

status from any naturalized persons who now leave Canada for residence in Japan, or are deported from Canada pursuant to applications made and orders issued under P.C. 7355. Naturally we do not wish to have in Japan, in the person of anyone who was deported, a person still carrying the status of a Canadian citizen; I think we will all agree that should not be permitted. This order, however, has no application to Japanese nationals, nor does it apply to persons born in Canada. Its application is only to persons naturalized in Canada who have expressed a wish to go to Japan and who have not, as I have said, revoked this application before September 1, 1945; and also to naturalized persons who come under the third order which I have already quoted.

Mr. STEWART (Winnipeg North): For one reason or another a great number of Canadian citizens did not revoke their applications before September 2. Does that mean that automatically they will be deported, or do they have a right to appeal to some body?

Mr. ST. LAURENT: Perhaps I may be permitted to say a word, in view of the fact that I had something to do with the preparation of some of these orders. These orders purport to deal only with those who have asked to be deported, whether they be Canadian born or naturalized in Canada or Japanese nationals. With respect to those born in Canada who may not want to go at the time we can arrange to have them go, no decision has yet been made, because there was nothing in the statutory legislation which permitted of their being dealt with. The only ones who are to be forcibly dealt with under these orders are the naturalized Canadians of the Japanese race, or Japanese nationals. These orders do not purport to deal with Canadian-born persons of Japanese ancestry who had expressed a willingness to go, and who had revoked before September 1, nor with those who had expressed a desire to go, and had not revoked before September 1.

It was found upon examining the Immigration Act and the Naturalization Act that if anything was to be done about them, further legislation would be required; and it was not felt that it would be proper for the governor in council to enact that legislation under the War Measures Act or under the Emergency Powers Act, but that if and when it is done, it should be done by parliament itself.

Mr. STEWART (Winnipeg North): I should like to pursue this matter further. I am dealing only with Canadian citizens who are naturalized. Those who did not apply to revoke before September 2 are to be deported?

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

Mr. ST. LAURENT: Yes.

Mr. STEWART (Winnipeg North): In other words, there will be a distinction between Canadian-born citizens, and Canadian citizens who took out papers in this country?

Mr. ST. LAURENT: Yes.

Mr. STEWART (Winnipeg North): I think that is wrong; it is unjust.

Mr. ST. LAURENT: Apparently parliament did not think so when it passed the legislation now on the statute books.

Mr. GIBSON (Comox-Alberni): Would the Prime Minister give the committee the assurance that no persons of Japanese ancestry will be allowed at any time to return to the Pacific coast?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I do not think I can give that statement.

Mr. GREEN: What is the Prime Minister's answer?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Does the hon. member wish me to give a statement that persons of Japanese origin will not be permitted to return to the Pacific coast? I cannot give that statement.

Mr. MATTHEWS (Kootenay East): Mr. Chairman, I know the committee is eager to complete its business; yet as a new member I believe I have had as little to say as anyone. I have tried to be a good listener, and I have been gaining impressions every day so that a little later on I would be able to have a clear idea as to what really constitutes our Canadian parliament.

When this matter was being discussed under the estimates for the Department of Labour, the Minister of Labour made two statements which caught my attention. If I understood him correctly, he said, first, that this is no time for sitting on a fence. I understood him to mean that this is the time when people should take a stand on matters of vital interest.

Mr. MITCHELL: I think the hon. member has the dates wrong. I said that when a nation is in jeopardy is no time to sit on the fence—when you have your back to the wall, and when you are hanging on the ropes as we were when we stood alone in 1940 and 1941. That was the time I referred to; but not now. It is easy to sit on the fence now.

Mr. MATTHEWS (Kootenay East): I stand corrected.

The CHAIRMAN: I was afraid there would be reference to a previous debate, and that was why I mentioned to the hon. member for Van-