

Vancouver Centre Liberal Association Nominating Convention

September 18, 1944

There is one other issue very dear to our hearts here in British Columbia, affecting as it does the security of our homes and of our shores in days to come.

On that subject I wish for a moment to divest myself of the mantle of ministerial responsibility and speak to you in a very personal way as one British Columbian to another.

I refer to the subject of the Japanese in Canada.

The Prime Minister made a magnificent statement in Parliament the other day and I support him in that policy as far as it goes.

He has laid it down as the policy of the Dominion of Canada that all disloyal Japanese shall be expelled from Canada, that there shall be no further Japanese immigration, and that Japanese shall not be permitted to concentrate in any one province as they did in the past.

But I should like to go farther.

I maintain that British Columbia must be declared and continued to be a security zone, that no Japanese shall be permitted to have his residence or domicile at any place between the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific Coast.

Let that be our slogan for British Columbia: —

No Japanese from the Rockies to the sea.

I ask my fellow citizens of Vancouver Centre and of British Columbia as a whole to range themselves beside me on the issue and to serve notice on the rest of Canada that we will not have Japanese in this fair Province.

We as British Columbians insist upon our right to have our country protect us from this menace.

Hon. Ian MacKenzie's speech, dated 8 September 1944, Vancouver, B.C. Selected excerpts. Courtesy of British Columbia Archives: MS-0915