

NAME OF PROJECT: *Italian Canadians as Enemy Aliens: Memories of WWII*

TRANSCRIBED BY: Grant Karcich

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Recto [t-b, l-r]:

[typed] 104 Millwood Rd. Toronto. / Sept 22, 1940 / Dear Mr Perkins., / My husband was interned on Sept. 7, for violating the defence [sic] / of Canada Regulations, section 21. I believe you should be informed in case you / are not already, that anyone may sign an affidavit against anyone, and the / authorities will proceed to the arrest of the accused without further / investigation. You can readilysee [sic] how a certain type of individual would / use this scheme to put out of his way whoever may stand between him and / any sinister purpose he may have in mind. This has been the case with / my husband. / I went to see Mr. Mason, The [sic] lawyer for the United Church / about this, and he said that all that could be done was to have as many / letters reach the Minister of Justice as possiblefrom [sic] friends who will / testify to his character, activities, etc. In this respect I wish you / would write yourself and urge any good friends of his to do likewise, such / as Mr. Pinch, Mr. Megginson, Dr. Johnson, Mr [sic] Reid of the children's shelter, and Mr [sic] Curran of the Soo [sic] Star who, I understand printed regularly for a / time a number of articles written by my husband with the purpose of bringing / about a better [sic] understanding between the Italians and other Canadians. The / Church has written, and the Community Welfare Council is also taking a very / active interest in the case besides writing. / In order that you might be better informed regarding my / husband's activities since coming to Toronto, I am giving you a few incidents / which have occurred. Just previous to our coming to Toronto, a priest who was / apparently sent by the Italian Gov't gave an address in which he stated that / 2 "In order to be a Good Italian, one must be Catholic And [sic] Fascist." We were / afterwards told that a couple of men left our church as a result. We therefore / felt that it was our duty to show these people that it was possible to be / a good Italian without being either of these, and it was with this purpose in / mind that we mingled among these groups. I feel that we were succeeding / in our efforts because both the Consul and the priests were trying to remove / my husbands [sic] influence by trying to remove him [in ink] from his office in the Grand Lodge of / the Sons of Italy, [sic] My husband has never been in

sympathy with the Fascist / movement in this country but rather has been doing his best to fight it. / However, it is neither the priest nor the consul who had my husband arrested, but I believe it is a man who is interested in absorbing / the Order and its assets. This man is generally known to be a Communist. My / husband is not the only victim of this man's scheme. / I hope the information I have given you has made my husband's / position clear to you. I saw him to-night [sic]. He is very well and is keeping / very calm especially since I told him that his friends haven't lost their / faith in him. / Give my regards to Mrs [sic] Perkins.