

I was going to move the deletion of this clause if Mr. Mutch had not moved his motion, but at the moment I think I shall support his amendment, although I do not see any reason in the world why it should remain in the Act even until March, 1949. It is a contradiction of the principle of Canadian citizenship. As a matter of fact, it sets up first- and second-class citizenship. I oppose that, and the mere fact that this government has seen fit to continue the disabilities under which persons of the Japanese race now live in Canada is no reason why we should leave this in the Act.

I should like to quote an editorial that appeared on the editorial page of the *Winnipeg Free Press* of April 19, 1948, on this matter. It is entitled: "No votes for B.C. Japanese." It reads:

The British Columbia government has finally decided not to give the vote to Canadian Japanese. Unlike the Chinese, and the immigrants from India, who were at last enfranchised in British Columbia last year, the Japanese are to remain second-class citizens for some time yet.

The government's excuse for this purely racial discrimination is remarkably frail. It says in effect that since the federal government is still forbidding Japanese to enter the Pacific coast area, the legislature has no right to allow such people to enjoy the rights of citizenship. Thus the extension of the federal government's regulation against the Japanese on the coast has produced an immediate evil, apart from the general evil of any discrimination against any minority.

This overlooks the fact that there are at the present time Canadian citizens of Japanese origin residing in the city of Vancouver, and because of this section of the Act they are singled out as people who cannot vote in the election that is being held there today. I think it is an outrage that Canadian citizens should not accept. I cannot see how it can be accepted by anyone who has any pretensions at all to democratic procedure, let alone any pretensions to liberalism. Then it overlooks the fact, too, that the restrictive order which prevents persons of Japanese race going to the Pacific coast in British Columbia only covers a part of British Columbia which is 100 miles from the coast inland, and there are persons of Japanese origin who have resided in the interior of British Columbia for years, who settled there, who were born there, who have reached manhood and womanhood there. In the Okanagan valley in the Yale riding where an election was held the other day there are Canadian citizens of Japanese origin who were born and brought up there and yet because of this section were not allowed to vote.

I appreciate the amendment proposed by Mr. Mutch. It at least gives an indication that we are not going to stand any longer for this after the orders in council affecting the Japanese have expired on March 31, 1949, but I reserve the right to move for the deletion of this when the bill comes before the House.

The CHAIRMAN: I think we appreciate all the arguments Mr. MacInnis has made. It may be we are in a rather awkward position of having a decision on, shall we say, emergency powers with respect to these persons, but the House has already determined to carry on those powers until the 31st of March, 1949. For that reason I thought it might be desirable that this committee would consider the releasing of this disqualification at that time, having in mind the fact that we would be in a somewhat awkward position if we gave the vote to these people now and there happened to be a general election between now and the 31st of March. You would have the very anomalous position of a person being entitled to vote and yet somewhat restricted in his activity, and perhaps kept in an area where he normally would not want to vote.

I appreciate all the arguments Mr. MacInnis has made, and I am quite sure if the House were to reverse the decision about extending the controls