

EFFIE JONES Background and Immigration Marriage 1.1.1.

The first time , I came up against the struggle of the people we were up our necks in snow when a group of men came to the door with ragged clothes on and some of them had holes in their shoes and the snow was very deep and they were singing and begging for money. They were miners, out of work, and they'd walked from South Wales up into Central Wales where we lived. And they were walking as far as Birmingham in Britain, begging as they went for pennies then. Later on, when I was in my teens, I went to stay with my uncle in Swansea, that's in South Wales, and he organized the railway men, in the South of Wales and he was a trade unionist. He influenced my thinking and from then on, I knew where my place was in society. I understood fully. But my father had died and of course my mother was principal of a school and she didn't see it my way at all, and never did.

Anyway, then I came to Canada. I got here on Christmas Day 1919 at 9:30 and I was married at 2:30 on Christmas Day. I had always had the vision that I would like to see Canada so that's why I came really. (I had seen my husband band before) for two days. Two evenings. I was going out with another teacher for one evening and the second evening I went out with him. But I was engaged to another man at the time who was in the army in Britain in the First World War, this all was. He said, 'If anything happens to this man would you write to me?' and really more for amusement I said, 'Yes.' Well, something did happen. The other one died in Britain. I waited six months and then I thought, 'I've seen some middle-aged school teachers in my mother's school and I've seen how miserable they are' (Laughter) and I was determined I wasn't going to live their kind of life. And of course, there was no chance in Britain. All the men were at war or were demobilized and so I wrote. He was in Saginaw, a place in Michigan. And he was a lineman.

And you see they were building up [redacted] the cities then and they were all working. They'd get work anywhere. He thought I would like [redacted] Vancouver better. So he booked my fare for Vancouver and he met me here. I was thirty then. I'd been teaching in Britain ever since, nine years, teaching after I was trained in Britain. Anyway, he [redacted] said, 'Well, would you like to get married right away or would you like to wait say two weeks?' [redacted] I remember [redacted] saying to him, 'Oh, I've had a [redacted] terrible journey.' It was in December, you see. Coming across the sea in a boat. I said, 'So I might as well get all the bad over at once.' (Laughter.) He laughed and said, 'Well, if we don't get on together I'll see you get a divorce.' But we did get on together very well. He worked first of all for the old B.C. Electric and then afterwards he went for the B.C. Telephone. He was thirty-three years working for B.C. [redacted] Telephones.

He was a great man for home life and he willingly stayed at home so that I could get out and do whatever I wanted to do. He was of the same opinion politically as I was. So we got on very well.

Then, I had one child, nine months after I came to the country. I remember saying to my husband, 'I'm not going to have any more children because I can't see them brought up and educated and finding work under this system.' And he agreed, and we never did have any. Then I said, 'It's [redacted] going to be very, very difficult to live under this system for a few years at least.'

I like sewing and I was making a dress. I had an idea Canada was all snow. So, I was making a blue serge dress to wear in Canada. And I was also making soup at home, the others were all out at [redacted] school and my stepfather and I were home. (~~By some mistake a piece of blue serge got into the soup~~). So

EFFIE JONES Evictions 1930s 1.1.1.

They put a widow, with a deformed son, from Fifth Avenue, and all her stuff on the street in the snow. She phoned up here, crying, to know would I come? I was just putting my husband's supper out. So I went straight away; it took me about fifteen minutes. I used to drive a car in those days. There was all this furniture; it would be very valuable to-day because it was mostly antiques. She was a pioneer in Vancouver. She owned property right down in the city, only she had to sell it because her husband had a long session [REDACTED] of cancer. At that time you couldn't get in the hospital. SO she nursed him at home, and he went that way. The she had this deformed boy, only about that high. They put them out on the street.

EFFIE JONES Strike Suport 1.1.1.1.

Spencer's had a department store where they ~~was~~ sold children's clothes at ~~the~~ cheaper rates. They were on strike for a long time and the women supported ~~the~~ that strike and it was hard on them because most of them went there to get clothes for ~~the~~ thier children. We went to Spencer's, asking them if something couldn't be done. Old Man Spencer, we told him, ^{UP} that we can't advise people to support him.

EFFIE JONES Community Conditions In Depression 1.1.1.

We bought the little house. I had the only phone in the district and we had the only car in the district [redacted] and I used to keep a book - the neighbours all around were out of work and they'd go to town and they'd try to walk to town - and they'd find, say, an hour's job, two hours - four hours was a wonderful long job - but they had no one to phone up to say when they could have it. See they had no phones then. They couldn't afford [redacted] them. So I kept my book and gave my phone number and then say some outfit in town wanted a man for two hours, well, I'd put down the name of the outfit and the time they wanted it. And these men used to come round at night to ask if there was anything for them. It was pitiful to see it; it was just pitiful.

There was a man over the other side, lived in a little shack and he was absolutely starving because of his political beliefs. He was an anarchist, he was so far to the left that you couldn't talk him into understanding that it wasn't any good at present. It was too far ahead. But we couldn't let him starve so we kept him; paid his taxes, everything. He used to [redacted] come, when I was at a meeting, if he [redacted] didn't see the smoke coming out of our chimney by four thirty, he'd come over and I'd get the meals all ready to put on the stove and he's put them on for me and that helped considerably, when I was out. He did the lawn and all that. Then I had another man over there, we couldn't afford to [redacted] keep him but I used to give him nine dollars every payday, that's every two weeks [redacted].

My husband had a mania for keeping chickens and he [redacted] didn't know the first thing about it, just [redacted] because his mother did in Britain. We had sixty chickens and they laid, and I couldn't eat thirty or forty eggs a day, I couldn't even use them. So all of the neighbours had my eggs, I used to

give them out. I was tired of the sight of chickens and eggs, we gave them all away.

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In fact I brought one or two of the third generation back. They all used to come, in the snow and all. My husband would drive in the snow and I would hold and look after them in the back seat to see that they didn't have the baby on the way to the hospital. (Laughter) Pretty near we had it twice.

Everybody was so broke then, during the Depression. They (neighbours) had an old garage, falling to pieces, at the bottom of the lot. He decided he'd pull it all down and build up a decent looking [REDACTED] garage. They had no car. A neighbour from over the street came over and said, 'What are you doing?' to Jock. He was a Scotsman. He said, "I'm building up the old garage again." He said, 'I'll come over and help you.' So he did. They put up this garage. Several months after, this man sent, through a lawyer, a bill for fifty dollars for labour. Fifty dollars was like [REDACTED] fifty million to them. So they brought it to me to know what to do. I had thought and thought [REDACTED] and I said, 'Have you ever done anything for him?' He said, 'I'll say I have. I've cut his hair always.' 'How many years?' So many he couldn't remember. I said, 'Alright. You come for the letter tomorrow and I'll give it to you then.' So they went back and I made up a bill for eighty-three dollars. (Laughter.) That's [REDACTED] the last they heard of it.

EFFIE JONES Community Conditions in the Depression 3.3.3.3.

All these young fellow they got nothing. They ^(the government) gave small sumes of money to the families, they had to. It was beyond belief. I have talked to people from Britian and they went through the Depression like most other countries in the world, but they didn't suffer the same as we did. [REDACTED]

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There was a lot of repression by the police. We couldn't have a public meeting here in Vancouver for a year or two, until Mayor Telford agreed to chair the ~~meeting~~ meeting about the increase in bread, by the Housewives' League. No ~~organization~~ organization that was progressive could have a ~~meeting~~ meeting. Even then, the police were at the meeting; one of the provincial and one of the Mounties, always at meetings. I had spoken at meetings when we dared them, and I often wondered how they left me alone. I made no secret of it; I wasn't ~~scared~~ scared. I'd made all arrangements ~~with~~ with my family if anything should happen, if I was picked up. (They came to meetings of the Housewives' League and would stand at the back in civilian clothes, but we got to know them and if I was chairing ^{the} meetings I always told them the police were at the back and they were listening to all we said.)

The powers that be were very scared of the Housewives' League. They went after the organizers of all the trade unions. Some of them were put in jail back East. I was surprised that they didn't get me. It wouldn't

EFFIE JONES Women 1.1.1.1.

Women were the most effective of the two because they influenced their husbands
and they were decided themselves.

EFFIE JONES Unemployed Men 1.1.1.1.1.1.

Then, the unemployed, the boys, hundreds of them, without a cent, walking the streets. ~~Some died on the streets and some died in hospitals~~ ~~Some died on the streets and some died in hospitals~~ One dropped dead right on the street from ~~hunger~~ hunger. ~~Two or three died through hunger really, but not in the street, We had a job to get them in the hospitals. We did that and then we attended their funerals. You've heard of Bloody Sunday? Before Bloody Sunday the Housewives' League got other women to help and we fed the boys. The Housewives' League worked very hard in the kitchens of the (post office occupation). I only worked five days feeding them and then I got nominated for secretary and I did all the contacting with the government and went over there. The labour lobby was over there at the time; we went the same time that they went and the labour men helped us alot.~~

When we all got together to do something for the boys they got loaned a room in the hotel. The men scrubbed the floor and bought new shovels. We made them onion salad. A woman ~~that~~ that used to make the salad from the Hotel Vancouver made a bucket of salad dressing, Women from all paths of life...they came from all organizations...The Housewives' League called them together. Not only women, we had men, trade unionists that were working nights helped. They took over the Ukrainian Hall kitchen and it was wonderfully organized down there. They had women there who worked in the food industry, if they ~~could~~ could get a job, they were the ones that took over.

The post office and the art gallery ~~was~~ was so well organized too. Nothing happened there. It didn't bother anyone that they were sitting in. They saw to that...It was a bad Sunday. We picketed on the Saturday. We tried to get the big merchants downtown to let us stand in their doorway in case it rained. Everyone refused us but the Regent Hotel on Hastings and

EFFIE [REDACTED] JONES Unemployed Men 2.2.2.2.

Main. We could then put a table ^{up} in their entrance and got signatures and money. I was all day jingling a can and remember saying to my husband, 'I'm going to stay in bed late tomorrow morning because I'm so tired.' He called me, he was always up early, 'Oh, come, you've got to get up.' I said, 'What's the matter now, why?' He said, 'They've gassed the boys out; they've put tear gas on them as they came out.' Oh, it was terrible. Out of the post office! They hurt several. In fact, some of them have died and I'm sure it was through that that had been done to them, those who got the full blast of it. Then they picked up five of them, the police, and put them in jail.

We had trouble defending them in court, so the women of the Housewives' League, we got the best lawyer in Vancouver at the time, Adam Smith [REDACTED] Johnston, his name was, an Englishman. He made a wonderful job of it. He got four of them off and they took one. We know that the one that was taken on didn't do it—supposed to have thrown a huge tub through Nabob's window, one of these fancy tubs with a tree in it. The boy was gassed; he couldn't see, He couldn't have picked up the tub to put it through the window. Somebody had, but he stood rubbing his eyes near it. They took him up and he did five years. We felt terrible. That's the sort of thing they did. They terrorized people; they just terrorized them.

The Civil Defense Committee, that was to defend the boys. They had no one else to do it and they knew the women of the Housewives' League pretty good. That's how I came into it. They phoned up here at six o'clock one Saturday night and asked me if I would come down right away and bring anybody I could find with me. I found one or two, but

EEFIE JONES Background, Marriage and Immigration 3.3.3.3.

my mother was serving us [redacted] up all at the table and one or two of them had started on the soup and she brings this thing up. 'Oh,' she says, 'whatever is this?' It was all frayed, 'It's a mouse!' Well, all the [redacted] other [redacted] stopped eating, I said, 'Oh, it's only a bit of serge.' She said, 'Did you [redacted] put serge in the soup for?' [redacted]

I was only out of school two weeks when I got on to a girl on the boat, and we asked her to come over with us, Frank says, 'Go and get a chicken, a big a chicken in my life, didn't know anything about them. I chicken. I remember giving four dollars and ten cents for a chicken, Frank helped. He [redacted] did quite [redacted] alot of the cooking. [redacted] [redacted] I was getting something and he and Blanche, my friend, started I heard a yell from him and on his fork he was bringing out a whole what looked like hay. I said, 'Where'd that come from?' He said, 'Did you clean the crop out?' I said, 'What's the crop?' And out came corn and hay. Well, that will tell you what [redacted] sort of a cook I was then.

EFFIE JONES [REDACTED] 3.3.3.3. Unemployed Men

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Winch did the meeting and the Reverend Rodney^{he} was the reverend of the
First United Church on Hastings. At last it came to be about three or
four of us left and I ~~was~~ happened to be one. So I was secretary
of the Hosuewives' League, the Boys' Civil Defense Committee add the
Eviction Committee.

EFFIE JONES CCF. 1.1.1.1.

When I was in the C.C.F. the work wasn't hard. It was only attending one meeting a month and doing nothing. Then I became secretary of the branch of the C.C.F. up here on Fraser Avenue. We still did nothing. We couldn't get them to unite with anybody or anything, although the situation was desperate here. We had to branch out as the fight became more developed, as the Depression deepened. The Housewives' League had to do it because nobody else would do it. They were too scared. There's a woman, quite a prominent member of the CCF, she wanted to know about the Housewives' League, she'd like to join. We used to meet anywhere in town. We met in the old Hotel Vancouver. They had seats half way up the stairs, [redacted]. I told her what it was about and she was interested. And then coming out I said, 'Where are you going?' She said, 'I'm going to the Hudson Bay.' I said, 'So am I', so I said, 'We'll go along with you.' She said, 'Oh, Mrs. Jones I wish you wouldn't because it may not be policy to see me with you.' So I said, 'Oh, that's quite alright. Don't worry about that. I understand.'

I shook hands with her and I went my way and she went hers. That will give you an idea of what it is like there. [redacted] (I decided to become a Communist) after my work with the C.C.F. They weren't doing any effective work and I was working my head off for them. We used to run bingo and cards twice a week. We had to pay thirty dollars a month for a hall and I used to work on that committee as well as being secretary, because we had to pay the rent, There were dozens of people who joined the C.C.F. just to pay their fifteen cents a month, just to say they were C.C.F.'rs. Some of them never came to meetings. (I had a good education in Britain and I had been able to help a lot of people around when I was in the C.C.F., who weren't C.C.F.'rs, I helped them all out.)?

EFFIE JONES History of Housewives' League 1.1.1.1

The piling up of the protests; it was terrific; it was getting better and better all ^{the} time. A lot of women were protesting through the Housewives' league. That was our only way. It was started by some women and a man of the Liberal Party. And they did nothing, but they met socially. Well, the times called for something more than social meetings and we could see that that was the only way: to get into this Housewives' League and make it work. That's what I did and quite a lot of my friends and outsiders. We had little branches all over B.C. on the Island and out. There were branches all over Canada. We found that we not only had to watch the prices and fight them but we had to work on evictions. Oh, the evictions were terrible! They were putting people out in the snow. There was no other organization working. None at all. We got a lot of help from some of the trade unions, their men came on our picket lines. The pace was so hectic, there was something happening every week, every day practically.

The Executive did a lot of the work. The women met in their branches to advise and to bring what they thought was needed forward. Then the Housewives' League executive used to meet every month and decide what to do. We had a wonderful research director. She used to take any prices going up, she used to deal with it right from where it was produced.

They were just ordinary women. They were desperate. Some of them who weren't desperate knew that they could help in some way and came in. (Women would find out about it) by word of mouth mostly and then the papers. The Sun.

EFFIE JONES Elections 1.1.1.1.

~~_____~~
Nineteen-forty-seven: that's the first year I ran for mayor. When they found ~~_____~~ I was doing so well in that election, ~~_____~~ they put up poor old Charles Jones who wasn't very well then. They kept him on because his name was Jones.

The issue in the mayorial campaign was B.C. Electric fares. It was over the fifteen cents increase in streetcar fares. They fined me a dollar for trying to stop the fare increase. We heard through the grapevine that they were waiting for the cheque to come and they were going to have it ~~_____~~ pasted on the wall. Instead of paying by cheque someone belonging to ~~_____~~ ^{the} committee went in and paid the dollar.

When it came to the afternoon of election day they ~~_____~~ discovered by some means that I was doing very well so they brought in numerous cases on stretchers to Strathcona School, also several drunks. I was told that it was the first time the nuns had voted in a Vancouver election.

I was in a meeting of

The Canadian ~~_____~~ Council of Women. Every year they give one session to the ~~_____~~ civic candidates. If you go early you're generally taken on early and then you go home. So I thought, "Well, this will be an early afternoon for me. I'll be able to go home ~~_____~~ and get supper." So they let me speak ~~_____~~ first. Coming out down the aisle a woman caught hold of me by the clothes and said, 'Do you mind telling me if you're divorced?' I said, 'I don't ~~_____~~ know. My husband was home the last time. He's cooking my supper I think. But I've no ~~_____~~ idea that I'm divorced. It might be since I left home.'

I ran for alderman. I had good campaign managers always. ~~_____~~ I'll tell you one that ~~_____~~ would give you a good laugh. My campaign rooms was on the corner of Columbia and Hastings... its known know as being the oldest store in Vancouver. I didn't go very much, I was always on the road. I was going there ~~_____~~ to see

EFFIE JONES Elestions 2.2.2.2.

~~something~~ something and I went upstairs. I was walking down this corridor,
~~looking~~ looking in one room, looking in another. Alot of rooms down there
and they all had three or four locks on the door. They all had a sink in each.
I thought, 'What in the world is this? What sort of a place is this?' The
big room was where all the men were working at the time, but all these other
places were there. I went in. They said, 'How do you like your headquarters?'
I said, 'Oh, its alright. But, I can't understand all these locks that are
on the doors, what's it for? There's a sink in every room, a hand basin in
every room.' They all started to laugh. Oh, they laughed. They said, 'Don't
you know what this place was?' It was an old prostitute house. First in Vancouver.
(Laughter) Soon after that, White, the man who was my campaign head, stood
on the opposite corner and was going ^{to go} across to the place when a tough looking
working man came up the side of him. He says, 'Isn't it funny. Old
~~Gerry McGeer~~ Gerry McGeer, that was the mayor once, 'cleaned out the prostitutes there.
Now they've got Effie up there.'

Post
WW II

One morning I woke up and I had arthritis in my spine. That finished me for work. That was ^{from} the strain on arms and shoulders. It's tremendously heavy work, and we worked so steady that there is no let up in it. This was an aftermath of work, Not only that, your diet has a bearing on it and you don't always watch your diet.

You ate in the restaurant you worked in. I walked in the basement one time-I was sent down to get vinegar and got the shock of my ~~life~~ life. There's a barrel of carrots, potatoes, turnips, beets, sitting in water right up to the rim. That's for next day. Then ~~that~~ water is drained out and all the good of your vegetables is drained out. What you are actually getting is food where all the good of the food is washed out. I worked in restaurants for sixteen years. I have a terrible calcium problem, it was affected through the food I ate.

EFFIE JONES Community Conditions In Depression 1.1.1.

We bought the little house. I had the only phone in the district and we had the only car in the district and I used to keep a book - the neighbours all around were out of work and they'd go to town and they'd try to walk to town - and they'd find, say, an hour's job, two hours - four hours was a wonderful long job - but they had no one to phone up to say when they could have it. See they had no phones then. They couldn't afford them. So I kept my book and gave my phone number and then say some outfit in town wanted a man for two hours, well, I'd put down the name of the outfit and the time they wanted it. And these men used to come round at night to ask if there was anything for them. It was pitiful to see it; it was just pitiful.

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no -> me!

The piling up of the protests, it was terrific, it was getting better and better all

the time. A lot of women were protesting through the Housewives' league. That

FTNT.

was our only way. It was started by some women and a man of the Liberal Party.

And they did nothing, but they met socially. Well, the times called for something more than social meetings and we could see that the only way to

get into this House

at's what I did and

thes all over B.C.7

We found that we

had to work on

ting people out

: all. We got a lot

et lines. The

y day practically.

This sentence would need a reference to the footnote or glossary entry on Housewives' League.

The ~~Ex~~ case work. The women met in their branches to advise and to bring what they thought was needed forward. Then the Housewives's League executive used to meet every month and decide what to do. We had a wonderful research director. She used to take any prices going up, she used to deal with it right from where it was produced.

They were just ordinary women. They were desperate. Some of them who weren't desperate knew that they could help in some way and came in. Women would find out about it by word of mouth mostly and then the papers. The Sun.

two words

EFFIE JONES Women I.I.I.I.

Depression

Women were the most effective of the two because they influenced their husbands and they were decided themselves.

Depression

EFFIE JONES Unemployed Men 1.1.1.1.1.1.

Then these were

the unemployed, the boys, hundreds of them, without a cent, walking the streets. ~~They were starving and dying and some of them were~~
~~One dropped dead right on the street from~~
~~hunger. Two or three died through hunger really, but not in the~~
street. We had a job to get them in the hospitals. We did that and then we attended their funerals. You've heard of Bloody Sunday? Before Bloody Sunday the Housewives' League got other women to help and we fed the boys. ^{FTNT.} The Housewives' League worked very hard in the kitchens of the Post Office occupation. I only worked five days feeding them and then I got nominated for secretary and I did all the contacting with the government and went over there. The labour lobby was over there at the time. We went the same time that they went and the labour men helped us alot.

When we all got together to do something for the boys they got loaned a room in the hotel. They scrubbed the floor and bought new shovels. We made them onion salad. A woman ~~that~~ that used to make the salad from the Hotel Vancouver made a bucket of salad dressing. Women from all paths of life...they came from all organizations...The Housewives' League called them together. Not only women, we had men, trade unionists that were working nights helped. They took over the Ukrainian Hall kitchen and it was wonderfully organized down here. They had women there who worked in the food industry, if they ~~could~~ could get a job, they were the ones that took over.

The post office and the art gallery ~~was~~ was so well organized too. Nothing happened there. It didn't bother anyone that they were sitting in. They saw to that...it was a bad Sunday. We picketed on the Saturday. We tried to get the big merchants downtown to let us stand in their doorway in case it rained. Everyone refused us but the Regent Hotel on Hastings and

Depression

EFFIE JONES CCP, 1.1.1.1.

When I was in the ~~CCP~~ the work wasn't hard. It was only attending one meeting a month and doing nothing. Then I became secretary of the ~~CCP~~

Intro. should refer forward to the Housewives League so we know what we're reading about when we begin.

did nothing.

though the situ-

ht became more

League had to

ed. There's

to know

to meet anywhere

is half way up

was about and

she was interested. AND then coming out I said, 'Where are you going?'

She said, 'I'm going to the Hudson Bay.' I said, 'So am I', so I said,

'We'll go along with you.' She said, 'Oh, Mrs. Jones I wish you wouldn't

because it may not be policy to see me with you.' So I said,

'Oh, that's quite alright. Don't worry about that. I understand.'

I shook hands with her and I went my way and she went hers. That will

give you an idea of what it is like there. ~~CCP~~ I decided to become

a Communist after my work with the CCP. They weren't doing any effective

work and I was working my head off for them. We used to run bingo and

cards twice a week. We had to pay thirty dollars a month for a hall

and I used to work on that committee as well as being secretary, because

we had to pay the rent. There were dozens of people who joined the CCP

just to pay their fifteen cents a month, just to say they were CCPers.

Some of them never came to meetings. ~~I~~ had a good education in Britain

and I had been able to help a lot of people around when I was in the CCP.

who weren't CCPers; I helped them all out.

They put a widow, with a deformed son, from Fifth Avenue, and all her stuff on the street in the snow. She phoned up here, crying, to know would I come? I was just putting my husband's supper out. So I went straight away; it took me about fifteen minutes. I used to drive a car in those days. There was all this furniture; it would be very valuable to-day because it was mostly antiques. She was a pioneer in Vancouver. She owned property right down in the city, only she had to sell it because her husband had a long session of cancer. At that time you couldn't get in the hospital. SO she nursed him at home, and he went that way. The she had this deformed boy, only about that high. They put them out on the street.

Depression

ETHEL JONES Strike Support 1,1,1,1.

Spencer's had a department store where they ~~was~~ sold children's clothes at ~~the~~ cheaper rates. They were on strike for a long time and the women supported ~~the~~ that strike and it was hard on them because most of them went there to get clothes for ~~the~~ their children. We went to Spencer's, asking them if something couldn't be done. Old Man Spencer, we told him, that we can't advise people to support him.