

Mr. GLEN: That does not meet the presentation made by the delegation this morning. They wish the provincial franchise act extended to include the Japanese.

The CHAIRMAN: We have no jurisdiction in that matter.

Mr. GLEN: Then Mr. Neill's question as to why the presentation was not made to the British Columbia legislature instead of to this committee is in point.

Mr. MACNICOL: They have every right to come here if they desire to do so.

Mr. TURGEON: This delegation has every right to appear before this committee, and I wish to compliment them and, as a Canadian, to felicitate them, especially those who now live in British Columbia, for the manner in which they have made their presentation. They have demonstrated that educational facilities have not been neglected or denied to them. It is a question whether or not economic facilities have been denied to them, and also whether they have been denied because of any lack of the right to vote on election day when election day comes around. As a member of the committee which at some time will have to make a report to the House of Commons as to the results of its investigations, and as a member of the committee which is now seized with the necessity of dealing with this submission I do intend at some time or other to address the committee upon this question. I do not desire to do so to-day because I am not sufficiently informed as to exactly what has been presented to us. I would like to know whether when the committee meets again the members of this delegation will be present? If not, I would like to say one or two words to-day. Miss Hideko Hyodo, who so admirably expressed herself at the opening, mentioned the reference in the debate in the House of Commons to the setting up of this committee for the purpose of studying all matters related to the franchise. The reference was made by the prime minister to the effect that the question then under debate in the House of Commons could properly and better be considered in this committee. I presume that the members of this delegation know what was the subject of that particular debate in which that reference was made. Speaking from memory, because I have not seen this submission until to-day, and have not looked up Hansard, the debate in which that reference was made surrounded entirely the suggestion that Japanese living in any part of Canada, including British Columbia, should be excluded from Canada unless Canada were ready to force upon the people of British Columbia the necessity of giving the Japanese resident in that province the right to vote. I would like to know whether the delegation which is here to-day on behalf of the Japanese, and who are so thoroughly informed as to the position of the Japanese in British Columbia, have considered the suggestion that if the parliament of Canada is not ready to extend the right to vote to the Japanese in British Columbia they would prefer that exclusion proceedings should be adopted? Personally I would fight against exclusion proceedings to the utmost limit. If I were the only person in the House of Commons left to vote against exclusion I would do so. I mention that now because I do not want these thoroughly educated ladies and gentlemen from British Columbia to go back to that province with a wrong view of what is the sentiment either of this committee or the House of Commons as to the question that was presented to us as members of the House of Commons when the suggestion to which Miss Hyodo referred was made by the prime minister. Later on I intend to discuss this question, but I do not want to discuss it any further now. I mention that matter only because when we do discuss the question again the delegation from British Columbia and our learned friend from Wisconsin, and formerly of British Columbia, will not be with us.

Mr. REID: According to the information I have Japan does take quite an interest in her nationals abroad, and rightly so; and I understand that when children are born of Japanese parents in British Columbia the parents have