

160675

320 Bay Street, Toronto,
August 13, 1940.

Mr. R. M. Rive,
Ford Hotel,
Dorchester St.,
Montreal, Que.

Dear Mr. Rives

I have your letter of 9th.

The Federal Government, acting as it must under authority of the Parliament of Canada, cannot, of course, depose Mr. Houde as Mayor of Montreal. Nevertheless, acting within its proper powers it can intern Mr. Houde, and it will be pretty difficult for him to carry on the duties of Mayor while he is interned. Whether he remains nominally Mayor or not is entirely a matter for the Provincial authorities.

I think registration is a waste of time and money, and known to be so by the Government itself. They lost two years when they should have been busy before the war, seven or eight months after, and now are powerless to do things effectively because of the amount of material which it takes months, and in cases, years, to prepare for and supply. Registration and this next-to-worthless month's training of everybody is to my mind in the nature of camouflage and sham. Nevertheless, it is the law and everyone should obey the law. I think the Government were absolutely right in interning Mayor Houde, but arrogantly wrong in trying to suppress the statement which he made. The Government apparently thinks they should exercise the usual powers of incarcerating without trial in war time and forbidding the public to know what the man is incarcerated for.

Yours very truly,

AM/E.

President.

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