

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

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Recto [t-b, l-r]:

[typed] March 19th 1941 [three forward slashes] / Mr. M. J. Coldwell, M.P. / House of Commons, / Ottawa. / Dear Mr [sic] Coldwell: / As you are taking an active interest in the plight of civil internees, / I believe the following information from our point of view [sic] should be helpful to you. / I know personally a good many of the Italians interned. Some have in / the past been active in the fascist organization, but many others are non fascists [sic], and / there are even some who are anti-fascist who are charged to be fascist. Among those / released are some who seemed [sic] to be very active fascists. These have no doubt satisfied / the Authorities that they were loyal Canadian citizens and would in no way hinder the / defence of Canada. I have in mind Gino Tiezzi of Ottawa [sic] who has been released. I know [sic] / him personally, he is a fine fellow, but I believe he was an ardent fascist. In Ottawa, / he was in charge of the fascist youth organization, instructing Canadian children of / Italian decent [sic] to fascist ideas. Compare the release [sic] of one such as Gino Tiezzi to / the detention of many such as Giulio Mancini, an old man of Brantford, a non fascist [sic], / father of ten children, one of whom is in the active service in the Canadian Army; and / Daniele Iezzi also of Brantford, father of nine children, all Canadians, a very fine / family, a non fascist [sic], I know them personally, and I could quote many more similar cases / who had their hearing, and I presume that because they were unable to state their cases / clearly, have been left to stay there away from their families. / The question has been raised among the Italians – why Camillo Vetere / is at large – Our information on the man is, that he was commissioned by the fascist / Government in Rome to organize and to supervise the Italian Fascios in Canada. In fact, / the existence of Italian fascio in Canada is due to the efforts of this man. The articles / which he [sic] wrote on “L’Italia”, an Italian weekly paper of Montreal, were without a / doubt, fascist propaganda. The fact that he is not interned has given rise to a very / suspicious question mark in the minds of all Italians. / In my own sphere of influence I have done my best to create a spirit / of unity among Canadians of various nationalities. I have at all times had the / conviction that our Government does what

it thinks right according to the circumstances / and informations [sic] at their disposal. I believe this is so even though this is war time [sic]. / I am afraid that in many cases our Authorities have been sadly misinformed, causing them / to commit grave errors. / I am anxious to have this wrongs [sic] corrected, first, because the thought / of so many innocent companions of misfortune still living away from home is very painful / to me; and second, because I fear that my efforts of over 20 years to foster harmony / between the national groups in Canada, will have failed, as many have come to the conclusion that, no matter what one does for Canada, there is always discrimination of / origin. / Yours respectfully,