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COMMITTEE RECORDS

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP REPORTS

1942-45

C-A

171

## Selective Evacuation of Japanese-American Citizens

Proposals presented to Lieutenant General John L. DeWitt by the  
Committee on National Security and Fair Play

260 California Street, Room 311,  
San Francisco, California.  
March 9, 1942.

### 1. Controlling Principles.

We assume that you are guided by the following principles: The maintenance of national security is the controlling factor in determining execution of the mandate given you by the Secretary of War. If, therefore, either aliens or citizens living in the most vital military areas constitute a military hazard, they should be removed. A secondary, but very important factor is to keep the infringement of the civil rights of citizens to the lowest possible minimum, and to base it on military necessity, not on race or any other consideration.

### 2. Objective of our Proposals.

We desire to aid you in applying the foregoing principles by suggesting methods of discriminating between those citizens of Japanese parentage (nisei) who do and do not constitute a military hazard.

### 3. Alternative Methods.

Method A. Let all Nisei be given the opportunity of being examined as to their loyalty or disloyalty by Hearing Boards in the communities where they now reside. The appeal Boards of the Selective Service appear to be made to order for this purpose. If the number of Appeal Boards were insufficient, additional similar Boards could be set up through local Councils of Civilian Defense or Boards of Education. The judgement of the Hearing Boards could be made subject to review of whatever authority you might designate. Examinees would appear voluntarily and have the privilege of bringing witnesses.

We urge that the evacuation of Nisei from other than the most vital areas be deferred until after they have been examined. The process could be completed in six weeks at the outside, as shown by this calculation: assuming that half of the Nisei, or 40,000, are minors who would elect to accompany their alien parents, and that 10,000 adult Nisei would prefer to be evacuated without examination, the remaining 35 or 40 thousand could be examined within five or six weeks, if each of 100 Boards passed on an average of ten or twelve cases a day.

Method B. If, however, you deem it quite unwise to defer the evacuation of Nisei from all of Military Area No. 1, then let them all be examined at the Reception Camps as soon as possible, and let those who are found to be above suspicion released. This method seems to us to have two serious drawbacks: (1) the great expense and difficulty involved in setting up competent Boards at distant Camps and in summoning witnesses; and (2) the breaking up of the living arrangements and occupational connections of examinees.

### 4. Some General Considerations.

The proposed evacuation of the entire group of Nisei, but of no other group of citizens, apparently on the basis of race, is already embittering some of them and making them turn a ready ear to communist and other subversive ideas. It is also causing acute distress to many white citizens like ourselves who are concerned over every violation of the democratic principles for which we are fighting.

Since the Nisei are full-fledged American citizens by virtue of birth and upbringing in this country, certainly they should be given not less consideration than German and Italian aliens, sympathetic as we are with those among them who are thoroughly loyal to democratic ideals.

Furthermore, the indiscriminate evacuation of Nisei citizens will, in our judgement, weaken rather than strengthen the civic morale which is an essential element in national security during the war and of national unity after the war.

We are deeply sensible of the weight of responsibility resting upon you, and desire to do all in our power to help you discharge it. Only in that spirit do we venture to lay these proposals before you.

Dr. Henry F. Grady, Chairman  
(and names and positions of Vice-Chairmen)

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11 El Sueno,  
Orinda, California.  
March 7, 1942.

Note to Vice-Chairmen:

The above memorandum has been authorized by Dr. Grady and revised in consultation with Dr. Deutsch. It is to be given to General DeWitt at an interview to be held with him (or his aide, Colonel Magill, Director of Evacuation) by representatives of our Committee.

If you have any criticisms, please let me hear from you by telephone or letter.

Dr. Grady conferred with Colonel Magill, Thomas Clark, and other officials concerned on March 6, and believes that this memorandum and the proposed interview with General DeWitt may not be in vain.

Office telephone - YUkon 1570  
Residence telephone - Orinda 3951

Galen M. Fisher,  
Secretary.

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We desire to aid you in applying the foregoing principles by suggesting methods of discriminating between those citizens of Japanese parentage (nisei) who do and do not constitute a military hazard.

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We urge that the evacuation of Nisei from other than the most vital areas be deferred until after they have been examined. The process could be completed in six weeks at the outside, as shown by this calculation: assuming that half of the Nisei, or 40,000, are minors who would elect to accompany their alien parents, and that 10,000 adult Nisei would prefer to be evacuated without examination, the remaining 35 or 40 thousand could be examined within five or six weeks, if each of 100 Boards passed on an average of ten or twelve cases a day.

Method B. If, however, you deem it quite unwise to defer the evacuation of Nisei from all of Military Area No. 1, then let them all be examined at the Reception Camps as soon as possible, and let those who are found to be above suspicion released. This method seems to us to have two serious drawbacks: (1) the great expense and difficulty involved in setting up competent Boards at distant Camps and in summoning witnesses; and (2) the breaking up of the living arrangements and occupational connections of examinees.

### 4. Some General Considerations.

The proposed evacuation of the entire group of Nisei, but of no other group of citizens, apparently on the basis of race, is already embittering some of them and making them turn a ready ear to communist and other subversive ideas. It is also causing acute distress to many white citizens like ourselves who are concerned over every violation of the democratic principles for which we are fighting.

Since the Nisei are full-fledged American citizens by virtue of birth and upbringing in this country, certainly they should be given not less consideration than German and Italian aliens, sympathetic as we are with those among them who are thoroughly loyal to democratic ideals.

Furthermore, the indiscriminate evacuation of Nisei citizens will, in our judgement, weaken rather than strengthen the civic morale which is an essential element in national security during the war and of national unity after the war.

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Office telephone - YUkon 1570  
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Galen M. Fisher,  
Secretary.

SELECTIVE EVACUATION OF JAPANESE-AMERICAN CITIZENS

Proposals presented to  
Lt. Gen. John L. DeWitt and Col. W. L. Magill, Jr., Director of Evacuation  
by the  
Committee on National Security and Fair Play

260 California Street, Room 311,  
San Francisco, California.  
March 9, 1942

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We assume that you are guided by the following principles: The maintenance of national security is the controlling factor in determining execution of the mandate given you by the Secretary of War. If, therefore, either aliens or citizens living in the most vital military areas constitute a military hazard, they should be removed. A secondary, but very important factor is to keep the infringement of the civil rights of citizens to the lowest possible minimum, and to base it on military necessity, not on race or any other consideration.

2. Objective of our Proposals.

We desire to aid you in applying the foregoing principles by suggesting methods of discriminating between those citizens of Japanese parentage (Nisei) who do and do not constitute a military hazard.

3. Alternative Methods.

Method A. Let all Nisei be given the opportunity of being examined as to their loyalty or disloyalty by Hearing Boards in the communities where they now reside. The Appeal Boards of the Selective Service appear to be made to order for this purpose. If the number of Appeal Boards were insufficient, additional similar Boards could be set up through local Councils of Civilian Defense or Boards of Education. The judgment of the Hearing Boards could be made subject to review of whatever authority you might designate. Examinees would appear voluntarily and have the privilege of bringing witnesses.

We urge that the evacuation of Nisei from other than the most vital areas be deferred until after they have been examined. The process could be completed in six weeks at the outside, as shown by this calculation: Assuming that half of the Nisei are minors who would elect to accompany their alien parents, and that 5 or 10 thousand adult Nisei would prefer to be evacuated without examination, the remaining 20 or 25 thousand could be examined within five or six weeks, if each of 100 Boards passed on average of ten or twelve cases a day.

Method B. If, however, you deem it quite unwise to defer the evacuation of Nisei from all of Military Area No. 1, then let them all be examined at the Reception Camps as soon as possible, and let those who are found to be above suspicion be released. This method seems to us to have two serious drawbacks: (1) the great expense and difficulty involved in setting up competent Boards at distant Camps and in summoning witnesses; and (2) the breaking up of the living arrangements and occupational connections of examinees.

*Please return to Ellen Fisher*  
*Planned Evacuation*

### Some General Considerations.

The proposed evacuation of the entire group of Nisei, but of no other group of citizens, apparently on the basis of race, is already embittering some of them and making them turn a ready ear to Communist and other subversive ideas. It is also causing acute distress to many white citizens like ourselves who are concerned over every violation of the democratic principles for which we are fighting.

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We are deeply sensible of the weight of responsibility resting upon you, and desire to do all in our power to help you discharge it. Only in that spirit do we venture to lay these proposals before you.

#### Chairman:

Henry F. Grady, Pres., American President Lines; Chairman, Federal Reserve Bank SF

#### Vice Chairmen:

Mrs. Wallace M. Alexander, Canteen Chairman, American Red Cross, Oakland

David E. Barrows, Major General; Head Dept. of Political Science, U.C.

Benjamin W. Black, Director Public Health, Alameda County

Karl Morgan Block, Episcopal Bishop of Northern California

Mrs. Agnes Morley Cleaveland, Author

John S. Curran, Anglo-California National Bank, Vice President

Monroe E. Deutsch, Vice President and Provost, University of California

Ralph T. Fisher, Vice President, American Trust Company

Frank S. Gaines, Mayor, City of Berkeley

Gerald H. Hagar, Former President, State Bar Association

Maurice E. Harrison, Attorney, Brobeck, Phleger & Harrison

J. Hugh Jackson, Dean, Graduate School of Business, Stanford University

Geo. G. Tidwell, Chairman, State Dept. of Industrial Relations.

Frederick J. Koster, President, California Barrel Co.

Chauncey D. Leake, Professor, U. C. Medical School

Alfred J. Lundberg, President, Calif. State Chamber of Commerce and Key Route System

Arthur C. McGiffert, President, Pacific School of Religion

Mrs. Alfred C. McLaughlin, Vice Chairman, Institute Pacific Relations, Bay Region

Mrs. Robert McWilliams, Member executive committee, Citizens for Victory

Robert A. Millikan, California Institute of Technology, Chairman

Richard R. Perkins, Managing Director, San Francisco YMCA

Irving F. Reichert, Rabbi, Temple Emanuel

Aurelia Henry Reinhardt, President, Mills College

Mrs. Duncan S. Robinson

Chester H. Rowell, Editor, San Francisco Chronicle

Robert G. Sproul, President, University of California

Joseph S. Thompson, President, Pacific Electric Manufacturing Corp.

Ray Lyman Wilbur, President, Stanford University

George Wilson, Secretary of Congress for Industrial Organization

C. C. Young, Former Governor, State of California

Galen M. Fisher, Secretary, Committee on National Security and Fair Play

Memorandum to Colonel W. L. Magill, Jr.  
Provost Marshal and Director of Evacuation

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Church  
Grps

Committee: Galen M. Fisher, Member of the National Council of the Y. M. C. A. and President of the Board of Trustees of the Pacific School of Religion; Gordon Chapman, Superintendent of Presbyterian Japanese Missions; C. A. Richardson, Board of Missions of the Methodist Church, New York; G. Doubleday, American Friends' Service Committee; F. H. Smith, Superintendent of the Pacific Japanese Conference of the Methodist Church and Pacific Coast representative of the Home Missions Council of North America.

Berkeley, Calif. March 1, 1942.

General Purpose.

Our general purpose is to be of any assistance possible to the Western Defence Command in the execution of whatever measures of evacuation may ultimately be deemed necessary after full consideration of all the factors involved. Our primary competence is in connection only with the Japanese residents on the Pacific Coast.

- I. We offer the facilities and staffs of our Protestant Churches to aid in sifting the loyal from the disloyal among the Japanese by means of Hearing Boards set up by the Army. Specifically we offer 80 church buildings and capable interpreters. We can furnish 20 white men, 10 white women and 300 or more citizens of Japanese parentage. These persons can assist the evacuees during the period of preparation for removal, and in the various localities to which the evacuees may go, and on the journey thither. Many of the alien Japanese do not readily understand English, so that the aid of Americans who speak their language, and who understand the instructions laid down by the Army, should greatly help to prevent friction and mistakes. We believe these Hearing Boards might well consist of one Army officer and two reputable civilians. In examining the aliens one of the civilians might be a person well acquainted with the Japanese language and character. In the case of the American-born one of the

Board might be a local school teacher as they know these Japanese-Americans better than any other white American. We believe that 80 or 100 such Boards could handle the whole of the Japanese population on the Coast in a few weeks.

In this connection it may be pertinent to observe that many of the alien Japanese would have long before this have become citizens had we allowed them the privilege of naturalization. We believe they are not likely to resent evacuation, provided it is well planned and considerately executed. But the citizens of Japanese ancestry are likely to feel deeply resentful if they, as full-fledged American citizens are evacuated as a whole, because of their racial connection. On the other hand, they will as a rule, cheerfully abide by the findings of the authorities if evacuation or internment is based on impartial investigation such as the F. B. I., supplemented by Hearing Boards would carry out. The indiscriminate evacuation of "Nisei" is almost certain to drive some of them into disloyalty during the war, and into trouble-making after the war. It would also go far to justify the claim of the Japanese Government propaganda that Japan is the protector of the colored races against the intolerance and discrimination of America and England.

II. We offer our assistance in the care of those who must be moved from danger zones. Our churches and pastors have played a large part in caring for the Japanese already evacuated from Alameda, Watsonville, Monterey and Terminal Island. We suggest the following definite places:

Mr. Doubleday, A. F. S. C. Owens Valley  
(As a committee we know nothing of the merits of this place)

Mr. Fisher, the so-called Korematsu plan.  
This embraces 60,000 acres of Santa Fe land near Albuquerque,  
N.M.

Mr. Chapman, Presbyterian churches  
 Gilroy Hot Springs, 50 aged or invalid persons  
 Hanford, 10 families and 50 workers (agricultural)  
 Cortez, " " "

Dr. Smith, Methodist churches  
 Livingston, 10 families and 50 workers " "  
 Fresno, " " 250 " " "  
 Dinuba, Orosi, 50 " " 200 " " (Gov. Help)  
 Delano, 20 " " 250 " " "  
 Bakersfield 10 " " 20 " " "  
 Niland 50 " " 200 " " (Gov. Help)  
 Mesa, Ariz. 10 " " 50 " " "  
 Loomis, Cal. 10 " " 50 " " "  
 Newcastle 10 " " 50 " " "  
 Marysville 10 " " 50 " " "  
 Sonoma Co. 20 " " 50 " " "  
 Hood R., Ore 20 " " 50 " " "  
 Salem, Ore 10 " " 20 " " "  
 Caldwell, Ida 50 " " 100 " " "  
 Wapato, Wash 25 " " 50 " " "  
 Spokane, " 20 " " 10 " " railway

III. If mass evacuation is deemed necessary we offer our personal assistance to keep up morale, to provide religious and moral guidance, and to help in education till the public school system can function. For this service we offer 40 white missionaries, men and women, and 80 Japanese Christian pastors. We are authorized to offer the aid of our inter-denominational Home Missions Council. The National Boards of our various churches can supply several experts in agriculture, education, and community planning who will cooperate with the Federal and State authorities in making adequate plans for settlement. One aspect of their service would be to secure the friendly cooperation of the existing and social agencies in the neighborhood of the new settlements.

#### IV. General Considerations.

A. As Christian workers with many years of experience among Japanese both here and abroad we believe that thousands of loyal Japanese can be selected from those resident in the United States. The doubtful and suspicious should be classed with the disloyal.

B. We believe that a mass evacuation of women, children and the

aged is not necessary except from the Class A military zones. It is of course possible for the Army to place the 115,000 Italian, 72,000 German and 33,000 Japanese aliens in California on trains and transport them to a distant place, but the care of the many elderly people would be very difficult if they are uprooted. Even the small number evacuated from Terminal Island created a great problem in Los Angeles.

- C. Mass evacuation would result in tremendous loss in the quantity of foodstuffs produced in California when we need food as never before. Crops already planted could not be tended. Harold J. Ryan, Los Angeles County agricultural commissioner reports that of the county's 40,000 acres of produce farmlands, the Japanese operate 25,600 acres. Of the 1172 Japanese farmers, 533 are aliens and 619 are citizen Japanese.
- D. Wholesale evacuation would result in great losses to property. Orchards and vineyards which have required years to develop would be greatly damaged in one critical month without care. Chickens and animals would starve. Stocks of perishable goods would rot. Houses by the thousand would stand vacant.
- E. To evacuate Japanese alone would create exceedingly difficult international problems in both Asia and Europe. Discrimination is dynamite. Many white Americans believe that Nazi and Fascist aliens are a greater menace than Japanese.
- F. England has found the licensing or identification card system satisfactory in controlling her aliens. Even Hawaii does not consider mass evacuation.
- G. The morale of our 80,000 Japanese-American citizens would be greatly injured if not completely destroyed. Several thousand have responded gladly to the draft. Parents are proud to have their sons in our Army. It is well to remember too that the hearts of the fathers are with their sons and not with their nephews in the Japanese Army.
- H. We believe that the hysteria for mass evacuation is largely engendered by politicians, by scheming carpet-baggers who hope to profit by forced sales and by thoughtless and irresponsible people of whom California has its full share.
- I. The F. B. I. has already apprehended several thousand alien Japanese and without doubt already has the most dangerous element in detention.
- J. There has been information supplied to American Intelligence Services by the 2nd generation young people to an extent not known to the general public. This can be proved by checking with the proper officials.

K. "Nisei" in Colleges and Essential Posts.

A considerable number of "Nisei" are studying in the colleges and universities of the Coast. A few others are rendering technical service in the teaching of Japanese to groups of Army and Navy officers, and translating for the office of Coordinator of Information. In the case of the students, it might be possible to arrange with the academic authorities, and with the International House at Berkeley, to exercise such close supervision as would practically eliminate whatever risk of espionage or sabotage might be feared from leaving such groups near the coastal areas. At each college the "Nisei" could be concentrated in one or a few houses, and placed under close restraint.

L. Preparatory Planning.

The best way to calm the fears of the evacuees and to make them willing cooperators in their evacuation will be for the Army to formulate, and then to announce comprehensive plans for all the major problems involved, such as transportation, custody of property, medical care enroute and afterward, specific areas available for settlement, agricultural and other advisors available, Government loans for development and equipment, housing, allowances for temporary maintenance. We understand that such complex and extensive undertakings will require time to plan, but there is no doubt that if the evacuees were given at the outset assurances that thorough plans are to be made, their anxieties would be allayed, and possible passive resistance would be replaced by cheerful cooperation. Such planning would also go far to put a stop to the extreme demands being made, by certain politicians and pressure groups, which threaten to issue in vigilante action unless checked.

260 California Street  
San Francisco  
April 4, 1942

Interim Report of Secretary to  
Vice-chairmen of Committee on National Security and Fair Play

1. Upon Dr. Grady's departure on Government mission to India, Mr. Maurice E. Harrison kindly consented to serve as Acting Chairman.
2. Hearings for Japanese. Mr. Harrison and Mr. Jesse Steinhart, after due study, decided it would be futile to pursue this effort further, as far as the Army authorities were concerned. Civil officials have told the secretary that it might be well to petition the Relocation Authority for Hearings at Reception Centers, after evacuation has been mostly completed. Several vice-chairmen consulted favor doing something of this kind in order to conserve constitutional rights, and also to enable the Japanese to remove the stigma attaching to them by the evacuation.
3. The Preliminary Report of the Tolson Committee is out, and a copy has been requested for you. Among its recommendations (p. 26) No. 6 says: "A system of hearing boards should be constituted by the Director of the War Resettlement Board with representatives of local and Federal agencies, with the concurrence of the Military authorities, to issue certificates for all Italian and German aliens whose loyalty can be established beyond reasonable doubt." It therefore appears to be wise for this Committee to give its support to this recommendation. Consultations are now in progress at Washington among the Congressional Committee, and War, Justice, Navy Departments on this and related alien problems. As soon as Mr. Harrison returns from a short absence in Seattle, I shall propose to him that we make representations on this matter to Federal authorities. If hearings are given Italian and German aliens, then a fortiori, hearings should be granted Japanese-American citizens.
4. Your secretary has spent much energy in connection with getting churches and other nationwide bodies to undertake to find openings in interior states for one or two families of Japanese to settle, their employment and cordial reception to be assured by local groups, in many rural and urban communities. The Relocation Authority fully approved the idea until a few days ago, when anti-Japanese protests from Mountain States (whither numbers of Japanese have moved voluntarily, but without adequate local sponsors) have caused the Authority to advise caution. Meanwhile, hundreds of Japanese are stranded in localities east of the Restricted Area, and it would be a kindness to them and to the Relocation Authority if private agencies could find them secure places to settle.
5. Numerous problems of individuals and groups have required consultations with War Control Authorities, and with private groups. The enclosed article is one of several written about the evacuation.

Galen M. Fisher  
Secretary

Activities in 1943  
of the

PACIFIC COAST COMMITTEE ON AMERICAN PRINCIPLES AND FAIR PLAY

The Pacific Coast Committee on American Principles and Fair Play believes that rumours, vicious or merely false generalizations can best be met by wide dissemination of indisputable facts.

All releases sent out by the Committee have been thoroughly documented and measure up to exacting editorial standards.

More than 70,000 pieces of factual material have been distributed: original releases by the Pacific Coast office and our Chapter at Pasadena, government bulletins, including statements from the War Department, Department of Justice, and the War Relocation Authority, reprints supplied by the SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE by LIBERTY magazine and by the Northfield, Minnesota American Legion Post; and pamphlets issued by cooperating organizations. Sales of the pamphlet, "A Balance Sheet on Japanese Evacuation" have exceeded 11,000 copies.

Several hundred mimeographed copies of Extracts from Sgt. Ben Kuroki's speech of February 4, 1944 to the Commonwealth Club of San Francisco, have been issued and a printed edition is soon to appear. In preparation is a collection of letters from nisei soldiers in Italy, Caucasian American service men who have seen action in the South Pacific together with an extract from an editorial by the Commander of California American Legion, Wm. P. Haughton, (referred to below).

The brief folder issued on June 15, 1943, setting forth the policies of this Committee has been invaluable. Based as those policies are on the Constitution, and committed to supporting the "present policies of the War Department" but not foregoing the liberty of criticizing Government policies, they commend themselves to an increasing number of thoughtful citizens.

Much time has been spent by the staff and by leading members of the Committee in consultations with policy making and opinion forming persons, both official and civilian. Mrs. Kingman's visit to Washington last summer brought her into close touch with high government officials, some of whom have since then sought her counsel.

Hundreds of requests for information have come from far and near, some of them requiring considerable investigation. Many letters have been written and conferences attended to speed the release and relocation of eligible evacuees. Chapters of the Committee are operating at Pasadena, Fresno, Seattle, Long Beach, Santa Barbara, and are in process of formation in Los Angeles.

Less formal groups are working at Portland, Oakland and Berkeley, and in many colleges and universities up and down the coast. Led by Mrs. Maynard Force Thayer, the Pasadena Chapter has done valiant service. TIME carried a story of her triumphant encounter with Chairman Gannon of the State Assembly Committee on the Japanese Problem.

The barometer of tolerance toward the evacuees is still low on the Coast, and the opposition is still vehement and unscrupulous. The crusade is being carried east of the Sierras, especially into the intermountain states. On the other hand, there are unmistakable signs of a rising barometer, among which the most noticeable have been the ovation given Sgt. Kurcki's speech by the 600 men at the Commonwealth Club luncheon, and the following declaration by Commander Haughton, in the CALIFORNIA LEGIONNAIRE of February 15, 1944.

"The American Legion has pledged its confidence in and its full support of our army and navy. Numerous persons of Japanese ancestry are now serving with the armed forces of our country on the battle fronts, and according to all reports, are serving valiantly and well.

"We salute all man and women who love this country enough to fight and, if needs be, die for it. Every person good enough to fight for us is entitled to our respect and equal protection under the Constitution."

Our contention that loyalty among our Americans of Japanese ancestry can and will be recognized by fair minded persons, is slowly -- too slowly it is true, being proven. The record of the American Japanese battalion in Italy has been well publicized and will add to the balance of straight thinking.

We hold to our confidence that the United States Government is lending every effort to provide a decent solution to this unprecedented problem.

Our task ahead lies in an increasing effort to expedite that program as it develops, and to create an acceptance by the West Coast public of a more truly American attitude in our dealing with law-abiding persons even though they be members of an unpopular minority.

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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA STUDENT PAPER

DAILY CALIFORNIAN

Treatment of the American-Japanese problem,  
particularly in reference to the current  
resolution of the California American Legion.

Fall semester 1943

JULY 28, 1943

## Appeal to Reason

The movement to arouse hatred against persons in the United States of Japanese ancestry is rapidly getting out of control. The thing is dangerous. It is a threat to the rights of all minorities; it is striking down the barriers to race hatred; it is furnishing fuel for Japanese propaganda against the United Nations in the Far East and for German propaganda against the United Nations in South America. It has got to be stopped by rational people before it becomes too big to handle in any peaceful and reasonable fashion.

Evidence of such a movement to arouse hatred against the Japanese in this country, both citizen and alien, is abundant. We have on our desk at this moment a pamphlet entitled "Slap the Jap" put out by an organization known as "The Home Front Commandos." The frontespiece bears the legend, "No Jap is now fit to associate with human beings." It contains this plea:

**"Join now and keep the Jap rats out of your hair.**

**"One-half million Japs in California—Do you want them in your hair?"**

**"Unless something is done the 'Long Hairs' will put them back on your farm lands, as your neighbors, as your business competitors."**

A clipping on our desk, a column for the Madera News entitled "The Editor's Pink Tea," reports that most of the ladies clubs of the country have joined the "Stop-the-Jap" movement.

A wave of resolutions is passing through the Chambers of Commerce, American Legions, and city councils of the state urging that the Japanese, both citizen and alien, be kept out of California not only for the duration of the war but forever after.

The San Francisco Examiner on its editorial page ran a cartoon of some very repulsive looking Japanese saluting the American flag with their fingers crossed. It bore the following caption:

**"Most of the Japs in the relocation centers, Nisei or not, keep their fingers crossed when they pledge allegiance to the American flag.**

**"It is entirely too difficult to tell a good Jap from a bad Jap to ever take a chance on allowing these enemies freedom anywhere."**

Results of the mounting tide of irrational feeling against people of the Japanese race, whatever their background, have been to undermine the faith of the citizens of Japanese descent in the democratic principles professed by the land of their birth, to greatly impede any satisfactory settlement of the problem of the Japanese in the relocation centers, to arouse widespread disparagement of the rights of citizenship, flagrant attempts to disregard them altogether, and to provide fuel to the enemies of the United States for propaganda maintaining the claims of this country to be fighting for the freedom of all men and the rights of all minorities are hollow.

This hatred of the people of the Japanese race in the United States is not simply a manifestation of the national hatred for the Japanese empire which American soldiers are fighting to destroy. It has been deliberately fomented for economic reasons. Its greatest strength is in rural districts, where the Japanese have been economic competitors to white farmers. Its greatest proponents have been large farmers in these districts. Hence the insistence that the Japanese be forbidden to return to the west coast ever.

**This, then, is the problem that faces citizens of rational mentality and of the more restrained type of patriotism. It is our thesis here that the problem is particularly the concern of college students, who belong, for the most part, to the above class of citizens. It is further our thesis that this class of citizens has a decided responsibility to combat a situation which is becoming an actual menace to the nation.**

Students on this campus have a very good opportunity to help combat it. The President of the University, Robert Gordon Sproul, is honorary chairman of an organization formed to meet the situation known as the "Pacific Coast Committee on American Principles and Fair Play." The Berkeley headquarters of the organization is right outside Sather Gate.

The policies of this committee are as follows:

1. Segregation of all disloyal persons of Japanese ancestry.
2. The protection of the right of loyal Americans of Japanese ancestry to serve in the armed forces of the United States.
3. The opportunity for loyal Americans of Japanese ancestry to resettle in the manner which, in the judgment of the federal government, is the best designed to meet the manpower shortage.
4. Fair play for Americans of Japanese ancestry who are loyal.

The committee is shortstaffed. It needs help. It needs people to send out form letters, to prepare lists of groups to which material may be sent, to handle publicity for the program, to compile information and facts about the problem, and to perform numerous odd jobs. But above all, it needs people to combat as individuals the virulent propaganda against the Japanese in the United States with solid facts and intelligent reasoning.

Yes, this is a plug. We admit it shamelessly. We hereby urge all interested students to go down to the office of the committee at 2234 Telegraph Avenue and volunteer their services for an hour or two each week, or at least to look over the material which has been compiled there. We think it would do a lot of good.

JULY 30, 1943

## A Consequence

One serious consequence of the violent propaganda currently being circulated against persons of the Japanese race on the basis of their race alone has not been sufficiently emphasized.

**It is gumming up the works of the War Relocation Authority's Japanese-American resettlement program in the Middle-West.**

Feeling toward the Japanese-Americans has on the whole been of a much gentler nature in the Middle-West than in the Far West. In evidence of this, it would be possible to quote editorial comment from Middle-Western newspapers highly sympathetic toward loyal Japanese-Americans and to reprint passages from letters of Japanese-Americans resettled and fully accepted in Middle Western communities.

**However, the fulminations in the California press and the activities of such societies as the Order of the Eagles and the American Legion are scaring the daylights out of the Middle-Westerners. Communities that otherwise would willingly have accepted small numbers of resettled Americans of Japanese ancestry have been inspired with distrust of the Japanese as a race, and with fear of them as economic competitors.**

The "slap-the-Jap" elements in the West Coast states are not particularly concerned with what happens to the Japs in the Middle-West. That doesn't affect their business interests. They just want to keep them out of the Pacific Coast, preferably, forever. But even if they do not intend to make resettlement of Japanese-Americans in the Middle-West impossible, their campaign is beginning to have that effect.

Unless it is stopped, resettlement of loyal Japanese-Americans and utilization of their man-power for the war effort may be impossible. And in order that it may be stopped, in order that this country may treat the Japanese-Americans within its borders in a fashion worthy of a democratic nation, it is essential that responsible citizens put up a courageous fight against propaganda attacking the Japanese on a purely racial basis. It is essential that they do the job the West Coast press has failed to do and bring the facts of the Japanese-American relocation and resettlement problem before the American people.

**For these reasons we again urge interested students, together with other responsible and intelligent citizens, to support the activities of the Pacific Coast Committee on American Principles and Fair Play, the one organization we know of at the present time carrying on a counter-campaign against hate-the-Jap movements in the West.**

And anyone who is skeptical about the wisdom or importance of their work, or who wants more information, or who is interested in lending the group a hand when he has a spare hour or two, may drop around to the local headquarters at 2234 Telegraph avenue. He will be welcomed.

AUGUST 23, 1943

## Legion vs. Civil Rights

Every part of the American Legion's resolution concerning Japanese adopted at last week's conference was either meaningless or vicious.

Meaningless because in most cases action is being taken in the matter by **proper** governmental authorities; or vicious because it impinges on civil liberties.

**In this resolution the convention advocated Army control of all Japanese relocation centers; immediate elimination of all Japanese from our armed forces; segregation and deportation of all Japanese known to be disloyal; use of investigated Japanese for farm work outside combat areas under Army supervision; immediate arrest of those Japanese who have shown treason or helped the enemy and a congressional investigation aimed at determining a policy of post-war action regarding Japanese in this country.**

Taken point by point the resolution is indicative of the American Legion's policy of discrediting the United States government and its agencies, and thus reflecting credit on itself.

In regard to Army control of Japanese relocation centers, the Army guards these camps as effectively as it deems necessary—which should be good enough for the Legionnaires.

More important, the Army has expressed no desire to be charged with the administration of these camps. It has had no quarrel with civilian authorities. Since there was no blanket charge of treason against the Japanese-Americans and they could not be considered enemy aliens, the affair was placed in civilian hands. There was and is no need of burdening the Army of the United States with a home front matter when it is busily engaged on the fighting fronts.

**The Legionnaires' contention that all Japanese should be immediately "eliminated" from our armed forces is ridiculous. Lt. Col. Sarrant L. Turner, commanding the 100th Infantry Battalion, USA, formed from Americans of Japanese extraction, has this to say about his men—"I have never had more whole-hearted, serious-minded cooperation from any troops than I have received from my present command."**

Segregation of all Japanese known to be disloyal has already been accomplished. Deportation is a harder matter. A happy medium has to be struck between those Japanese who want to go and those whom the Japanese government will accept. All of those who fit these qualifications will be sent back on the Swedish liner Gripsholm in exchange for American prisoners of war.

Forcing American citizens to labor at the point of a gun is manifestly unconstitutional. Depriving a minority of its civil liberties endangers the protection granted by civil liberties to the majority. A government granted the freedom to pick and choose its favorites isn't a democratic government.

**The Legion implied that the government was allowing traitorous Japanese to remain at large, when actually the FBI began making investigations and arrests immediately after Pearl Harbor. Cases of proven Japanese treason have been few. Col. Kendall J. Fielder, assistant chief of staff for military intelligence, Hawaiian department, declared—"Having been in charge of military intelligence activities since June 1941, I am in a position to know what has happened. There has been no known act of sabotage, espionage, or fifth column activities committed by the Japanese in Hawaii, either on or subsequent to December 7, 1941."**

As for the congressional investigation aimed at determining a policy of post-war action regarding Japanese in this country—we think the Legion has really hit upon something.

But if that investigating committee is influenced by men such as those who have propounded the above resolution, its decision against the Japanese will be only the beginning of a purge to rid America of all those not of impeccable American Legion ancestry—Virginia Botorff '44.

# Inside Story of

## Special to The Californian

The behind-the-scenes story of the recent American Legion State convention in San Francisco reveals that the entire membership did not support the resolution advocating the violation of the rights of American citizens.

The resolution was the rabbit—pulled-out-of-a-hat at the “eleventh hour” by a small interested group endeavoring to elect their candidate to a high legion post.

Packed with emotionalism and “nationalism” the resolution was passed by only one-sixth of the

delegates in attendance, succeeded in bringing the graduate to prominence. elected.

The resolution which trick was the one calling control of Japanese relocations the forced labor of Americans of Japanese ancestry.

Eight resolutions were through the proper channels. Resolutions committee, considered and presented to for voting. These eight differed only in the manner of elimination of the Japanese

## CONFERENCE

Joe Mixer, '44, ASUC president, will attend the Pacific Southwest Regional YMCA conference to be held Saturday at Three Rivers, Calif.

Margaret Dodds '44, YWCA vice president; Kate Harris '44, YWCA national representative; and Burton Bishop, YMCA president, will also attend.

War effort participation of the regional “Y's”, World Students' Service fund, entertainment of servicemen by “Y's” and interest in international affairs will be discussed at the conference, Mixer said.

About 20 representatives from California and Arizona will attend the meeting.

The decisions made at the National Intercollegiate Christian conference

not work more than week, the Labor board for a Fair Bear wage basing its statement on faculty report.

The present appeal raise from the present standard to one of 65 cents be discussed at Executive meeting tonight after recommendation is reached by committee this afternoon.

Students working full week cannot afford to than 90 cents an hour says, if they are to decrease student's expenses month which includes University fees, books ASUC membership and miscellaneous items.

*Please ref. to R. Kingman*

1944

SUGGESTION FOR OBTAINING COOPERATION OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES  
IN REINTEGRATION OF PERSONS OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY ON THE WEST COAST

*Don't quote directly.  
To be returned*

May 20: Announcement by War Department of change of policy

*Sent to WRA  
& War Dept.  
early '44*

Every effort should be made to secure cooperation of Governor Warren. There is every reason to believe that he will accept the wartime judgement of the War Department in this, as in other situations. A telephone call from the Commander of the Western Defense Command, immediately preceding public announcement of the new policy, explaining frankly the decision of the War Department, should pave the way for the Governor's cooperation, without which any program aimed toward reintegrating loyal Japanese Americans in our state economy cannot fully succeed.

At the same time, Mr. James Shephard, Chairman of the Regional Protection Board, should be notified by the Commanding General and the suggestion made that the Board be called together at an early date.

May 21: Notice of forthcoming meeting of Regional Protection Board to be sent by Mr. Shephard to members:

- 1) Council of State Governors  
Representative, Governor Earl Warren
- 2) Association of Mayors  
Representatives, Mayors Lapham and Bowron
- 3) League of Cities  
Representative, Richard Graves
- 4) Law enforcement agencies  
Representative, Robert Kenney
- 5) F.B.I.
- 6) O.C.D.
- 7) Federal Security
- 8) U.S. Treasury
- 9) War Relocation Authority

May 27: Meeting of Regional Protective Board: Full, strong statement from War Department, delivered by General Emmons, or some other representative of the War Department, or both, indicating expectation of cooperation from all groups and agencies represented.

- 1) All Federal Regional offices to be notified, following meeting, of policies and program of particular agency in relation to stated order.
- 2) All State offices to receive same notification.
- 3) Specific ways and means discussed for tying together government agencies to service of War Relocation Authority.
  - a) Federal Banks
  - b) Farm Security Administration
  - g) Federal Housing Authority
  - d) Public Health

## Plan of Pacific Coast Committee on American Principles and Fair Play

We are convinced that any single statement, even though released by the War Department, will have to be followed up by careful reiteration and implementation. Many people on the West Coast, no matter how sincere their desire to present a unified front with the War Department at all times, will find it most difficult to accept the return to the Coast of any persons of Japanese ancestry. They have become accustomed to accepting the evacuation of such persons as a result of military necessity. The evacuation was ordered and executed by the War Department.

The removal of any restrictions should be made public, with the full weight of the War Department thrown in support of the loyal Americans of Japanese ancestry who wish to return to their homes, subject only to any remaining restrictions.

To facilitate the process of developing more satisfactory acceptance of the returning evacuees, there should be carefully prepared approaches to the general population, through civilian, non-government channels, as well as through military and government agencies.

The Pacific Coast Committee on American Principles and Fair Play is proposing such a plan, and is ready to go ahead with it, subject to full public recognition by the War Department of the Committee's legitimate part in such a program, and the promise of cooperation of government and military personnel in certain public appearances.

Invitations, while going out from the Committee, should indicate such recognition. Without it, the Committee would not feel free to promote any program, as we have consistently held to the position of full support of the War Department, and feel that the War Department should be represented in any activity concerned with the return of persons of Japanese ancestry to the West Coast.

### General Outline of Plan

#### Agencies and organizations to be invited to cooperate:

(All to be invited through existing state, county and local organizations)

- 1) Office of Civilian Defense
- 2) Councils of Social Agencies
- 3) Law Enforcement agencies
- 4) Boards of Education
- 5) Religious leaders
- 6) Community organizations
  - a) Chamber of Commerce
  - b) Service Clubs
  - c) American Legion
- 7) Labor

#### Program

**Aim:** Coordination, through education, of public and private agencies, and of the public at large, of all efforts to support the War Department and the War Relocation Authority in the reintegration of law abiding persons of Japanese ancestry in unrestricted areas of the West Coast.

Dates: As soon as possible after announcement of new policy, to precede or follow closely upon date when order becomes effective.

The conferences should follow in rapid succession, from north to south, or vice versa, according to judgement of the War Relocation Authority and the Committee.

Personnel: Leadership to be taken from representatives of government agencies on highest possible levels, and from local and community leadership in areas where conferences are held. All conferences should be attended by uniformed representatives of the War Department, authorized to make authoritative statements pertaining to policy.

Preliminary work of organization and executive detail of conferences to be carried on by members of the Committee, and staff secured or employed by the Committee.

Presupposing a successful meeting of the Regional Protection Board, which should lead to a willingness to cooperate on the part of the local officials, the following is presented as a possible

Program for an Area Conference

Proposed method of coordinating government and private agencies and other interested groups, in support of War Department announcement of return of persons of Japanese ancestry to unrestricted areas on West Coast.

- I Area Conferences, to be held on succeeding days, as soon as possible after announcement is made of change of policy.
- II Smaller, community conferences, patterned after the larger, Area Conferences, to be held following the Area Conferences, under leadership developed on Area level.

Areareas:

San Francisco Bay Area

San Jose

Martinez

Richmond

Santa Rosa

Petaluma

San Francisco

Oakland

Berkeley

Sacramento Area

Sacramento

Modesto

Stockton

Marysville

San Joaquin Area

Fresno

Bakersfield

Merced

Tulare

Salinas Area

Salinas

King City

San Luis Obispo

Watsonville

Monterey

Santa Cruz

Los Angeles Area  
 Los Angeles  
 Riverside  
 Redlands

Long Beach  
 Santa Maria  
 Santa Barbara

San Diego

If it is though necessary, one or two conferences could be arranged in the Northwest.

The following is a suggested program for the Los Angeles Area Conference; and might be considered typical of all.

LOS ANGELES AREA CONFERENCE  
 June 5, 1944  
 Hotel Ambassador, Los Angeles, California

Opening Session  
 10 A.M. to 12 M

Chairman

Honorary Chairman: Mayor Bowron

Acting Chairman: Mr. George Hjelte, Director Los Angeles Office of Civilian Defense.

Western Defense Command Representative  
 General Emmons

United States War Department Representative

Lt. Gen. Wm. N. Haskell, (National Director, Office of Civilian Defense

United States Department of Justice

War Relocation Authority Representative

Mr. Dillon Myer or Mr. Robert Cozzens

- I Introduction of Representatives. Chairman
- II Statement and explanation of Policy of Return. Western Defense Command
- III Explanation of some legal problems involved in evacuation. Department of Justice
- IV Statement of problem facing communities in resettlement of persons of Japanese ancestry in unrestricted areas. War Relocation Authority representative.

Noon Session  
 12:15 P.M. Luncheon

Speaker

Hon. Joseph Grew, Head of Eastern Division of State Department

or

Attorney General Francis Biddle

Afternoon Session  
 2 P.M. to 4:30 P.M.

Section Meetings, made up by grouping according to agency or interest. i.e. Where they will have particular interest, representatives of the Western Defense Command should sit in with sections.

- 1) Law Enforcement Agencies  
Chairman, Robert Kenney
- 2) Council of Social Agencies  
Chairman, Chairman of California Conference of Social Work
- 3) Education  
Chairman, from local Board
- 4) Religious groups  
Chairman, Bishop Stevens
- 5) Community Organizations *Wm F.*  
Chairman, Commander Robert Haughton, American Legion
- 6) Government Agencies, Federal State and Local  
Chairman,  
Agenda to cover consideration of problems to be met in particular field, and plans for meeting them.

It is felt that no reconvening is necessary, as the findings of the several sections will be peculiar to themselves. However, reports will be prepared by appointed members of each section, and will be made generally available as soon as possible after the Conference is concluded. A report on the entire Conference will be made available for reference, or for future use.

It is planned that similar conferences, on a smaller, local level, will be promoted in the several outlying communities by interested citizens who feel the necessity of further integration of the returning evacuees. Such will be a natural outgrowth of the larger conferences, and need no great consideration at this time.

The location of such smaller conferences would depend to a large extent upon any indication by the War Relocation Authority that further education might be helpful in any given community.

#### SUMMARY

The Committee on American Principles and Fair Play is proposing a series of Conferences to follow any announcement by the War Department of the return to the unrestricted areas of the Pacific Coast of persons of Japanese ancestry.

The purpose of such conferences would be the coordination, by education, of all public and private agencies and the public at large, of all efforts to support the War Department and the War Relocation Authority in the re-integration of law abiding persons of Japanese ancestry in unrestricted areas on the West Coast.

The Committee will undertake the financing of local and operational expenses of such conferences. Any activity of the Committee in the promotion of these conferences, is dependent upon full public recognition by the War Department of the Committee's legitimate part in such a program and the promise of cooperation of government and military personnel in certain public appearances.

We sincerely hope that the War Department will make every effort to impress upon the west Coast public, the fact that the new orders are a natural termination of a program started two years ago, entirely in line with policies announced at that time.

The dispatch with which the first orders were carried out was due to the force and determination of the Western Defense Command to avoid confusion and possible violence. If the same force and determination are again displayed, there need be no confusion or violence at this later date.

If the West Coast is told what the War Department expects of its citizens, the West Coast will obey orders.

We offer our cooperation.

Pacific Coast Committee on American Principles and Fair Play

August 1, 1944

Background in Population. Prior to the Spring of 1942, there were 126,947 persons of Japanese ancestry living in the <sup>continental</sup> United States. The majority of these, 112,353, lived on the Pacific Coast with 93,717 in California, 4,071 in Oregon, and 14,565 in Washington. The greatest urban concentration was found in Los Angeles with 23,321, next Seattle with 6,975, and then San Francisco with 5,280.

In the rural farming areas, there were 4,527 in Fresno County, 2,247 in Monterey County, 6,764 in Sacramento County, and 4,484 in San Joaquin County. The rest of the Japanese population was further scattered throughout the state.

After February 19, 1942, when the President issued the proclamation excluding all persons of Japanese ancestry from designated military areas of the Pacific Coast, <sup>approximately</sup> 110,000 persons were moved to assembly centers and later to relocation camps. These camps were established by the War Relocation Authority in Utah, Arizona, California, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, and Arkansas. These persons not included in the 110,000 had moved to inland cities prior to the proclamation.

Selected Review of West Coast Newspaper Items in the Past Month

San Bernardino Telegram, 6-20--- Editorial says relocatees "a potential enemy." Given opportunity to lie about loyalty in order to leave relocation camps. "Japanese Americans risk nothing. You risk going to jail if you lie in your gas application. Surely the bureaucrats are having a field day."

Fresno, California, Bee, 7-11. Farm Bureau, Fresno County, adopted resolution favoring removal of alien or disloyal Japanese Americans to Japan; that army take over relocation camps and all Japanese be removed from Coastal Area.

Los Angeles Herald and Express, 7-11. "Dr." John R. Lechner--"Japanese Americans with military experience in our armed forces are used to make an entering wedge for the breakdown of protective regulations" he said addressing the Federation of State Societies luncheon.

Los Angeles Times, Los Angeles Examiner, Los Angeles Herald & Express, Los Angeles Daily News, Burlingame Advance, Peoples World and Wire Services carried varying size stories on Dr. Robert Gordon Sproul's June 29th statement on "Constitutional Rights of Japanese" in address before Fair Play Committee in Los Angeles. Westwood Hills Press carried full text of speech, as did Rob Wagner's Script. Sproul's remarks had general distribution and there is no record so far of any editorial or epistolary objections in West Coast Newspapers.

Los Angeles Times, 7-9, says "Exclusion Measures signed by President and sponsored by Biddle is weak. Advocates the McFarland-Johnson Jap Deportation Bill, calling for "deportation of 65,000 Japanese Aliens-- making a total of 85,000 deportees out of 140,000 in the country."

War News. The 100th Infantry Battalion, composed of Americans of Japanese ancestry was awarded the Distinguished Unit Citation on July 27 by Lieut. Gen. Mark W. Clark.

During this past two weeks, the War Department reported 9 Nisei soldiers killed, 12 wounded and 2 missing in action in recent combat on Italy front. These men were members of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and the 100th Infantry Battalion.

A delayed dispatch dated July 18 reports that Allan Ohata, a member of a squad of Japanese-Americans who killed 47 Germans near Cerasuolo, Italy, last November was awarded a Distinguished Service Cross on July 18, and promoted to lieutenant.

This past week, 8 silver stars were awarded to Nisei of the 100th Infantry Battalion. Two of these awards were given posthumously.

Sgt. Karl G. Yoneda is the first Japanese-American soldier of World War II to win acceptance with the Veteran of Foreign Wars.

Relocation News. Active program of restoration of evacuees to normal living outside relocation centers has been moving steadily ahead. To date 25,000 evacuees have resettled in normal communities in all 48 States and the District of Columbia.

SPECIAL PROGRAM  
for August 1944 - February 1945  
of  
PACIFIC COAST COMMITTEE ON AMERICAN PRINCIPLES AND FAIR PLAY

Program for Mobilization of support for War Department in event of relaxation of present measures excluding law-abiding persons of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast.

The program of the Pacific Coast Committee on American Principles and Fair Play for the year July 1, 1944 to July 1, 1945 will probably be carried on within two distinct periods of time, one following the other and differing in character from the first. This first period roughly defined, will include the months previous to any modifications of military orders now excluding persons of Japanese ancestry from the Pacific Coast. The second period will follow such modification. The length of the first period will depend entirely upon the War Department. The length of the second period will be largely determined by the vigor with which we carry out the first part of the program.

- I Contacts by Committee members and/or staff of Committee with community Leaders in key cities. Simultaneous, parallel action by national religious and social organizations among their constituents on this Coast.
- II Series of Conferences (12 or 14) in California and Northwest.
- III Follow up program integrating our specific program with those of other groups working in the field of minorities.

---ooo000ooo---

I Contacts by Committee members and/or staff.

A Methods suggested:

- 1. enlargement of staff with additional personnel making possible personal interviews in many key communities.
- 2. use of local Committee leaders where possible, supplemented by
- 3. letters sent from Executive office to key persons in various communities, enlisting their cooperation in securing added names of civic leaders who, with education might be expected to provide balance in any critical situation.
- 4. Literature and instructions sent to constituents by cooperating national organizations.

B Purpose

- 1. To ascertain where potential leadership and support is to be found in the various communities, and to establish identity of Committee as source of information and suggestions as to procedure in mobilization of side support of War Department.
  - a categories of persons to be reached: leaders in following fields:
 

1) Education	5) Labor
2) Business	6) Social and Fraternal
3) Industry	7) Patriotic
4) Religion	8) Social Agencies
9) Leaders in War Bond, War Chest, Red Cross, etc.	
- 2. Full mobilization of support when needed, and basis of possible list from which participants and leaders might be made available for future conferences.

- II Series of Conferences: following preceding plan of making contacts in various communities, it should be relatively simple to organize and conduct a series of conferences, in 12 or more critical areas.
- A Time: immediately following announcement of change of policy
- B Purpose: Public expression of support of War Department and full discussion of ways and means of meeting any social or economic boycott against returning Japanese Americans.
- C Participants: 1) conferees drawn from communities, as suggested as result of preceding program promotion.  
2) leadership: outstanding persons, either from local state or federal level.
- III Follow up Program: Development of program aimed at gaining recognition of the rights of law-abiding persons of Japanese ancestry, recognition and membership in any Inter-racial post war or social planning group in California.

Berkeley, California  
July 13, 1944

[1945]

NOT FOR PUBLICATION NOR PUBLIC USE

AN APPRAISAL

OF

METHODS AND TECHNIQUES USED BY FAIR PLAY COMMITTEE

Public attitudes were largely responsible for the evacuation of persons of Japanese ancestry from the Pacific Coast in 1942.

A change in public attitudes was largely responsible for their return.

How Was That Change Affected?

1. By convincing the public that mass evacuation did not imply mass guilt.
2. By mobilizing latent support for law-abiding persons of Japanese ancestry.
3. By urging policy making groups and individuals to accept a common approach based upon the highest American principles of justice and fair play.

The Fair Play Committee claims to have had but a small part in the foregoing accomplishments. To whatever degree its work has been effective, it has been due to the use of certain techniques which were worked out during the four years of the Committee's existence.

As these techniques were based purposely upon certain premises (which were strictly adhered to at all times), they are listed here:

1. Always, but particularly in times of national emergency, Americans are dedicated to the highest motives of patriotism. (This was considered true of opponents of the Committee's work as well as of proponents.)
2. The American Constitution provides the only acceptable criterion of measurement as to the rights of law-abiding persons within the United States.
3. National unity is desired by all loyal Americans.

Upon these premises, the Committee developed a plan which called for:

1. Clarification of attitudes of the following, re persons of Japanese

ancestry in America.

- (a) War Department
- (b) Justice Department
- (c) State Department

2. Alignment in support of those expressed attitudes by:

- (a) State officials
- (b) Law enforcement bodies
- (c) Patriotic organizations
- (d) Labor
- (e) Management
- (f) Education
- (g) Churches

*Kingman's phil.*

The church leadership on the Pacific Coast has been outspoken in support of the rights of loyal evacuees. The same can be said of most of the outstanding educators. However, the rank and file of the membership of the churches, and of education as a whole is made up largely of persons whose thinking is as generally prejudiced as the thinking of persons outside of church or school.

Labor, in the early days of evacuation, was generally quiet or openly opposed to receiving Japanese Americans in trade unions. There was little question of employment, for there were no evacuees present to employ, but Chambers of Commerce were quite unanimous in opposition to evacuee return.

How were these groups to be persuaded to liberalize their thinking?

Two Alternatives

1. All out attack on organizations or individuals whose programs or statements re Japanese Americans could be interpreted as un-American and/or unconstitutional.
2. Educational program which would provide documented material in support of American Principles and Fair Play.

The Educational Program was decided upon, together with a decision to try to develop attitudes which would lead to action in support of Fair Play.

An important part of any educational program is the decision as to whom to educate.

The Committee tried to educate leaders - in Government, Church, Labor, Management, and Education. In any community where its members worked, they were urged to secure the support of recognized community leaders, as most community attitudes are deeply influenced by a few outstanding personalities.

Key persons can effect Key situations.

The Committee tried to see that Key persons had complete and adequate information. Always taking for granted high patriotic motive and sincere concern for civic harmony, the Committee also took it for granted that such motive and concern would eventually lead to fair practice.

That supposition usually worked. Where it did not, a little timely prodding from some other highly thought of community or state leader was usually effective. The Committee stimulated that prodding.

Educate, and prod to action became the accepted technique of the Committee.

#### APPRAISAL

To what extent the methods were successful will be determined as the future position of the Nisei is established.

Where less success was met it was due largely to:

1. Lack of personnel.
2. Failure to mobilize available labor support.
3. Lack of integration of work of all groups working on same problems.

Conclusions:

1. An informed public will willingly accept informed leadership.
2. The public must be recognized as including all of its component member parts.
3. Leadership in each of the component member parts must be utilized.
4. Some dynamic must be developed which will lead to an ongoing alertness to tension causes, particularly where no emergency exists.

Mrs. Kingman

## GUIDE POSTS

Prompt Friendliness. Americans of Japanese descent who return to their former homes will deeply appreciate aid and counsel, particularly during their first fortnight in the community. It is certainly a time "to go the second mile."

Organized Protection of Minorities. Disorder growing out of bias against any unpopular minority is likely to mean loss of property and civic reputation and even of life. For that reason, business men, farmers and public officials alike respond to the idea of forming a Council for Civic Unity, or a Fair Play Committee, such as already is functioning effectively in many larger cities. Such an organization supports public officials in safeguarding the rights of minorities, and facilitates incorporating newcomers into community life.

While clergymen should help start such an organization, or intensify its activity if it already exists, it has been found advisable for prominent laymen to take the helm.

Practical Services. Friendly committees in each neighborhood church or under the auspices of the citywide organization, might call upon returning evacuees and bid them welcome. Unfriendly neighbors should be reminded of the statement of General Pratt, Commanding General of the Western Defense Command, which is enclosed.

If any place of public accomodation or amusement refuses to serve any returnee or other person, call attention to the State law, which forbids discrimination, the penalty being damages of \$100 or more.

In dealing with individuals or groups who oppose giving civil rights and fair treatment to returnees, effective appeal can often be made to self-interest, such as fear of financial loss on account of vigilante action or fear of encouraging revival of Ku Klux attacks on other minorities.

Be sure to let public officials know that you and your lay leaders will actively support them in strict law enforcement.

Enlist the cooperation of local editors and reporters in giving returnees a square deal, and get influential citizens to write letters to the press to counteract hostile statements and actions.

Notify War Relocation Authority of available jobs for returnees.

Authorities to be Notified. In case of rumors or reports of trouble involving Japanese:

1. Telephone--the nearest War Relocation Authority officer, if there is one in your vicinity.
2. Telephone your Sheriff or Chief of Police.
3. Telephone the District Attorney of the County.

If local authorities are lax or indifferent in protecting persons or property, notify California Attorney General Robert W. Kenny, State Office Building, San Francisco.

(Formulated by Pacific Coast Committee on American Principles and Fair Play, 2287 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley 4, California.)

February, 1945