

Mr. MacINNIS: I can add a little to the discussion and the minister can give his answer then. If a Canadian citizen helps a foreign enemy, it does not make any difference if he does it in this country or outside, he has committed treason, and if he is in this country the law of the land applies to him. If he is out of the country, the moment he returns the law of the land applies to him as well. Surely we should not do things on a racial basis just because a person happens to do a certain thing in one country. There is a law to apply in this case, and if we apply the law rigidly, fairly and justly in every case we shall take care of every case. Therefore, in my opinion, the points raised by the hon. member for Vancouver South do not really exist as difficult points. They are questions of application of the law, as the law stands; and if we apply the law, then the situation is met.

Mr. REID: Of course many of us differ with the views of the last speaker—

Mr. MacINNIS: All right; you also differ with the views of the Secretary of State.

Mr. REID: All the hon. gentleman says may be true, but we are speaking now particularly of persons in this country, whether Japanese or others, who are sitting here holding two citizenships. My whole public fight has been against this. I realize that a child has no control over what its parents may do, but I say when that child reaches the age of twenty-one years, if he is a registered citizen of Japan and looked upon by that country as a citizen, then that person should take some steps to renounce his foreign allegiance, if he really is a Canadian and has been born in this country. Our anxiety under the bill is this. Many Japanese have left this country and then returned making no bones about where their loyalty and their support lie.

Mr. MARTIN: Is that person a natural-born Canadian?

Mr. REID: Yes; I am speaking about a natural-born Canadian. I have here a return brought down in this house concerning one man, and this is not an isolated case. It deals with one Noboru Yamamoto, who was born in this country, who then spent fifteen years in Japan and finally returned to this country while we were at war. When the war was at its toughest he was asked by this government to do some work. He refused, and his letter to the Minister of Labour was most astounding. I am going to read it; it is dated May 22, 1944:

To the Honourable the Minister of Labour:

I am sorry to interrupt your precious time for stating my concerns—

I am reading this letter just as it was written.

—but I think you will be kind enough to listen and judge to what I state under the following order.

Now I am already 21 years old. Speaking from this standpoint I must be working or otherwise, be serving in the armed forces in this country, however, as I came here from Japan just before the war, 1940, after being educated 11 years school course there; I have no desire to be working for this country especially in this war time because such work would be considered as though I were helping this country to win the war against Japan.

I feel very sorry to Japan if I do work, as you might have been already noted that the Japanese have very strong patriotism to their mothers country, especially in the war time; they are willing to offer everything that they have to their country even their life if they asked to do so.

There is no exception in my case to this conclusion particularly as I have been under the military training while in the school course there.

I know that there is left only two ways by which I can keep my living in this country. The first and best thing is to keep my studying until the end of the war. By doing so, I would neither hurt Canada nor Japan. The next thing is to be interned or imprisoned until the end of the war however this would hurt Canada.

Although I have no intention to hurt this country, there is no alternative course left for me, but to be interned or imprisoned if the selective service or commission (B.C. security commission) would force me to work.

I here professed my suggestion so that there will be left nothing indefinite between us.

Will you be kind enough to tell me if there is left any chance by which I could keep my study in the east? I hope to receive your answer as early as possible.

Mr. FULTON: What happened to him?

Mr. SINCLAIR (Vancouver North): He was not shot, anyway.

Mr. REID: I really cannot tell the hon. member what happened. I do not think anything very startling happened to him, but he kept on writing letters to Ottawa. I notice that in one letter to the selective service authorities he says, "I also have stated my reason fully to the general Spanish consul." Here was a man born in this country, and he is only one of many. At his birth he was registered in Japan; his parents saw to that. Then he and others went to that country, to which they owed allegiance. There they are registered as Japanese nationals and Japanese citizens, and the government of Japan intimated that it would do its utmost to protect them in this country. Then he comes back, and this is the kind of letter he writes to the minister.