the Security Commission. The Editor is well known to our mutual friend who was here and is now with you.

I am also enclosing a copy of a newspaper report carried here of a speach made by the District Attorney in Oregon.

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3. Possible Sabotage

(a) Police Action

May 7-1942.
en Route
Montreal.

Dear Mr. Macpherson,

On leaving Canada I wish to express my sincere thanks for your kind and thoughtful treatment on all our affairs. On the Train, escorted by the officers - we are fully protected and comfortably proceeding to the destination.

On the matters of the Trust Company, as you know, the company can stand on its own feet or investment, even after paying out all its deposits (depositors 4/c) and it occured on my mind. That if it will

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or may be in possession of same. An example of why they are not qualified to do intelligence work is clearly shown by the statement made to me, after

3. Possible Sabotage

(a) Police Action

cost more in future to carry on the business and de-
-teriorate the assets or the revenue of the company, it would be better to make voluntary liquidation at a certain date, for the interest of the Shareholders.

of course everything will be decided by you. The above is only the reflection of my passing thought. I am well satisfied for what you have done and will do for us, and, needless to say, every matter rest on your judgement.

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I wish we will meet
here and there in happier
days which I hope soon.
Thanking you again
for your kindness
with best Regards
Sincerely yours
T. Morita.

P. S.
Please excuse me for my
poor writing. - Rolling of the
Train is Too strong.

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and saw two Japanese walking along the fence at the side. As regards
dynamite, the police themselves have informed me that they have no li
of Japanese or Japanese companies that have recently purchased dynami
or may be in possession of same. An example of why they are not qual
to do intelligence work is clearly shown by the statement made to me,

February 24, 1942.

3. Possible Sabotage

(a) Police Action

I have great admiration for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police force but I do not think they are qualified to act as intelligence officers or counter-sabotage agents. There are several reasons for this, the first of which is that high officers here in the R. C. M. P. readily admit they are policemen and have been trained as such. Secondly they are in a semi-military organization definitely limited as to funds available and indirectly affected by politics as to personalities since they are dependent upon favour for promotion. They have, in their files, reams of information which should, in a country at war, be sufficient to result in the internment of a large number of Canadian Japanese but because, as stated to me by an officer, of interference in Ottawa they are afraid to arrest suspicious persons in case certain individuals in Ottawa might interfere and affect their release. The burned child avoids the fire and the police recall what happened in the case of the Germans and Italians although they wonder at the situation in Ottawa when Mayor Houde is still in custody and he is a Canadian Citizen. I know that the police have information to the effect that certain Japanese in Steveston have the use of a boat to cross the river because of the distance from a bridge and that these Japanese returned to Japan in the past few years for military training. They also know that the Japanese recently purchased, through a returned missionary, the house property overlooking the Ucluelet air base and there is a large Japanese population in the immediate neighbourhood of the munitions dump and supplies. They have admitted to me that they view with suspicion certain individual Japanese of Canadian nationality but they are afraid to intern them in case their release would result in the police losing face.

They know, for example, that Mr. Kagetsu has managed the Mitsui Timber Interests in this province for years and that he would not be managing the business if he was not a loyal Japanese.

They know that Mr. Kodama and Mr. Noritake are married to the daughters of T. Timura in Japan and that they alternated between here and Japan until the outbreak of war at which time Mr. Kodama was in Japan and Mr. Noritake in the United States where he was arrested and subsequently released, as he says, on representations with "K". This man is now back in Canada and is quite arrogant and talks a great deal about his friendship with Mr. "K" and other notables.

The police also know that Japanese populations are to be found in practically every strategic point along Vancouver Island and in the vicinity of the Coast Cities. They know that Japanese are between the soldiers and their guns at one point on the Coast and that white men have to have permission to pass the sentry, whereas the Japanese come and go freely.

They also know that there is a Japanese settlement on top of the dyke above the Boeing Plant and the bomber air field on Sea Island and that by a few carefully placed sticks of dynamite the Island could be flooded and the field made useless for a number of weeks with considerable damage to the Boeing Plant. As regards this I was at the field yesterday and saw two Japanese walking along the fence at the side. As regards the dynamite, the police themselves have informed me that they have no list of Japanese or Japanese companies that have recently purchased dynamite or may be in possession of same. An example of why they are not qualified to do intelligence work is clearly shown by the statement made to me, after

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they had checked a card index which I had prepared of all Japanese names which had come to the attention of the Custodian. This list was checked by the police and they stated they had no record of approximately 70, many of whom have advised the Custodian that they are operating stores. When I asked the police why they did not have a record they said they would be registered as Canadian Japanese and they would have a record for all of them since every Japanese was required to register. This reasoning is about as sound as a remark of one of the officers when told that there was information that a particular Japanese was an officer in the Japanese Navy and he replied that this information could not be correct since he had not said so on the card. I was also told that while the police knew there was an organized German sabotage ring, they also knew that there was no Japanese organization here.

The attitude of certain members of the police force, after the committee meeting in Ottawa, changed from an anti-Japanese attitude to a rather pro-Japanese attitude and I cannot help but feel that they knew that the committee was to be disbanded and that it would pay them to play ball with certain parties in Ottawa.

Stanley Park Shipyards is adjacent to the No. 1 Boeing Plant and I have visited this yard. With all the shavings, timber and sawdust lying around it is a fire hazard that has been reported on several occasions to the local authorities and, although the inspector has called, it has not been cleaned up. The owner of this plant is Mr. Bunji and until Monday of this week he completely ignored the Custodian's letters and I threatened to take control of the company. The manager of the plant, who is also a shareholder, told me personally that Mr. Bunji stands in the window of the shop and makes derogatory remarks concerning the troops passing by. I have been told by Mr. Sleigh, a steamboat surveyor, that Mr. Bunji has told him he was an officer in the Japanese Navy and he is now head of the Japanese Association here. He advised the manager that the Japanese would not go over the mountains as requested because he had advised them not to until they were forced to do so. The company is bankrupt and he is in an A1 position to burn it down and burn down the Boeing Plant with it as there is no fireboat protection whatsoever on this side of the harbour. The only fireboat in Vancouver is kept in False Creek and is a long way from the docks in Howe Sound and if a good foggy night were picked the boat would not likely be able to come around through the Narrows. The situation is ideal for extensive sabotage along the harbour. I, personally, have informed the police of this but nothing has been done.

I do not blame the police for their lack of action at all. I feel that they are making a mistake in not having a showdown with certain individuals in Ottawa but they are definitely in an embarrassing situation.

When I was in Victoria I was surprised to find Japanese bell hops all over the Empress Hotel which frequented by Navy and Air Force men.

In my work I have gathered a great deal of other information and cannot personally vouch for same but it is the type of information that, if turned over to an intelligence agency, would be carefully checked. At Ucluelet Sound, for example, I am advised that there is a very striking Japanese lady who associates with Air Force and Navy men. There does not appear to be any reason why she should be in this neighbourhood. Another lady, living in Vancouver, has rooms in three or four different hotels and associates with Army men. I believe that the police have this information but nothing has been done.

There is a man, Mr. C. Nakamura, concerning whom I am conducting an investigation at the present time to ascertain whether or not he owns six boats registered in his name. He told the income tax people that the money came to him as a gift from Japan to buy the boats and it amounted to between twenty and thirty thousand dollars and was brought out in the latter part of 1938 and 1939. I am informed by British subjects who have been in Japan for years and who have just returned prior to the outbreak of war with Japan, that it was absolutely impossible to bring out American and Canadian money, as Mr. Nakamura said he did, as a result of Foreign Exchange regulations. If this is correct and Mr. Nakamura did bring the money out it would seem highly probable that he got the money with the consent of the Japanese Government and may sub-

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sequently have built two large boats for the purpose of employing naval officers who would come out and pose as fishermen. He admitted after a great deal of questioning that he purchased Japanese Government bonds to pay some of these fishermen who then returned to Japan.

It is also interesting to note that early in 1941 he sent his wife home sick, buying her a one-way ticket and she died there. He admits that Japanese desire to go to Japan to die.

There is published in Vancouver a paper called the "New Canadian" and the founder of this paper, I am informed, is now in Manchuria operating the Tokio controlled press there. This paper has published several editorials lately in which they refer to the injustices being done to the Japs and has talked about their being moved away into slavery. I am also advised that the police gave the editor of this paper a notice to publish requiring the Japanese to move over the mountains and the editor added a line to the notice telling them not to go.

The police freely admit that persons of the Japanese race are working in and around the railway points throughout the mountains and are working in positions at key points.

One of the daughters of F. Ikeda, a Japanese who returned to Japan in April 1939, and whose wife is here, obtained a position in October 1940 in Ottawa through the efforts of the R.C.M.P. With her father in Japan as a hostage it would be interesting to know what type of work she does in Ottawa.

There is a lawyer here called Albert Young who is an Eurasian. He does a great deal of Japanese business and is not above suspicion since he has not been accepted into the white society here. The R.C.M.P. admit they do not trust him, that he applied for a position in the Intelligence Branch, then the Censorship and finally in the various fighting units and they arranged to have all of his applications rejected. I know that this man, who claims to be a loyal British subject, is not prepared to give information, which he says he has concerning the Japanese, unless he is paid $5000.00. He claims he states this figure because it is the figure that the R.C.M.P. offered him to work for them. In view of the police statement that they wouldn't hire him, this is rather interesting.

In the case of the Continental Daily News, this publication has been suspended because it is a Japanese language newspaper. The managing editor and the business manager called to see me and said that unless something was done immediately they intended to write to "K" in Ottawa. I told them I thought this was a good idea and in any event it was no concern of the Custodian but was a problem for the police. They stated that, while the police would not permit them to print their paper, the Seattle Japanese language papers were being distributed here. The police say this is not true and I am endeavouring to obtain a copy of the paper.

The following statement is absolutely hearsay but is worth investigating. It is that certain important information adverse to the Japanese which was forwarded to "I" in Ottawa did not reach its destination but was sidetracked by a certain individual who has definite ambitions.

I have prepared a map showing some of the Custodian's properties in British Columbia and it is interesting to note that each red square means that there is an enemy Japanese business there and that persons of the Japanese race are in the neighbourhood to work in that business.

In the Queen Charlotte Islands group there are several properties and the west coast of these islands, I am informed, are practically uninhabited with deep inlets which could easily harbour submarines and refueling stations. I am told that the police boat used in this neighbourhood is not large enough to go out on the west coast.

There is a Japanese population along the Bella Coola River and this river gives access to the interior of British Columbia behind the Coast Range and behind Vancouver.

There are several properties around Ucluelet Inlet which is the big air base and amunition dump.

The Nanaimo Shipyards is on an island directly opposite the C.I.L. power magazine.

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There are Japanese living on three islands in close proximity to James Island where a large munitions plant is situated.

There are Japanese situated on both sides of the Fraser River which is in close proximity to two railway bridges which could completely tie up all railway traffic into Vancouver except through the United States.

Up the Fraser River on the North shore there is a large Imperial Oil refinery. I saw this refinery two weeks ago and all of the tanks, etc., shone brightly in the sun and appeared to be painted with aluminum. They are on a hillside and make an Al target for any lone suicide raider.

I had lunch with the Council for the Trail Smelter and I was advised by him that the smelter, which produces 50% of all the brass used in the Empire war effort, has no protection whatever against an air attack and that it is a visible target for miles.

When Mr. C. Nakamura was in to see me the other day I asked him what his attitude was towards the war and he had the nerve to tell me that he was neutral and that he was not prepared to kill Japanese or fight for Canada. I admire him his frankness but cannot understand the police the police allowing him to be at liberty. I have noted that this same attitude prevails in many cases and in many other cases where Japanese fathers and sons are in Japan there is an ideal set up for pressure to be brought to bear on the relatives here.

I have been told that "K" hopes to be the next ambassador to Japan after the war. This may or may not be true but it would be interesting to know why the committee was disbanded when that committee was the only officially recognized channel for the anti-Japanese members of same to contact the Prime Minister. I am absolutely convinced that the police are sincere, are anxious to do a good job but are afraid to move and I am also convinced that this province is full of fifth columnists who could be split wide open if a proper intelligence system were established. The solution, as I see it, is for an intelligence organization to be established for anti-sabotage work similar to the English system, which would mean it would be under the Secretary of State. The British Government would, no doubt, be pleased to assist in its organization and loan experts, particularly to handle the Oriental work in British Columbia. Given a few months to operate in this province, I am convinced they could unearth a great deal of information that would considerably enlighten the authorities as to the actual situation in this province.

The above are only a few random notes on specific cases but they do indicate that there is a situation here that should be carefully gone into. As far as I know there have been no raids on Japanese stores or houses to obtain information or see what these houses contain, as there have been in the United States. With the Custodian in control of a store like T. Maikawa and Company and since the son is a very cocky individual and the father is in Japan, and he will not account for large sums of money which he has received, it might be arranged to wire the store for sound for the police and see what goes on in the private offices during the day. This is only one sample of what might be done.

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MEMORANDUM

Re: Chosuke (Charles) Nakamura

1. Came to Canada in 1910 and was naturalized in 1921.

2. Wife died on November 12, 1941, in Japan and father died in Japan on November 6, 1941.

3. When wife went to Japan at the end of February she took daughter, who is three years old.

4. Also has a son of eleven years in Japan, the son of his first wife. Both children living with Nakamura's mother at Sendai.

5. Has been over to Japan every year for last number of years, the last time being in the spring of 1939, accompanied by Yohei Umetsu and Ginzo Nakimoto who brought out some of the money.

6. States he owed no money in Japan on December 7, 1941, except a disputed amount of 4000 Yen. Did owe 22000 Yen and paid 18000 Yen by sending money to the creditor in Saidi. This money was sent after the outbreak of war in 1939 and was arranged with Mr. Montgomery of the Royal Bank and the payment was made out of his own account.

7. States that his father was a Buddhist, that he was a Buddhist but that he goes to no church now and that his wife was a Shinto. He says he didn't expect his wife to die in Japan but admits that he did not buy a return ticket either for his wife or daughter and he further admits that the Japanese like to be buried in Japan.

8. Income Tax Returns show he brought into Canada from 1938 to the end of 1939, money which he claims was given to him by his father in Japan in Japanese Yen. With particular reference to the $20,000 brought in in 1939, he claims that he and the other two Japanese smuggled this money out of Japan in Canadian and American bills. He claims that this money was given to him by his father as his inheritance in anticipation of his father's death.

9. Claims that all money brought in from Japan was deposited in the Royal Bank and that Mr. Montgomery was informed at the time that he had brought it in from Japan. Claims that his father gave him the equivalent in Yen which he took to an Exchange House in Yokohama and exchanged for Canadian and American funds in the spring of 1939. A party who returned from Japan a few years ago states that it was absolutely impossible in 1939 to get U.S. or Canadian dollars on any exchange in Japan without the consent of the Japanese Government.

10. Claims the last importation of fishing gear, etc. was in 1939. When asked about an importation in 1940 worth $4000.00 said he couldn't remember it. Says he paid for all the gear received. States that Foreign Control Board permits were received in every case from the Royal Bank.

11. States he has an account in Royal Bank but no account or safety deposit box anywhere else.

12. When he sold some of his boats through the Japanese Fishing Vessels Disposal Committee he deposited the balance of $13,500.00 received after paying certain claims.

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13. Claims that he has no interest in M. Furuya & Company and was very reluctant to admit that they made certain deposits on engines for him while in Japan.

14. Bought couple of engines from the Atlas Engine Company and said one was for Mr. Hylman Tarkanan of Saintula and one for a Mr. Myers.

15. Claims all boats built by the Union Boat Works and all paid for.

16. Claims he has no connection whatsoever with Union Boat Works but admits that George Nakimoto is a brother of the owner of the boat works.

17. Purchased Japanese Government bonds which he used to pay the fishermen who were returning to Japan. Claims to have purchased them with Yen given to him by his father in Japan and the bonds were delivered to fishermen when they arrived there.

18. When asked what his attitude was towards the war he replied that he was neutral and that he was not prepared to kill Japanese or fight for Canada.

19. Reported to be quite a wealthy man.

20. Described by those who know him well as a nice fellow to deal with, no off colour dealings but smart as a trap and about the smartest of the whole fishing crowd.

21. A new Cannery, the North Shore Packers Ltd., just started up last season by white people depended entirely on Nakamura's fishing boats to supply them with fish. The suspicion is that Nakamura, contrary to B.C. Provincial law, has an interest in the operation of the Cannery.

22. Nakamura buys the entire catch of fish obtained by what are described as a "wild bunch" of Finnish fishermen at Sointual. Though the white people have offered these Finnish fishermen a higher price for their fish than they received from Nakamura, they refused to sell to anyone but him. It may be that he has some financial hold over them.

23. Sometime before the war Mr. Nakamura was in Japan. It was after the Japanese Government had put monetary restrictions in force. Nakamura had had some dealings with buying Engines for boats and in spite of the fact that it was extremely difficult to get money out of Japan he was able to cable the money from Japan to close the deal. He must have some pull with the Japanese Government.

24. Was toastmaster at a wedding reception at the Buddhist Temple at Mission, the brother of the groom being Rev. K. Tsuji, a Buddhist Priest there. Buddhist priests have an intense loyalty to Japan.

25. Information from Seattle tells a out the North Shore Packers negotiating with an Insurance Company to insure their boats as they had bought Nakamura's fleet of 10 boats. Information available indicates that the North Shore Packers are in no position financially to purchase these boats.

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February 17, 1942.

MEMORANDUM RE C. NAKAMURA

The above party came in on my request at 11:45 Monday, February 16th and was here for about an hour. I made notes of the questions asked and of his answers and he was aware that I was making notes. The questions and answers are as follows:

1.	Are you a Canadian?	Yes. I came to Canada in 1910 and was naturalized in 1921.
2.	Are you married?	Yes. My wife died on November 12, 1941 in Japan and my father died in Japan on November 6, 1941. My wife went over to Japan at the end of February and took my daughter. I have a boy in Japan, the son of my first wife. My daughter is three years old and my sond is eleven. They are living with my mother at Sendai.
3.	When were you last in Japan?	In the spring of 1939. I have been going over to Japan every year for the last number of years. In the spring of 1939 Mr. Yohei Umetsu and Ginzo (George) Nakimoto were in Japan with me and they brought some of the money out.

He states that on December 7, 1941, he owed no money in Japan except a disputed amount of 4000 Yen. He claims that he did owe 22000 Yen and that he paid 18000 Yen by sending money to the creditor in Saidi and told his father to contact them and settle. He says this money was sent after the outbreak of war in 1939 and was arranged with Mr. Montgomery of the Royal Bank. The payment was made out of his own account.

He states that his father was a Buddhist, that he was a Buddhist but that he goes to no church now and that his wife was a Shinto. He claimed that although she was sick she just went home for a visit for her health and he did not expect her to die there. He admits that he did not buy a return ticket either for his wife or his daughter and he further admits that the Japanese like to be buried in Japan.

As regards the money which the Income Tax returns show he brought into Canada from 1938 to the end of 1939, he claims that the money was given to him by his father in Japan in Japanese Yen. With particular reference to the 20000 dollars brought in in 1939, he claims that he and the other two Japanese smuggled this money out of Japan in Canadian and American bills. He was quite emphatic that they brought the money in their pockets. He did not remember the names of the boats they travelled on but is to let me have this information. His father was in the fish packing business and he has one sister and one brother in Japan. He argues that the money which he brought into Canada was given to him by his father as his inheritance in anticipation of his father's death.

He states that all the money he brought in from Japan was deposited in the Royal Bank and that Mr. Montgomery was informed at the time that he had brought it in from Japan. He claims that his

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JAPANESE

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father gave him the equivalent in Yen which he took to an Exchange House in Yokohama and exchanged the Yen for Canadian and American funds in the spring of 1939. He states that he had to do a lot of talking to get the money from his father but that the money was a straight gift and that he owes no money whatsoever to any enemy and no enemy has any interest in the boats or any property controlled by him.

As regards the importation of fishing gear, etc., he states that he keeps books as C. Nakamura & Company and that the last importation was in 1939. Mr. Gardner asked him about an importation in 1940 worth $4000.00 but he could not remember this. In any event he says he has paid for all the gear received. He states that Foreign Exchange Control Board permits were received in every case from the Royal Bank where he states he has an account but no safety deposit box. He states he has no account or safety deposit box anywhere else.

Out of the proceeds of the sale of boats last week he says that he deposited the balance of $13,500 received after paying certain claims.

As to his connection with M. Furuya & Company, he claims that he has no interest in this company and was very reluctant to admit that they made certain deposits on engines for him while in Japan. He states that the boats were all made by the Union Boat Works and all paid for. Insofar as the "Kuroshio" and "Arashio" built in 1939, are concerned, these were all paid for. These boats cost a total of $40,000. The Navy has requisitioned them and there are two mortgages or $7000.00 and $8500.00. He states that in 1939 he paid the Union Boat Works approximately $20,000.00 and that he paid the engine companies the balance.

As to his connection with the Union Boat Works, he claims there is none whatsoever but admits that George Nakimoto is a brother of the owner of the boat works. He is to let me have full information as to the boats he and his two friends brought the money over on.

NOTES:

1. I am informed that the Union Boat Works show no monies paid to them by him in 1939.

2. I am informed by a friend who returned from Japan a few years ago that it was absolutely impossible in 1939 to get U. S. or Canadian dollars on any exchange in Japan without the consent of the Japanese Government.

3. I have also been informed that Nakamura purchased Japanese Government bonds which he used to pay the fishermen who were returning to Japan. When I challenged him on this he hesitated in answering and I told him I knew the answer and he then admitted that it was true. I asked him if it was not a fact that Japanese came from Japan, worked for him for a short time, were paid by him in Japanese bonds and then returned to Japan. He smiled at this and said that he had paid some Japanese with Government bonds but that they were people who lived here. I couldn't see what use the Japanese bonds were to them and asked him how he purchased them. He said that he purchased them with Yen given to him by his father in Japan and the bonds were delivered to fishermen when they arrived there.

GWMcP/FC.

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April 8, 1942

MEMORANDUM RE CANADA DAILY NEWS.

Mr. Takahashi, a member of the Special Japanese Committee which holds forth at the Nippon Club, called and wishes to purchase the Japanese type for $400. The editor values the type at $5000.

Upon questioning, Mr. Takahashi admitted that Mr. Kagetsu is the man who wants to buy the type with the sole intention of storing it for the duration of the war. He stated that the paper had been founded by the former Japanese Consul, now deceased.

He also admitted that the founder of the Canada Daily News returned to Japan sometime ago to become the editor of the Government paper in Manchuria, and that he has now retired to Japan.

GWMcP/MS

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January 31, 1942.

MEMORANDUM RE F. IKEDA & COMPANY

It is interesting to note that this party returned to Japan in April 1939 and that his wife has returned here and lives at 1740 Powell Street. One of the daughters obtained a position in Ottawa in October 1940 through the R.C.M.P.

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January 24, 1942.

MEMORANDUM RE KAGETSU AND OCEAN TIMBER COMPANY

I called on Sergeant Barnes today with Mr. Gardner and in the course of the conversation discussed Mr. Kagetsu. I told Sergeant Barnes that I had information that while Kagetsu was a naturalized British subject he was wealthy, the owner of a lumber mill at Fanny Bay and that in 1941 he made a trip to Japan and Manchuria for three months and went with Mr. Juzo Suzuki, the editor of the Canada Daily News, who has been interned. It is reported to me that Kagetsu paid all expenses. I asked the police what they thought of this and, while Sergeant Barnes, indicated that he wouldn't trust Kagetsu and thought he was possibly a dangerous party, he had nothing sufficient to intern him for and thought if he did intern him he might be released at Ottawa and the R.C.M.P. would lose face in this Province as far as the Japanese population is concerned. Personally I think this is a ridiculous situation to exist in regards to him, that is, the situation that he might be released from Ottawa if interned. Sergeant Barnes pointed out that they must, under no circumstances, take any action to intern a British subject. In any event it doesn't appear that we can get the R.C.M.P. to do anything about Kagetsu.

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January 30, 1942.

MEMORANDUM RE NORITAKE AND DR. KEENLEYSIDE

Mr. Noritake is the Japanese, Canadian naturalized, who was arrested in Seattle and, as he states, was released as a result of a wire to Dr. Keenleyside. He is married to one of Timura's daughters, and was in my office today discussing the annual meeting of the Japan and Canada Trust Savings Co.

When leaving he advised that he had just received a second letter from Dr. Keenleyside congratulating him, I presume on his return to Canada, and as he says, stating that we are passing through trying times but that a better understanding will possibly emerge from this war with Japan.

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January 24, 1942.

MEMORANDUM RE NORITAKE AND JAPAN & CANADA TRUST

During my conversation with Sergeant Barnes I referred to Noritake and the fact that he was insisting that the Japan & Canada Trust be carried on in business. I told him that Noritake advised me that while he had been arrested in the United States, all he had to do to get released was to wire Dr. Keenleyside in Ottawa. Serg. Barnes claimed that this was not correct and that he was released, not because of any wire that he sent to Keenleyside, but because the American authorities, realizing he was a Canadian Jap, deported him. Serg. Barnes also admits in the case of this party, as in the case of Kagetsu, that he doesn't trust Noritake and feels that he may be a dangerous Jap but that he cannot intern him for the same reason, namely, that he is a British subject, and if he does intern him he might be released and the R.C.M.P. would lose face. The face of the R.C.M.P. seems, to me, to be more important than the fact that Noritake and such persons that he may be operating with, if he is an enemy, may destroy any number of Canadian citizens

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January 24, 1942.

MEMORANDUM RE ALBERT YOUNG, BARRISTER

While seeing Serg. Barnes today I discussed Albert Young with him in a general way and he told me that Young was an Eurasian and that he had applied for a job in the Intelligence, in the Censorship and finally in the various fighting units. In all cases the police had arranged for his application to be turned down. They do not trust him and feel that he is possibly anti-British but again they say that they cannot do anything since he is a British subject and is in the same class as Kagetsu and Noritake. He told me that under no circumstances would the police trust Mr. Young and also that they could not intern him. He told me that they might be interested in knowing how much money he had in his bank account and what the various recent drawings on same had been. Apparently they are not interested enough to obtain the information themselves and he suggested that I get it

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DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Ottawa, December 27, 1941.

Dear Mr. Noritake,

I was very sorry to learn from your telegram that you had run into difficulties on the boundary at Blaine. Immediately on receiving your communication I asked our Legation in Washington to take the matter up with the State Department and I subsequently heard that you had been released after only two day's delay.

I hope that you are not finding conditions in Vancouver too difficult in these very trying times. It has been gratifying to receive repeated assurances from the Coast to the effect that the Japanese-Canadian community is cooperating so wholeheartedly in matters relating to national defence.

With kindest personal regards and in the hope that 1942 will be a happier year for us, I am

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) H.L. Keenleyside.

Teigo Noritake, Esq.,
1950 Nelson,
Vancouver, B.C.

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Questions for Glen -

date of wedding April 15 ~~22~~? following weekend?
Are back from Ott next week? after this wedding?

Secretary of State Minister" in Jan '42 -
spelling of Corbett ~~Drawdy~~? Shears Drewry? Norwich Union
Drewry? leave from Ont.

Fl. Carroll's term from 1942 - till Oct.

what actually happened to the 112 ~~wooden~~ fishboats
... Cars in Kootenay Park - sued?

Custody moved to fresh water

We don't want it known that you did [illegible] know about it' - after your time were you called?

Jap land resale to Veteran Land Act

to get back into production

Custodian sold some - by independent appraisers

A Gould
Do we mention the 1927 War Measures Act -

Movies book - P. 15. Convicts released to fish? 1974
Glen doesn't?

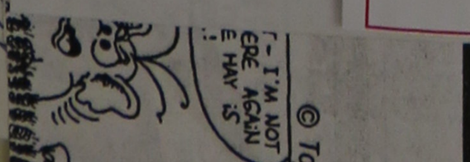
What happened to 13 million claim in hockey? Canadian Widows of soldiers captured in Hong Kong? 1986)

find out: Glen Dees

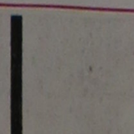
Lucas Allen Dec '42
Elgin Read.

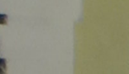
BC Security
Austin Taylor
Len Boultbee
Alex Eastwood
RCMP Corporal Jack Mead
John Shiras
Bulldog Hipps

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LIONEL SPELLER

Interned Japanese owe thanks, ex-envoy says



Denny Boyd

THE FEDERAL GOVERNment says it is sorry but will not compensate Japanese-Canadians for their internment during the Second World War.

Vancouver businessman Frank Bernard feels not even an apology is necessary.

He thinks Japanese-Canadians should thank Canada for the humane treatment they received.

Bernard represents the other side at the heart of the lingering Japanese-Canadian story, the side that does not bleed.

Last week, after studying a report from an all-party committee, the federal government concluded that injustice had been done to the relocated Japanese-Canadians, expressed regret over "the deprivation and hardship suffered by most members of the Japanese-Canadian community" but declined to express that regret in the form of reparation payments.

Bernard hopes this will end what he calls, "the Liberal government's self-flagellation" over an issue he feels is little understood by most Canadians.

Bernard was there. He was right in the middle of it.

A Canadian citizen, Bernard was the Vancouver-based honorary vice-consul of Spain at the time of the Pearl Harbor attack.

When Canada declared war on Japan, Spain was approved by both countries as the third-party protecting power, the neutral intermediary, serving under the rules of the Geneva Convention and reporting through the International Red Cross.

By that agreement, all of the 30,000 Japanese in Canada, 22,000 in B.C., came under Frank Bernard's consular jurisdiction. Until the end of the war, he had unlimited access and insight into the system set up by the Canadian government under Prime Minister Mackenzie King to relocate the Japanese-Canadians.

He had unlimited access to their new communities. His duties were to monitor and report on the living conditions of the relocation camps in Tashme, Slocan, Bridge River, Kaslo and New Denver and to serve as an intermediary for their complaints.

Bernard says: "The impression has been given that the Canadian authorities in charge of security after Pearl Harbor were monsters without a drop of the honey of human kindness. In fact, just the opposite is the truth. Never in the history of warfare have members of an enemy race been treated so humanely.

"In a time of near panic and wartime circumstances, the RCMP did a remarkable job of rounding up every Japanese on the coast.

"Remember, this happened when many Canadians were worked up in a frenzy of fear that most assuredly would have led to lynching and brutalization, had the Japanese not been protected.

"Many of today's loudest critics were the same ones who, in 1942, cried for vengeance and harsh treatment when there was fear of Japanese landing on our coast, continued reports of victories by Japanese invasion armies and horrendous reports of brutal treatment of Allied prisoners of war by the Japanese."

After the relocation, Bernard was the arbitrator. He visited every camp once a month, spending a day or two in each, often accompanied by an RCMP official or a representative of the International Red Cross.

He knew some of the people in the camps, a few had been his classmates at King George High, but his relationship with them was impersonal.

Bernard says of the Japanese-Canadians: "I believe 95 per cent of them were loyal to Canada under normal circumstances, but who knows how many of them might have turned had the Japanese invaded the west coast, as was the real fear at that time. The other five per cent were enemies of this country.

"In each camp, there were traitors to Canada, more among the foreign-born Japanese. But it was impossible to tell who was loyal and who was disloyal. The fate of Canada could have been affected by one traitor, especially in the event of an invasion. There was no other alternative to ensure security of Canada's coast waters. Under similiar conditions today, the decision undoubtedly would have to be the same."



FRANK BERNARD
. . . 1942 photograph

Bernard defends the system of internment as fiercely as he does the necessity.

"During the war, the standard of living of more than 80 per cent of the evacuees was actually raised. The B.C. Security Commission provided better education, better medical attention and better diet than the majority of the Japanese had enjoyed before the war," he says.

"The camps were warm, dry and comfortable. Capable people were placed in charge of each camp and the International Red Cross inspected the camps regularly. Excellent medical and education facilities were set up for each camp. For the 80 per cent I mentioned, the facilities were significantly better than they had when most of them lived in substandard areas in Vancouver, Steveston and Prince Rupert.

"Bear in mind, too, that this took place, in wartime, while Canadian internees were dying from beri beri, slave labor and brutality."

Bernard recalls that when the Japanese internees complained to him about the removal of soya sauce from their diets, the Canadian government constructed a soya processing plant at Tashme. He also settled a brief strike, explaining to Japanese-Canadians working on the Hope-Princeton Highway project that wartime strikes were inappropriate, especially by internees.

Bernard faces the seizure and sale of Japanese-Canadians' homes, fishing boats and personal possessions without apology.

"I was permitted to intercede in property matters on behalf of the Japanese. To imply intentional injustice in regard to Japanese properties is a gross untruth," he says.

"Real estate during that period had practically no market and land prices were ridiculously low. A five-room house could be bought for $3,500 or rented for $45 a month. New cars cost $1,000. The minimum wage was $65 a month.

"Bearing in mind the existing markets and the fact that hundreds and hundreds of properties, businesses, automobiles and boats had to be liquidated in a short time, I think the custodian, Glen McPherson, did a remarkable job in an orderly and honest fashion with good accountability. Admittedly, this brought material hardship to many of the Japanese, but keeping everything in fair perspective and considering the alternatives, such as those practised by the enemy, the Japanese were very fortunate.

"The Japanese problem was a serious one but it was handled with good sense, compassion and efficiency. I take my hat off to the people, most of them dead now, who were part of this humanitarian project."

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