

[Right to vote correspondence]

March 20th, 1964.

The Honourable Geo. J. Pearson,
Minister of Labor,
Victoria, B. C.

Dear Sir:

I have your letter of the 18th instant, with newspaper clipping from the "Victoria Daily Times" of March 20th, 1964, enclosed, reporting your remarks in the House in reference to the East Indian and Chinese people.

While I wish to thank you for your letter and the clipping, may I add that when both were submitted to the members of the Chinese Broom Society, neither were accepted as an explanation or mitigation of your remarks in the House, which cast an aspersion upon the integrity, character and loyalty of the East Indian people.

If the attitude of many employers of labor in relation to their employees, or to existing labor legislation were held to be a criticism of their rights of citizenship, then I am sure that the right of franchise would be limited to other groups as well as the East Indians.

I cannot accept the clipping forwarded as being less derogatory in its implications than the reports from other papers, and which your letter would seem to imply is different in this respect. However I am concerned mainly with the East Indian people inside this Province, while your letter places your concern that you intended no reflection upon East Indians outside of this Province.

I have been instructed by my people to bring this matter again to your attention, with the request that you make clear in a public statement just what you desired to impress upon the House, and also to forward a fuller explanation and apology to the East Indian people of the Chinese Broom Society, than is contained in your letter of March 18th.

I am, Sir,

Yours very truly,

Reginald Singh Gill,
Secretary,
Chinese Broom Society.

IDENTIFIER
2021_07_1964