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Archives of the University of Toronto
100 St. George Street, 4th Floor
Toronto, Ontario M5S 1A5
(416) 978-2882
(416) 978-2883

Analysis of Resolutions passed by the
California State Board of Agriculture on Dec 20, & Jan. 17

1. Only one person, among six present, was willing to go on record against the original resolution passed December 20 in regular meeting, all members sitting within their terms as established by the Legislature. Resolution stated:
 - (a) problem is one of military necessity solely.
 - (b) race prejudice should not defeat rights guaranteed under the national constitution.
2. After the customary new appointments, the new Board decided to rescind the original resolution, and to substitute another, which declares the original resolution was "untimely" because
 - (a) problem is "military," and
 - (b) problem is "national."
3. The President of the Board, an appointee of the present governor,
 - A. on the original resolution:
 - (1) Declared himself in favor of the resolution, but
 - (2) Declined to vote, according to the custom of presiding officers when no tie vote.
 - B. on the second resolution:
 - (1) Again declared himself in favor of the principles of the original resolution, but
 - (2) Decided to vote, although no tie vote, and
 - (3) Voted to rescind the original resolution.
4. The new Board says the first resolution was "susceptible to mis-interpretation."

The second resolution appears to mean that the new Board

- (1) is sorry the old Board said anything, so it
- (2) rescinds the original resolution; nevertheless, perhaps out of a decent respect for the opinions of mankind, it
- (3) is impelled to say something of its own principles, so, somewhat uneasily, it
- (4) agrees substantially with the old Board that, essentially, the problem is military in character, and lies within the jurisdiction of national law.

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W. J. Cecil
Director

Culbert L. Olson
Governor

State of California
Department of Agriculture

Sacramento

March 18, 1942

Cal Agriculture

Lieutenant-Colonel William A. Boekel
Office of the Provost Marshall
Headquarters Western Defense Command
and Fourth Army
Presidio at San Francisco, California

Dear Bill

RE: Alien German and Italian Farmers

Our local paper of March 14 carried a rather lengthy article concerning the creation of the Civil Affairs Branch, under Lieutenant-General DeWitt and more particularly under Lieutenant-Colonel Bendetsen, as Assistant Chief of Staff. Included in the article was a notation to the effect that you would be in charge of the Division of Exceptions and Licensing.

While I do not know specifically just what your Division will include, I am hazarding a guess at this time and taking the liberty of addressing this letter to you for purposes of calling to your attention certain items which I think especially worthy of your consideration.

On February 27, Mr. Dave Davidson, Chairman of the U.S.D.A. War Board, Dr. J. M. Thompson, temporarily assigned to California from the U.S.D.A. in Washington, and I spent the day at the Presidio working with a goodly number of the military authorities there, including General DeWitt, Colonel Magill and Lieutenant-Colonel Bendetsen, who, together with Mr. Tom Clark, were at that time putting the finishing touches upon Public Proclamation No. 1, issued by the General on March 2.

During that day, some of the men at the Presidio gave us some reason to hope that in the evacuation plans there would be some provisions made for exceptions for alien Germans and Italians engaged in essential agricultural pursuits in Area No. 1A, or the coastal strip. We were given to understand that from the agricultural point of view we in California might well prepare to dispense with the services of all Japanese, irrespective of whether they were on the coast or in the interior valley. We called attention at that time to the fact that Italians and Germans are appreciably more important to our agriculture than are the Japanese. Certain of the authorities at the Presidio stated that they did not particularly fear alien Germans or Italians, but felt that the F.B.I. operations might handle the problem reasonably well. If such be the case, my concern now is to see that drastic action relative to alien Germans and Italians engaged in agriculture in the "A" Area

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Lieutenant-Colonel William A. Boekel
March 18, 1942
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{ not be taken merely for purposes of being consistent in the program of alien evacuation. As is readily apparent, the grouping of all Japanese without respect to American citizenship seems to dispel any particular consistency in the program, and I trust that your Division will see fit to grant rather widespread exceptions for the alien Germans and Italians engaged in farming in the "A" Area.

Through your contacts as a lawyer with the 1938 Brandy Pool and with the several other California industries, with which you are personally familiar, I feel quite certain that you appreciate the importance of the Italian in our grape, dairy and deciduous fruit industries. The importance of the German in these industries is only slightly less than that of the Italian. It is a matter of every day publicity that our vastly increased military personnel is experiencing ever-increasing need for concentrated dairy and fruit products. As you also know, the grape and wine industries are producers of strategically important by-products and medicinal commodities, of which the armed forces are likewise in increasing need.

Your serious consideration of the several ideas set forth above in rather random fashion is urgently requested.

With kind personal regards -

Very sincerely

W. J. Cecil
Director

WJC AL
CC Dave Davidson
L I Hewes, Jr.
Jesse Tapp