

Supply—External Affairs

The interview was brief, Mr. Reid said. Mr. King asked Mr. Robertson if the individual named in the letter denied the charge. Mr. Robertson made no reply and the interview was over. Mr. Reid declared his only mistake was in failing to mention two others in the same category.

These are serious charges. The people concerned, although no names were mentioned, feel that they were the ones in question, and if this statement is true, then these people have no business in the Department of External Affairs. They have no business in the service of the Dominion of Canada, and the Prime Minister should remove them from their positions at the earliest possible opportunity. If, however, the statement is not true, then the character of these people should be cleared, and it should be done publicly. I suggest that this is a matter that the Prime Minister cannot leave as it is now. He cannot do so in fairness either to the people of Canada or to the gentlemen concerned.

MR. MACKENZIE KING: I expected that my hon. friend or some other hon. member would bring up the question of the present position of the Japanese, and I am glad to have this opportunity to give to the house copies of orders in council which were passed on the fifteenth instant and which I think will in themselves serve to answer the questions my hon. friend has asked.

This is a matter to which the government has been giving very careful attention. It is not an easy matter to settle or to deal with, and as my hon. friend has rightly said, I had mentioned before that we would seek to deal with the whole question justly. May I say that we have sought to deal with it, and in doing so we have followed the ancient precept of doing justly but also loving mercy, and the orders in council which I now table will give expression to that approach.

I have in my hand three orders in council, P.C. 7355, P.C. 7356, and P.C. 7357 of December 15, all of which have been passed under the War Measures Act, to carry out the policy announced by the government on August 4, 1944, and November 21, 1945, with respect to Japanese people in Canada.

It will, I believe, assist in the understanding of these orders if I give a brief explanation of their purpose and effect. With the permission of the house I should like to table the orders before we rise this evening, and in the meantime I will give the substance of them. I will endeavour briefly to review the situation.

The general outline of the government's policy with regard to the Japanese was given in my statement of August 4, 1944, to which I have referred and which my hon. friend has

[Mr. MacInnis.]

also mentioned. As a first measure in its implementation, the government sought to determine which of the Japanese now in Canada did not wish to remain here after the war. On November 21 the Minister of Labour referred to the number of applications that had been received for movement to Japan. The minister announced that the government intended to order the removal from Canada of Japanese nationals who had applied for repatriation; of naturalized persons of Japanese origin who had similarly applied and who had not revoked their applications prior to midnight on September 1, 1945; and of Canadian-born Japanese who wished to go to Japan and who did not renounce such intention before an order for their deportation was made. The first order in council P.C. 7355, simply provides that the Minister of Labour may carry out this policy. He is not ordered to have the persons deported, but he is given the power to arrange for their movement.

In all cases in which removal from Canada is to be effected, it is provided that the persons involved shall be able to take out their personal property and all cash and other movable assets, and that they shall be able to sell or otherwise dispose of their real property or of anything else they do not wish to take with them. In addition, they are to be assured minimum liquid assets to assist in their resettlement to the extent of \$200 for each adult ordered deported, and \$50 for each dependent. In cases where the person going to Japan has a certain amount of cash, but less than \$200 plus \$50 for each dependent, he will be advanced the difference in order to bring his cash assets up to the minimum I have mentioned. In those cases where the persons to whom cash is advanced have assets with the custodian, the minister will recover his advances out of such assets.

The other clauses of the order simply provide the necessary administrative machinery to carry out the terms of the order.

The second order in council, P.C. 7356, provides for the removal of British and Canadian 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. It has, of course, 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, and also to naturalized persons who come under the third order which I shall now describe.