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TORONTO, ONT.

Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighan,
The Senate,
Ottawa,
Ontario

April 2nd, 1941.

Dear Sir:

Ever since the inception of the University of Toronto Women's War Service Committee I have been associated with Dr. George H. Duff, Vice-Chairman Committee for British Overseas Children.

Dr. Duff and myself have been endeavoring to have the matter of the foster parents of these children receive some consideration from the Federal Government in regard to income tax exemption.

I regret to say that so far we have had no success. I have two fine English boys at my home, and I have no regrets to express in any way for having taken these boys for the duration of the war, but I do think we should be given some consideration in regard to tax exemption.

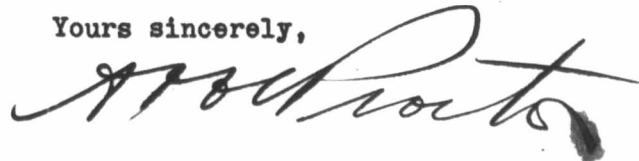
As you are aware, some thousands of British children came to this country in the spring and summer of 1940 and were taken into the homes of Canadian citizens. Many of these children came to the homes of friends or relatives by purely private arrangement. As many were arranged for by various organizations in this country and passed into the homes of perfect strangers where, nevertheless, they are supported entirely at the expense of their foster parents. Others again came out under the joint scheme of the Governments of the United Kingdom and of Canada. It is my understanding that the Federal Government is prepared to grant income tax exemption to the foster parents of children in the last-mentioned category only.

This seems to me unjust and discriminatory. If the foster-parent is supporting the child as if it were his own, what distinction based on public interest can be drawn between one child and another so supported or one foster parent and another so supporting?

Again, if a donor subscribes funds to a properly authorized agency carrying on a philanthropic form of public service, he is very properly allowed a deduction on account of his donation. But if instead of donating funds he accepts an equal financial burden in the support of a child or children and adds to this the onerous personal responsibilities of foster parenthood, his claim to consideration is rejected. This seems to me to put an unwarranted penalty upon the higher of the two forms of public service.

I am writing to urge this matter upon your attention in the hope and indeed the expectation, that some step will be taken for the relief of this anomalous situation by the House. It is my understanding that a substantial number of Members agree that allowance for foster parents should be made. I feel sure that we can count you amongst this number and earnestly bespeak your active influence in augmenting the present support for such a step.

Yours sincerely,



MEIGHEN PAPERS, Series 5 (M.G. 26, I, Volume 197)

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