

JAEK Study

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CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES

Since 1941, there have been three California legislative committees investigating Japanese subversive activities, or, since evacuation, Japanese problems. The oldest of these is the Joint Fact-Finding Committee on Un-American Activities established in January, 1941. This committee, popularly known as the Tenney Committee, investigated all Un-American activities. Japanese activities were a minor part of their investigations. The California Senate in the Spring of 1943, established the Senate Fact-Finding Committee on Japanese Problems, otherwise known as the Donnelly Committee. Also in the Spring of 1943, the Assembly Interim Committee on Japanese Problems, or the Gannon Committee, was created. The activities of these three committees overlap considerably. For example, both the Tenney and the Donnelly Committees investigated the November Tule Lake disturbances. The Gannon Committee at its first meeting in August, 1943, voted to cooperate with the Tenney Committee. All three committees are at this time concerning themselves with the question of the return of the Japanese to California after the war.

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES

Joint Fact-Finding Committee on Un-American Activities

(Tenney Committee)

The Joint Fact-Finding Committee on Un-American Activities in California was created by Assembly Concurrent Resolution #13 on January 27, 1941. The committee was instructed to "investigate...any organization known or suspected to be dominated or controlled by a foreign power...". \$10,000 was appropriated from the Contingent Fund of the Senate and the Assembly for the expenses of the committee. Before the final adjournment of the Legislature in 1941, the Rules Committee of the Senate declined to make a further appropriation for its use. Consequently, Assemblyman Jack B. Tenney, who had been made chairman of the committee created under Ass. C. R. #13, offered House Res. #277 to the Assembly. This resolution, which contained nearly the same provisions as Ass. C.R. #13, was adopted. Assemblyman Jack B. Tenney became the chairman of this new committee, which, altho an Assembly interim committee, retained a majority of the members of the Joint Fact-Finding Committee. On January 8, 1943, Mr. Tenney, now a State Senator, introduced with Senator Burns, Senate Concurrent Resolution #8. This resolution provided for a joint Senate-Assembly Fact Finding Committee. At its first meeting, the committee elected Senator Tenney its chairman.

Post Pearl Harbor hearings were held in

San Diego 2/19,20,21,/1942
Los Angeles 2/23&24/1942
Los Angeles 3/24/42
Fresno 5/22,23/1942
San Francisco 5/25,26,27/1942
Los Angeles 12/16 &19/1942
Los Angeles 2/27 &3/1/1943

(Rpt. of Joint Fact-Finding Com. to 55th. Calif. Leg., 1943, Un-American Activities in California, pp. 5 & 6)

The committee has also met after March 1, 1943, but the only source of dates is newspaper accounts of committee hearings. There is no indication in the report at which hearings testimony on Japanese activities was offered. The context indicates, however, that they were all held after the outbreak of war.

In the introduction to its report, the committee stated that "The American Legion and its committees assisted in every instance.... The Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Anti-Defamation League and other similar groups assisted the committee in every possible manner" (Ibid, p.7)

A partial list of the witnesses and the number of lines of testimony attributed to each follows:

Dr. John Lechner.....	569
Dr. Yu-Shan Han.....	106
Mr. Masao Kubose.....	38
Mr. P. D. Perkins.....	97
Mr. Carl K. Sato.....	9
Mr. Togo Tanaka.....	227
Mr. JosephnShinoda.....	14
Mr. Tokie Slocum.....	35
Mr. Edward Thrasher.....	21
Mr. Geo. K. Roth.....	111
Mr. Fred Tayama.....	72
	<u>1299</u>

It is noteworthy that the testimony of Dr. John Lechner, professional anti-Japanese agitator, accounts for 43.76% of the total testimony. Dr. Lechner's testimony covered a wide range of topics. He first took up various kibeï organizations but confined himself to quoting from the

Hawaiian Sentinel. (Ibid. pp. 322-323) Dr. Lechner continued at considerable length concerning the menace of Japanese language schools. (Ibid., pp. 325-8) His next topic was Japanese imperialism. He devoted attention to a document said to be written by Kinoaki Matsuo which outlined a future war between the United States and Japan. He reported plans of Japanese agents to spread germs to undermine the morale of the American people. "He stated that this is to be accomplished by dropping vials containing germs to spread bubonic plague and typhoid from collapsible airplanes to be carried to the shores of the Pacific Coast by large Japanese destroyer-submarines. (Ibid., p. 330) Dr. Lechner next took up Japanese subversive organizations. Among the most dangerous societies listed by him was the Imperial Comradeship Society whose leader was Sakugaro Kubota, whose son, stated Dr. Lechner, is "Takaki Kubota, an American-born citizen and an active leader in the 'patriotic' JACL of Los Angeles.

The activities of Japanese evacuees was Dr. Lechner's next topic. He charged that news rebroadcast by an evacuee committee in Japanese from American news broadcasts was pro-Japanese. Among some definitely pro-Axis statements, Dr. Lechner included these:

"Four Japanese planes bomb Tourinville. Japanese also bomb Darwin. Japanese threat via Buna also serious."

"Nazi blitz speed is astonishing."

"Japanese activities in Australia are on the increase. The Australians say the air strength is no sufficient to check the Japanese assault."

"France might as well fly the swastika."

These excerpts are from a rebroadcast of August 5, 1942. Dr. Lechner stated that he agreed with the American Legion that the relocation camps should be under the control of the Army. "He told of a Mr. Myers (sic)

who had had no experience before his association with the War Relocation Board or Authority, and who knew nothing of the Japanese, being sent to the West Coast as an expert in charge of the Japanese relocation centers. ... He stated that a number of Japanese prisoners captured during the Solomon Islands campaign were brought to the relocation center (sic) at Lordsburg and interned there with the Japanese evacuees.... He stated that the Japanese prisoners from the Solomon Islands painted an encouraging picture of Japanese victories for the Japanese-Americans in the camps, and as a result, the camp was 'all fired up'." Following this, according to Lechner, there was a demonstration culminating in the singing of the Japanese national anthem and the flying of a Japanese flag. (Ibid., pp. 348,9)

Lechner testified that a movement composed largely of church and educational leaders is active in the United States in discrediting the evacuation policy. In regard to church publications, Lechner said:

"From our information it is very apparent that a definite policy is being employed to create a favorable attitude toward Japanese-Americans in this country, and so favorable that naturally we will build up a sympathetic attitude ~~oward~~ for Japan. That is what we call the 'softening-up process' so that these various organizations can put across with full speed, by the end of 1943, a terrific campaign for a negotiated peace with Japan, and it is a very clearly worked out scheme." (Ibid., p. 352)

The Institute of Pacific Relations came in for criticism also.

"Underneath that whole conference was this undeflying motive, to build ~~there~~ at that Pacific Conference in Quebec the structure for the cooperation of the Institute of Pacific Relations for a negotiated peace and the leaders in that conference were former missionaries and educators of Japan. Why they had this antipathy for the Korean was because they felt that if he were a part of the conference he would expose the things that were going on inside. That is a matter of fact that Mr. Haan testified to.

"The purpose of these groups, as I stated, is to soften American public opinion against Japanese and pave the way for a negotiated peace with Japan." (Ibid., p. 352)

Togo Tanaka was the editor of the English section of the Los Angeles Rafu Shimpo. He was asked to testify in regard to Japanese propaganda. Tanaka's testimony, as summarized in the Tenney Committee report, is frequently prefaced by such phrases as "He admitted" or "He claimed". For example:

"He admitted that after Pearl Harbor he had come to realize that the Japanese section of Rafu Shimpo was subversive. He also admitted that many articles and much of the material printed in Rafu Shimpo had been sent from Japan..."

"He admitted that most of the existing organizations were dominated by the Nisei because of their more mature years."

"He claimed that he did not know the exact meaning of the term 'Yamato Domoshi'..."

"He admitted that '(one reads in the legends' about the three Japanese symbols, the mirror, the jewel, and the sword."

"He claimed to know nothing of the rumor that the Nisei had received threats for their lack of cooperation with Japanese Consular agents. (Ibid., pp. 332-336)

The Tenney Committee Report does not give an exhaustive list of the witnesses called. It lists twelve names and states "Among the witnesses called...were...". Complete direct quotation from the testimony is printed only in the case of Dr. John Lechner. A few isolated sentences and phrases are directly quoted in the accounts of the testimony of Mr. Geo. K. Roth, Mr. P. D. Perkins, Mr. Joseph Shinoda and Mr. Togo Tanaka. No attempt is made in the report to summarize the viewpoints of a witness. In the section on Japanese subversive organizations, accounts of the testimony of Dr. Lechner, Dr. Yu-Shan Han, Mr. Perkins, Mr. Shinoda, Mr. Slocum, Mr. Thrasher, Mr. Knox, and Mr. Tayama follow each other with no attempt at summary.

After the publicity given the hearings of the Joint Fact-Finding Committee on Japanese activities, the recommendations of the committee are an anti-climax. Only one recommendation out of nineteen deals exclusively with the Japanese. This is:

"17. Recommended to Congress that pro-Axis Japanese in the various camps be segregated and that the control of all Japanese activities be placed in the hands of the United States Army for the duration of the war."

The committee doubtless had the Japanese in mind in making the following two recommendations, altho as stated, they are applicable to other groups as well.

"3. Exerting influence on Congress to deny citizenship to any person born in the United States who is subject to dual citizenship in the country of his or her parents' birth."

"6. Enactment of legislation ~~providing~~ prohibiting any person not eligible to United States citizenship from commercial fishing off the coast of California."

The following are applicable to Japanese along with others:

"14. Enactment of legislation designed to supervise and censor foreign language broadcasts and the foreign language press."

"19. Enactment of State legislation bringing all foreign language schools under the strict supervision and control of the State Board of Education."

(Ibid., pp. 384 and 385)

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A few accounts are available on the activities of the Tenney Committee subsequent to the publication of its report. The ^{Sacramento} ~~WRA Weekly~~ Bee of 2/3/43 ~~Press Review, No. 3,4,5~~ reported that Senator Tenney stated that his committee would try to find a way to get tires off stored Japanese owned autos. Senator Burns was authorized to start an investigation on this matter. The New York Times of April 22, 1943, reported that the Tenney Committee charged the WRA with pampering the evacuees.

Early in 1943, the Tenney Committee cooperated with a California American Legion committee created to investigate California relocation centers. Department Commander Happell appointed a committee of which Senator Tenney was the chairman. Other members of the Joint Fact-Finding Committee were detailed to accompany the Legionnaires in their investigations. The findings of this committee were reported to the Legion Executive Committee by H. J. McClatchy. (Calif. Legionnaire, 5/1/43, pp. 1 & 6)
(For the contents of this report, see the section on the activities of the American Legion.)

The month following the completion of this report, two members of the Joint Fact-Finding Committee, this time without Legion assistance, again investigated the Tule Lake Camp. News releases indicated that the members spent three days at Tule Lake. However, Mr. Harvey M. Coverley, Director of the Tule Lake Center, stated that they arrived at the Center early in the afternoon of June 3 and departed for Yreka sometime between ten o'clock and midnight of the same day. The methods used by Tenney Committee members in obtaining information is well illustrated by the following letter from Mr. Coverley:

"I ascertained that after the investigators left the project (shortly after 6 P.M. on June 3) they went to the police station in Tule Lake. They then sent out for several local citizens from whom they wished to obtain information.... During the time these interrogations were proceeding, Mr. Ralph E. Peck, our Chief Steward, happened to walk into the police station on another errand. One of those present who knew Mr. Peck happened to address a chance remark which revealed him as an employee of the project. The investigators then asked him to answer some questions. He stated that if they wished to inquire regarding his official duties or to obtain information regarding the feeding of evacuees they should come to his office during business hours where his records would be available. They then withdrew their questions although they asked him for opinions on one or two matters of general interest.

"Later, apparently between 8 and 9 P.M., the investigators and their party retired to the 'Roosevelt', a tavern and gambling house located about four miles northwest of Tule Lake and had dinner. They requested one of the men with them, who knew many WRA employees to bring any such employees who might enter the tavern to their table for questioning. This person, however, did not comply with the request although several employees did enter the tavern during the evening."

(Letter Harvey M. Coverley to Dillon S. Myer, 6/17/43)

A second visit to the Tule Lake Center was made on July 14, 1943 by Senator Hugh M. Burns, Assemblyman Randall Dickey, and Investigator R. W. Combs. They arrived in mid-morning and were offered any help they desired in making their investigations. They were invited to a meal in the mess hall. Assemblyman Dickey answered that that would not be necessary. Mr. Coverley reminded him that the Oakland Tribune on June 26 had quoted him as saying: "You and I would be tickled to serve their garbage on our table". As Mr. Dickey had never eaten in a Relocation Center mess hall nor had inspected one's garbage, Mr. Coverley thought it only fair that he accept the invitation. Mr. Dickey apparently agreed. However, shortly before lunch, he left the project promising to return in time for lunch. He did not return until the others had eaten and then remained for less than an hour. The other two investigators left in the late afternoon.

(Letter Harvey M. Coverley to Dillon S. Myer, 7/15/43)

The most recent item on the Joint Fact-Finding Committee indicates that it has not improved its techniques. Charges that Japanese were freely entering and leaving California; that Japanese supplied with pistols were engaged in target practice in isolated spots; that Japanese send and receive uncensored telephone and telegraph messages concluded with this sentence: "This disclosure was made today in an expose based on secret investigation by The Examiner and the legislative Fac-Finding Committee on un-American Activities". (San Francisco Examiner, 11/30/43, p.1)

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES

Senate Fact-Finding Committee on Japanese Problems
(Donnelly Committee)

The Senate Fact-Finding Committee on Japanese Problems was created by Senate Resolution #122 which was introduced into the Senate on April 27, 1943 and adopted on May 5, 1943. (Final Calendar of Legislative Business, Calif. Leg., 55th. session, p. 366) The members were Senators Donnelly of Turlock, Chairman, Hatfield of Merced, Dorsey of Bakersfield, Quinn of Eureka, and Slater of Santa Rosa. (S. F. Chronicle, 5/12/43)

The wording of Sen. Res. #122 is worthy of scrutiny:

"Whereas, Japanese people resident in the State of California have proved to be a serious menace to the peace and safety of the State and of the United States as a whole; and, Whereas, The Japanese people have been removed from the State, such removal appearing to be only temporary; and Whereas, On May 19, 1913 and on November 2, 1920, the people of the State of California adopted an Alien Land Law; and,

...

Whereas, The reason for the passage of the laws was: The clash of two races and two civilizations, socially and economically incompatible, no question of the inferiority or superiority of either race being involved; and Whereas, By subterfuge and device the Alien Land Law has been circumvented until it has become a virtual nullity;..., and, Whereas, Great areas of land over which such aliens exercise all of the rights of ownership are situated along the shore lines of this State and in many other places vital to the military, political, and economic welfare of this State; and, Whereas, Such a condition existing under a State law designed to protect the American farmer from the deleterious economic competition in the growing and marketing of farm produce constitutes a menace to National defense, to the citizens of this State and Nation, and to the American grower and dealer, and,

...

Whereas, The return of the Japanese people to the State after termination of the war may conceivably constitute a serious menace to the peace and safety of the people of the State in subsequent years; now, therefore, be it Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, That there is hereby created a Senate Fact-Finding Committee on Japanese

Problems which shall investigate, ascertain and appraise all facts concerning the return of the Japanese people to this State after termination of the war, and all matters relating to evasions of the Alien Land Laws, to recommend amendments to those laws or additional laws to prevent such evasions and to consider any and all phases of the social, economic, political, and National problems arising out of the present war between Japan and the United States..."

\$10,000 were set aside from the Contingent Fund of the Senate for the expenses of the committee. (Calif. Leg, 55th. session, Senate Daily Journal, p. 2977)

The Donnelly Committee was created as a fact-finding committee, but in the very instrument of its creation are such statements as:

"Japanese...have proved to be a serious menace to the peace and safety of the State and of the United states..."

"The clash of two races and two civilizations, socially and economically incompatible..."

"Such a condition (Japanese control of land) existing under a State law designed to protect the American farmer from the deleterious economic competition in the growing and marketing of farm produce constitutes a menace to National defense, to the citizens of the State and Nation, and to the American grower and dealer..."

The Committee began hearings in mid-June in the San Joaquin Valley. (S.F. News, 6/11/43) It met in Modesto for organization and investigation. It heard witnesses from veterans organizations which opposed return of the Japanese. (S.F. Examiner, 6/16/43) Five hundred questionnaires which were filled out by Turlock residents and presented to the committee, were almost unanimously against the return of the Japanese. (Modesto Bee, 6/18/43)

In August the committee met in Fresno and the Sacramento Bee reported that its chairman "is on record as opposing the return of evacuees for the duration of the war." (Sac. Bee, 8/26/43) The majority of the witnesses opposed the return of the evacuees before the end of the war

as it "might be dangerous to their safety". Assemblyman Heisinger of Fresno urged revocation of citizenship of American-Japanese and army control of all Japanese. "The people of Fresno County do not want the Japanese back." Mrs. Eva Scott of the American War Mothers urged revocation of citizenship and deportation of all to Japan regardless of their place of birth. Arthur Drew of the Native Sons suggested that there be "special inducements" to encourage Japanese to repatriate or expatriate. Other witnesses attacked WRA policies. Lowell Pratt, editor of the Selma Enterprise and Margaret Cosgrove, registrar of Fresno State College, denied that the loyal could not be differentiated from the disloyal. (Pac. Cit., 9/4/43, p.3)

The committee met in Los Angeles in October. One of the chief witnesses was Mayor Bowron who was quoted as saying that he ^{would} "...defy anyone to pick out a loyal Jap. He'll protest undying loyalty to the cause of democracy right up to the time he commits a traitorous act". District Attorney Howser of Los Angeles testified that members of three service men's organizations had pledged that they would deal violently with any Japanese who returned--now or after the war. Pearl Buck appeared as a witness at the Los Angeles hearings. She declared that federal officials were competent to pick the loyal from the disloyal. She suggested that opposition to the Japanese in California was based on racial prejudice and economic competition. She favored applying selective service to the nisei. Our Oriental Exclusion Laws, declared Miss Buck, broke the liberal movement in Japan and thus made possible the domination of Japan by the military group. Unfair treatment of Japanese in this country jeopardizes our entire war aims by giving some basis to the contention that this is ~~xxxxxxx~~ a racial war.

There were other witnesses at the Los Angeles hearings who spoke for the right of the Japanese to return to California. A. L. Wirin of the ACLU gave as his opinion that Japanese Americans should be permitted to return before the end of the war, loyal aliens after the war. Fred Fertig, a Los Angeles minister, in answer to the argument that the Japanese should not be allowed to return because of the danger of rioting declared:

"The answer is not in Hitler's method, of taking the Japanese into protective custody. It is not the Japanese that are the lawless or disloyal element, but those who make this threat. They not only endanger the lives of the Japanese but our whole system of law and order."

Mr. Fertig said that anti-Japanese sentiment on the west coast was not nearly as strong as the extremists indicated. He concluded by saying that we must solve our national and international racial problems or we add to the possibility of world-wide racial war.

Other witnesses included Dr. J.F.B. Carruthers, vice-president of the Pacific Coast Japanese Problem League; Col. F. B. Whitmore; Deputy City Attorney Fairfax Cosby; Mrs. Margaret Benapfl of the Gold Star Mothers; Mrs. Agnes Darton, first vice commander of the Navy Mothers Club. (Pac. Cit., 10/23/43)

During the Los Angeles hearings, the Pacific Citizen quoted Senator Slater as saying that the committee had already determined that Californians opposed the return of persons of Japanese ancestry to the coast during the war. (Pac. Cit., 10/23/43)

Following the November disturbances at Tule Lake, the Donnelly Committee investigated their causes. According to the San Francisco News of 11/8/43, about 200 of the WRA personnell were summoned as witnesses. The Army would not allow any internees to testify. Rep. Engle (D. Calif.) whose district includes Tule Lake, was also investigating conditions, usually

in cooperation with the State Senate Committee. Rep. Angle is quoted as saying that the testimony fully "justifies and supports our demands that the Tule Lake camp remain permanently under Army control". Former employees C. L. Payne, Ernest Rhodes and John Stubbs laid the blame for the disturbances on "social service workers" in charge of the camp.

(Oakland Tribune, 11/9/43)

The following day Chairman Donnelly wrote a special article for the International News Service which said in part:

"A comparison of the daily menus served to 16000 disloyal Japs at the Tule Lake segregation center with the fare given our people held prisoner by Japan is the best answer I know to 'sob sister' social workers who insist that Japs interned in this country are not being coddled.... We've got to get tough with the internees and get tough right now."

(S. F. Examiner, 11/10/43)

The committee met in San Francisco in December and the San Francisco Examiner reported them as proposing army control of Tule Lake, no return of WRA to control of the camp, FBI control if the army refused continued control. Senator Hatfield was quoted as saying: "In any case I feel strongly that if a civilian agency is set up they should not be social workers" (S. F. Examiner, 12/11/43, p.7)

Also available - Report & Recs. of Donnelly Com. on Tule Lake

The conclusions of the committee on Tule Lake were reported in the San Francisco Chronicle of 12/13/43. They recommended continued army control of the Tule Lake Camp and the prohibition of the return of any Japanese to California during the war. The report stated that the internees were well provided for from the standpoint of food, housing, and medical care. They considered their demands for better treatment unwarranted and "part of a definite plan of the disloyal Japanese to dominate the center and the authorities in charge". The WRA, they charged, had given in to some demands and were immediately confronted with new demands. They

also charged that the camp was inadequately policed. The "lack of any definite policy" they considered to be the cause of the "revolt against the WRA administration". (S.F. Chronicle, 12/13/43, pp. 1 & 5)

During December there were many rumors circulating on the Pacific Coast that Japanese were being allowed to return to the Coast. The following telegram was sent to President Roosevelt from the Donnelly Committee protesting such a policy:

"The California State Senate Fact-Finding Committee on Japanese Resettlement...unanimously and vigorously protests such action and policies.... This committee fears and knows that the relocation in this State of the Japanese during the war will inevitably lead to violence and bloodshed, thus creating an excuse for the mistreatment of American civilian and military prisoners in Japan, many of whom are citizens of this State. Furthermore, because of the extreme difficulty if not impossibility of determining the loyalty of any Japanese, foreign or native born, we believe that such action would further the dangers of sabotage and espionage..." (S.F. Chronicle, 12/13/43, p.5)

ACTIVITIES OF CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES

Assembly Interim Committee on Japanese Problems
(Gannon Committee)

The Assembly Interim Committee on Japanese Problems was created by H.R. #238 which was introduced into the Assembly on May 1 and adopted on May 5. (Final History, p.363) Its members are Assemblymen Gannon of Sacramento, Chairman, Robertson of Santa Barbara, Price of Ontario, Thomas of San Pedro, and Field of Glendale. (Ibid., p. 31.)

Resolution #238 declared that the problems arising out of a large number of Japanese in the state would become more acute with the termination of the war. The Japanese problem is of more concern to the people of California than to the rest of the nation so that problems have arisen "out of treaties between the United States and Japan in the making of which the desires of the people of this State may not have been fully considered". The present state of war and the suspension of treaty rights "affords an opportunity to settle these problems in such a manner as will prove both fair to the individuals affected and at the same time satisfactory to the people of this State". The Legislature requires information "based upon an impartial study and investigation of all of the factors involved". Therefore, they were creating the Assembly Interim Committee on Japanese Problems which was to "investigate, ascertain, and appraise all facts concerning the solution of the problem of the Japanese in California, including but (~~not~~) limited to the constitution^{al} and other legal factors involved, and the possibilities that treaty rights may again be acquired to an

extent not desired by the people of this State". (Assembly Daily Journal, p. 3127)

The San Francisco Examiner in reporting the establishment of the committee said that \$1000 was appropriated for a committee to study "a fair and Christian program" for handling the Japanese after the war. (S. F. Examiner, 5/6/43) The Pacific Citizen reported that the Gannon Committee would concentrate on the post war effects of the Japanese problem. (Pac. Cit., 7/3/43, p.2)

At their first meeting in Los Angeles on August 3, the Assembly committee voted unanimously to adopt a resolution introduced by Assemblyman Gannon urging the detention of all persons of Japanese ancestry for the duration of the war. This resolution was adopted before the committee had made an investigation. "Assemblyman Robertson of Santa Barbara is quoted by the Los Angeles Times as having said 'We ought to have an investigation before adopting a resolution'. But the committee went ahead and adopted their resolution." (Edit., Pac. Cit., 8/7/43, p.4) In ~~the~~ Los Angeles, the committee also heard a recommendation by Senator Tenney that they inquire into Buddhist and Shinto property in California. They received testimony that certain groups were working towards a negotiated peace. Leo V. Youngworth, past grand trustee of the NSGW testified that the present United States Japanese population was 300,000 and that it would grow to 30,000,000 in less than 100 years. The committee voted to call upon the American Legion, the Elks, the NSGW for assistance, and to cooperate with the

Tenney Committee. (Pac. Cit., 8/7/43, p.1) (Sac. Bee, 8/3/43)

The Gannon Committee met in Santa Maria in November. Three witnesses, Dr. Wm. Conser, president of the Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce; Robert E. East, vice president of the Southern Counties Gas Co.; and Thomas B. Parks, Lompoc farmer testified that the Japanese were not necessary to the economy of the State. (Pac. Cit., 11/13/43) More than a dozen farmers, businessmen, and vegetable packers declared their opposition to the return of the Japanese at the concluding Santa Maria session.

~~(Pac. Cit.)~~ (Pac. Cit., 11/20/43, p.3) Two witnesses favored the return of the Japanese. Rev. A. A. Heist, pastor of the Santa Maria Methodist Church approved the return of the evacuees after the war and declared that their return was an economic necessity. Rev. Heist also charged that the names on a petition requesting that Japanese be prohibited from returning were secured under business and social pressure. (Pac. Cit., 11/13/43, p.1) Mrs. Clarence Gillett, wife of a Santa Maria minister, called for fair treatment of loyal persons of Japanese ancestry. (Pac. Cit., 11/20/43, p.3)

The committee met in Los Angeles on December 8, 1943 to investigate the Fellowship of Reconciliation and the Pacific Coast Committee on American Principles and Fair Play. (Oakland Tribune, 12/6/43) The testimony of A. L. Wirin, counsel for the ACLU, was refused. Chairman Gannon was quoted as saying that "We are not going to make these hearings a field day for the Civil Liberties Union. We know enough about your organization already. (S. F. Chronicle., 12/10/43, p.3)

Jean McKay, a teacher at Tule Lake and a member of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, testified that she and other members of the Fellowship had gone to Tule as teachers. She said that the WRA did not know of their affiliation until they began to distribute pamphlets. These pamphlets denied that there had been sabotage at Pearl Harbor, that no nisei had given information on another Japanese, and that the evacuees were being "coddled". (S. F. Examiner, 12/8/43, p.14) The committee also investigated a series of articles by Galen Fisher of the Committee on American Principles and Fair Play and a publication of the Pasadena Chapter of the Committee. The Pasadena publication in question was a reprint of a letter written by a marine private attacking the anti-Japanese policy of the American Legion ^{towards Japs in the U.S.}. The committee met and heard various horror tales about Japanese people. They then questioned Mrs. M. F. Thayer of the Pasadena Fair Play Committee. The type of question~~s~~ asked "Mrs. Thayer, if a fair sample of their investigating methods, leaves much doubt as to the wisdom of ~~its~~ ^{the} continuance ^{of the com.}

Gannon--"Do you want to champion the rights of a people where different sexes do nude bathing together?"

"Mrs. Thayer, have you ever smelled the odor of a Jap home?"

"...The Bill of Rights is not such a sacred thing after all. Don't you know that at the time the Bill of Rights was written we had 150,000 slaves in the United States?"

Mrs. Thayer--"I think we've made some progress since then.... It is of greatest importance that in time of war we do not go off into race hatred."

Gannon--"Are you a Communist?... This sounds like their doctrine."

Dr. Robert A. Millikan of the California Institute of Technology telephoned a protest statement to the committee's attorney. When the attorney began to read it, Mr. Gannon interrupted and asked to be told who Dr. Millikan was.

After this display, even the Los Angeles Times editorialized:

"It is no proper function of a legislative committee... to turn itself into a prosecutor of what may currently be unpopular.... When they turn themselves into witch-burning agencies... they go far afield."

(Time, 12/20/43, pp. 18 &19)