

considered at that time that international conditions were as bad as they could be without an eruption, and I believe to-day they are somewhat better. I hope that either the Prime Minister or whoever is in charge of external affairs will find time in the future to visit other countries with which we have intimate international relations.

What I wish to touch on more specifically is a matter which was discussed in the session of 1944 under the estimates of the Department of External Affairs. I do not see any item concerning it in the estimates before me; but since this point was discussed and the Prime Minister made a very full statement on it at that time, I am going to bring it up to-night. I refer to the position of our citizens of Japanese origin. Their position has not been satisfactory to them and certainly not satisfactory, I think, to other Canadians, and now that we have come to the stage where the war is over, there must be some final solution in this important matter.

I am sure the Prime Minister has received communications from many organizations across Canada, organizations which are waiting to hear what he has to say on this subject. Had there been more time, I would have quoted at length from the Prime Minister's speech of August 4, 1944, with which in large measure I agree. The fault which I find with it is that that policy, in my opinion, has not been carried out. I will content myself with reading from part of the paragraph which appears on page 5916 of *Hansard*. The Prime Minister said:

Those who are disloyal must be removed. That is clear. Surely however it is not to be expected that the government will do other than deal justly with those who are guilty of no crime, or even of any ill intention. For the government to act otherwise would be an acceptance of the standards of our enemies and the negation of the purposes for which we are fighting.

I agree with that whole-heartedly; it expresses my point of view absolutely. But I maintain that we have not dealt justly with these people, and it is for that reason that I wish the Prime Minister to-night, if he can, to give an assurance not only to these people themselves but to the people of Canada that democratic principles and the principles of freedom will be observed in our treatment of them. I should like to know if those who signed for repatriation and now wish to reconsider their signatures—

The CHAIRMAN: Order. I do not see anything in the estimates with regard to this matter. In fact it is my recollection that it was discussed previously in this committee under a different department.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I recollect, Mr. Chairman, that there was an understanding that, if we took up these estimates rather hurriedly at the end, considerable latitude would be allowed, and I should hope that this question would be one which we might permit to be discussed. Your ruling is strictly correct as to the particular item, but the understanding was that we would allow considerable latitude. That was the general agreement, and possibly the discussion can be continued.

The CHAIRMAN: If that is the wish of the committee the hon. member may proceed.

Mr. MacINNIS: I wish to thank the Prime Minister. You will recall, Mr. Chairman, that I drew your attention to the fact, when I began to speak, that there was not an item in these estimates under which I might speak. I was going to raise a few points on which I believe the people of Canada would like to have some assurance. First, will those who signed for repatriation and now want to reconsider be given that opportunity? Second, will children under sixteen years of age who are Canadian citizens and who are taken to Japan by their parents have their citizenship rights safeguarded? There is another question. When will the restrictions on the freedom of movement of these people be removed so that they can again take up their lives as free citizens of a free country? On these particular points I should like the Prime Minister to reply if he will.

There is another matter, and I refer to it particularly for the leader of this group, who is not able to be here to-night. It arises out of an item that appeared in a Vancouver newspaper on May 31, 1945. It was a statement made by the hon. member for New Westminster (Mr. Reid) during the election campaign, and it refers to high-ranking members of the Department of External Affairs, who are not named. I quote:

Tom Reid, Liberal candidate for New Westminster, took issue with Prime Minister Mackenzie King on the Japanese question here Wednesday when he charged:

"Prime Minister Mackenzie King is advised by men who had fine trips to Japan and were bribed by the Japanese previous to the war."

Declaring his policy regarding the Japanese question differed from that of Mr. King, he said:

"These higher up civil servants are putting in a plug for the Japanese on every occasion. When he was asked in the house to name an individual who had been bribed by the Japanese, he refused, but said he would write the name in a letter and send it to Mr. King. He did this and was later summoned to an interview attended by Mr. King and Norman Robertson, Assistant Secretary for External Affairs."