



## Canada and the Cold War: The Gouzenko Affair

### Lesson 6

## Testimony before the Royal Commission on Espionage (the Kellock-Taschereau Commission)

### Synopsis

Students will learn that the RCMP rounded up and detained a number of Canadians suspected of espionage without extending normal civil rights. Some were found guilty of violating the *Official Secrets Act*. Students will create an organizer, recording information from the cases of eight Canadians who were forced to appear before the royal commission.

### Specific Expectations

Students will

- review the basic civil rights of Canadians;
- assess the methods used by the commission to deal with Canadian suspects of espionage;
- learn the names and brief background of some of the suspected Canadians;
- create an organizer to record information.

### Preparation

1. Using the “[EvidenceWeb](http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/education/sources/index-e.html)” (<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/education/sources/index-e.html>) section of Library and Archives Canada’s *Learning Centre*, prepare or bookmark relevant parts from the first and second interim reports of the Royal Commission on Espionage, March 2 and 14, 1946 respectively, in “Documents Relating to the Proceedings of the Royal Commission...”, under the “Cold War” theme.
2. Prepare [Handout 6.1: Canadians Summoned to Testify](#), one per student.
3. Bookmark “Gouzenko: Sentences”: <http://www.historyofrights.com/sentences.html>.



## Time

55 to 70 minutes

## Process

### Introduction (10 minutes)

1. Post and review the lesson agenda with your students:
  - Brainstorm basic civil rights
  - Read descriptions of Canadians who were summoned to testify
  - Produce organizers
  - Discuss alternatives to the methods used
2. Brainstorm the basic civil rights Canadians enjoy.
3. List some of those rights on the board.
4. Discuss, in particular, the right to legal counsel and the right to know the charges when arrested or detained.
5. Discuss the McCarthy “Senate Subcommittee on Un-American Activities” during the early 1950s. This subcommittee chaired by Senator Joseph McCarthy, carried out an excessive “witch hunt” for those who were suspected of being Communists or had connections with Communists. Many suspects worked in the entertainment industry. Many innocent people’s lives were ruined by the hearings.

### Body of Lesson (30-40 minutes)

1. Give each student a number from 1 to 4 and ask all the 1s, 2s etc. to go to designated areas.
2. Ask each student in each group to study the brief descriptions of two people on the list from the “[EvidenceWeb](#)” in “Documents Relating to the Proceedings of the Royal Commission...” under the “Cold War” theme. (Choices made in groups.)
  - a. From the first interim report of the Royal Commission on Espionage, March 2, 1946, p. 13-14
    - Emma Woikin
    - Gordon Lunan
    - Edward Wilfred Mazerall
    - Kathleen Mary Willsher



- b. From the second interim report of the Royal Commission on Espionage, March 14, 1946, p. 15-20
  - Raymond Boyer
  - Harold Samuel Gerson
  - Matt Simons Nightingale
  - David Shugar
3. Once investigations are completed, each member of the group will share their information to complete their organizers.

### **Conclusion (15 to 20 minutes)**

1. Discuss findings of students with a summary written on the board.
2. Expand on rights that were violated and study other suspects.
3. Discuss any questions raised by students.

### **Assessment Opportunities**

1. Collect organizers for assessment.
2. Assess the effectiveness of students in cooperation, staying on task and contribution to the process.

### **Extensions**

1. Introduce a special case: the arrest of Fred Rose, Member of Parliament using the “EvidenceWeb”: “Documents Relating to the Proceedings of the Royal Commission...” see pp. 23-25, parts A and B, “Letters of Counsel Tabled by the Prime Minister in the House of Commons, March 15, 1946. Discuss.
2. Class discussion: Given the background of the suspects, was justice served even though the end didn’t necessarily justify the means? Or did it?