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PACIFIC COAST COMMITTEE ON AMERICAN PRINCIPLES AND FAIR PLAY

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The Committee on American Principles and Fair Play vigorously endorses the following government policies. It is our conviction that these policies strengthen the war effort of the nation and are in line with our democratic traditions.

1. Segregation of all disloyal persons of Japanese ancestry.

" all known subversive Japanese (should) be immediately segregated and removed from existing relocation camps and be confined in special detention camps for the duration of the war with Japan."

. . . . Special House Committee of California
Representatives: Costello, Englebright,
Tolan, Izac, and Anderson.
(I.N.S. Washington, May 12, 1943)

" Immediate internment of all disloyal Japanese."

. . . . Recommendation by Senator Albert B. Chandler
to Senate Military Affairs Committee.
(A.P. Washington, May 7, 1943)

2. The protection of the right of loyal Americans of Japanese ancestry to serve in the armed forces of the United States.

"It is the inherent right of every faithful citizen, regardless of ancestry, to bear arms in the nation's battle."

. . . . Henry L. Stimson, Secretary of War.

"I applaud the action of the Army in setting up facilities whereby those Americans will be able to show the world what they are able to do."

. . . . Joseph C. Grew, former United States Ambassador to Japan.

"I have never had more whole-hearted, serious-minded cooperation from any troops than I have received from my present command."

. . . . Lt. Colonel Farrant L. Turner, commanding 100th Inf. Battalion, U. S. A., formed from Americans of Japanese extraction in the Hawaiian National Guard.

"The first prisoner of war taken by the United States was captured by a Hawaiian-born Japanese American national guardsman, who overpowered the operator of a Japanese submarine, while patrolling a Hawaiian beach on Dec. 7, 1941."

. . . . United Press, April 22, 1943.

3. The opportunity for loyal Americans of Japanese ancestry to resettle in the manner, which, in the judgment of the federal government, is best designed to meet the manpower shortage.

"In accordance with the directive in the Presidential Executive Order which created the Agency, the War Relocation Authority has developed procedures which are aimed at bringing about the relocation into normal communities of the largest possible number of the evacuated people consistent with the national security."

. . . Dillon S. Myer, Director War Relocation Authority.
June 9, 1943.

"Food will win the war and write the peace."

. . . . Claude Wickard, Secretary of Agriculture.

"Every loyal American citizen should be given the opportunity to serve this country wherever his skills will make the greatest contribution—whether it be in the ranks of the armed forces, war production, agriculture, government service, or other work essential to the war effort."

. . . . President Franklin D. Roosevelt, February 1, 1943, commenting on the organization of the War Department's combat unit for Japanese Americans.

4. Fair Play for Americans of Japanese ancestry who are loyal.

"The mass evacuation of Japanese did not imply disloyalty on the part of all Japanese and it does not appear either right or in accord with the American conception of democracy to retain these loyal ones in restrictive custody,"

. . . . Colonel William P. Scobey, War Department General Staff.

"Having been in charge of military intelligence activities since June, 1941, I am in a position to know what has happened. There have been no known acts of sabotage, espionage, or fifth column activities committed by the Japanese in Hawaii either on or subsequent to December 7, 1941."

. . . . Colonel Kendall J. Fielder, Assistant Chief of Staff for Military Intelligence, Hawaiian Department.

"The Americans of Japanese origin are an invaluable element in our population; I welcome their presence, and regret the bitter necessity of imposing on a trustworthy and loyal majority of nisei the restraints which are made needful by the bad behavior and evil repute of a minority I welcome the policies of our government which are designed to relieve the nisei of discriminatory restrictions as rapidly and fairly as possible."

. . . . Joseph C. Grew, former United States Ambassador to Japan. April 26, 1943.

We support these government policies.

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The Committee has taken no position on any suggestion that persons of Japanese ancestry be returned to the Pacific Coast at this time. We have confidence in the present policies of the War Department.

Our primary concern is to insure the application of the following principles to the solution of these problems.

- (1) Attacks upon the rights of any minority tend to undermine the rights of the majority;
- (2) Attempts to deprive any law-abiding citizen of his citizenship because of racial descent are contrary to fundamental American principles and jeopardize the citizenship of others;
- (3) Legislation to deprive Americans of Japanese descent of any of their legal rights would set a precedent for depriving other racial groups of their rights and would weaken the confidence of our allies, particularly those in Asia and Latin America, in the sincerity of our professions to be fighting for the rights of all peoples;
- (4) It is un-American to penalize person of Japanese descent in the United States solely for the crimes of the Government and military caste of Japan.

The Committee on American Principles and Fair Play was formed to support and defend the constitutional rights of law-abiding persons of oriental descent in the United States and particularly of the Japanese American evacuees. Persons desiring to aid the educational program of the Committee either through financial contribution or volunteer service should write to the Executive Secretary at:

465 California Street, San Francisco, California.

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Honorary Chairman

Dr. Robert Gordon Sproul

Chairman

Mr. Maurice E. Harrison

Executive Chairman

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General David P. Barrows
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Mr. Alfred J. Lundberg
Mr. Richard R. Perkins
Mr. John T. Wagner
Mr. George Wilson

Mrs. Ruth W. Kingman, *Executive Secretary*

June 15, 1943

PACIFIC COAST COMMITTEE

ON

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June 15, 1943

A BRIEF HISTORICAL REPORT OF THE
PACIFIC COAST
COMMITTEE ON AMERICAN PRINCIPLES AND FAIR PLAY

October 1, 1941 - December 15, 1945

That tensions between the United States Government and Japan were felt in California as early as October of 1941, was indicated in a release issued on October 1 of that year by the Northern California Committee on Fair Play for Citizens and Aliens of Japanese Ancestry.

Signed by its chairman, General David Prescott Barrows, the release called upon fair-minded Californians to combat discrimination against their fellow residents of Japanese race. Its introductory paragraph follows:

"....One by-product of the current tension between Japan and the United States is of special concern to California, and may affect the morale of our armed forces. It is this: popular resentment toward Japan may find expression in greater discrimination or even physical violence against fellow-residents of Japanese extraction, distrust of the Japanese Government being transferred to all persons of Japanese race. A moment's thought will show that such animus would be not only unAmerican, but also a menace to public welfare and the good name of our State."

On December 29, 1941, three weeks after Pearl Harbor, the Fair Play Committee, under the new name of Committee on National Security and Fair Play, issued a further release, the introductory paragraph of which read:

"The central objective of our Committee on Fair Play has been supported by the California public, even under the stress of Japan's treacherous attack. Californians have kept their heads. There have been few if any serious denials of civil rights to either aliens or citizens of Japanese race, on account of the war. The American tradition of fair play has been observed."

The release expressed satisfaction on the following points:

1. "All of the organs of public influence and information, press, pulpit, school, radio, etc., have discouraged mob violence and have pleaded for tolerance and justice for all."
2. "Federal and local officials charged with maintaining order and suppressing subversive activities have shown both vigor and sympathetic consideration in the fulfillment of their duty."
3. "Private civic agencies have acted promptly to handle the many difficulties encountered by Japanese residents on account of necessary wartime restrictions on persons and property...."

".....This Committee is not concerned either to appraise or to guarantee the loyalty to the United States of citizens or resident aliens, whether they be of the Japanese or any other race. Espionage or subversive activities by Japanese residents, or by anyone else, should be reported as a matter of course to the F.B.I. or the local police, and they, not private individuals or vigilantes, should be left to take protective measures. We believe in order under law, not under violence or caprice."

On March 3, 1942, a detailed statement of this Committee "welcomed the President's proclamation of February 20th, placing all residents in vital military areas under the control of the Secretary of War and the military commanders....As Californians, no less than as American citizens, we accept it as a wise solution of the vexed problem of handling enemy aliens and dangerous citizens."

This appeal was prepared for the Committee by Galen M. Fisher. No account of the work of the Fair Play Committee could be considered complete without special reference to the tireless efforts put into its program by Dr. Fisher. His leadership in all phases of the Committee's activities has always inspired the people who have been privileged to work with him.

In the March 3 release, it was suggested that (1) in the event of evacuationevacuated persons be committed to civilian governmental agencies rather than military, (2) the removal of aliens and citizens be kept at the minimum consistent with military necessity and national security, (3) "The integrity of our nation and all the liberties guaranteed by it are at stake. It is a national fight, and only the Government should call the signals. In the spirit of the President's proclamation, it behooves us all--public officials and private citizens alike--to set up no impediments in the way of the military and other Federal authorities, and to place ourselves at their command....Engaged as we are in a life and death struggle to preserve our hard-won democratic heritage, we should be traitors if we flouted democratic principles of justice and humanity in our treatment of either aliens, or citizens, even under the stress of war. We, therefore, appeal to our official representatives, municipal, county, state, and national, and to our fellow-citizens of whatever origin, to maintain order under law and the respect for persons summed up in the words "Fair Play".

When the policy of the federal government, as worked out by the War Relocation Authority, permitted the persons of Japanese ancestry who had been excluded from the Pacific Coast to resettle inland, considerable objections were raised by the residents of the inland communities. It appeared to members of the Committee that a more widely representative organization than they had thus far affected would have to carry on an effective program. With that end in mind, the Committee on National Security and Fair Play was dissolved on January 8, 1943, to make way for a larger, stronger organization.

In a letter to the vice-chairmen of the committee, written on January 8, 1943, the chairman, Dr. Grady, said "We may believe that we have exercised a moderating influence on both public opinion and government authorities, and helped avert mob violence against Japanese residents, which was a prime objective of the original founders of our Committee."

The Pacific Coast Committee on American Principles and Fair Play

The Pacific Coast Committee on American Principles and Fair Play was organized on January 28, 1943, in San Francisco, as an outgrowth of the Committee on National Security and Fair Play.

All persons of Japanese ancestry had been evacuated from the Pacific Coast. The hue and cry had been raised which, if successful, would permanently prevent their return. The traditionally anti-Oriental bodies of California, among them the Native Sons and Daughters of the Golden West, the State Grange, and some of our patriotic organizations and their affiliates, were busily at work memorializing Congress and the State Legislature in efforts to bring about discriminatory legislation. Many well-meaning, sincere, frightened and angry persons were being swept into hysterical attitudes by professional agitators whose sponsorship revealed an economic interest in the permanent absence of Japanese American competition, principally in agriculture.

If the Committee wished to prove effective, it was clear that a definite program, organized and administered from established headquarters would have to be adopted. To that end, such headquarters were established at 465 California Street, San Francisco, and a temporary executive office set up in the University of California Young Women's Christian Association in Berkeley, California. An Executive Secretary was employed and the work of the Committee has continued, to date, within the framework of the organization then effected.

POLICY

The policy and program of the Committee were based upon the premise that, given full and accurate information, even on the most controversial subjects, the average American, if he has been reared in the democratic tradition, will remain fair-minded in the face of prejudice.

Surrounded by war-inflamed prejudice and with little accurate information available with which to combat it, the Committee was faced with the necessity of producing its own weapons, instructing its members in their use and directing the ensuing campaign.

The long standing anti-Oriental position of many West Coast groups had produced large quantities of anti-Japanese and anti-Nisei propaganda. Most of it had appeared in the press, notably in the Hearst and McClatchy papers, much in committee and organization reports, some in radio and on the screen. As a result, with the advent of war with Japan, there was much inflammatory material available, but relatively little that was objective and factual.

The Committee decided to make all possible use of the excellent statements which were being made by War Department officials, and Army Intelligence Officers, Justice Department representatives, Intelligence Officers and other government officials, whose attitude could be expected to carry much weight with sincere persons who were willing to listen to facts. As such statements were compiled, it became clear that if the material was to be widely distributed and accepted, a formidable task of public relations lay ahead.

The Fair Play Committee (as it has become generally known) found itself acting as an unofficial public relations representative of the War Department, the Justice Department, the State Department, the War Relocation Authority, and any other government body or civil servant whose responsibility it was to express a considered opinion concerning persons of Japanese ancestry in the United States.

As a matter of policy, the work of the Committee was closely geared to the policies of the federal government, which it heartily endorsed and supported. It was, therefore, natural that the Program of the Committee was developed within specific chronological periods indicated by War Department decisions, and that the Methods used were calculated to liberalize and strengthen government policies as well as to increase their acceptance.

PROGRAM

Chronological Timetable.

Period I. (February 19, 1942 to December 18, 1944.)

Covering the period from the issuing of the Presidential Order which authorized the evacuation of all persons of Japanese ancestry from the Pacific Coast to

Period II. (December 18, 1944 to August 14, 1945.)

Covering the period following the recession of the general order and the substitution of individual exclusion orders, up to

Period III. (August 14, 1945 to December 15, 1945)

The period following the surrender of Japan and the lifting of all exclusion orders.

PERIOD I.
(February 19, 1942, to December 18, 1944)

Membership.

Obviously, the Committee's first task was the creation of a wide organization. Decisions were reached which called for mobilization of all existing sympathetic opinion. It was felt that membership should be drawn from a wide constituency, and should include outstanding representatives of Labor, Education, Religion, and Industry. To this end, hundreds of letters were sent out, and the Executive Secretary spent several weeks conferring with community leaders from Seattle to Los Angeles. Organizations, such as the Pasadena Fair Play Committee, and the Fresno Fair Play Committee expressed a desire to join in the wider organization, and their memberships became the backbone, and from time to time the spokesmen, of the entire group. Committees in Santa Barbara, San Jose, Sacramento were encouraged in their organizing, as were smaller groups in Palos Verdes and several other outlying communities.

Categories of membership were established, ranging from Student memberships, with annual dues of \$1.00, through Regular memberships (dues \$2.00 per year), and Sustaining Memberships (dues \$10.00 per year). The amount of financial support received through these memberships, plus a few moderate gifts, and later generous Foundation grants, made it possible for the Committee to print, mimeograph or multigraph and distribute over 100,000 pieces of material containing well documented statements and facts in support of the government's policy.

(The treasurer of the Committee is Harry S. Scott, President of the General Steamship Corporation of San Francisco. All financial transactions of the Committee have been under his supervision and the books have been audited annually by Long and Wyman, certified public accountants, 300 Montgomery Street, San Francisco)

With leaders in Church, Education, Labor and Business recognizing the Committee as a dependable source of information concerning the evacuees, the Executive office, by the middle of June, 1943, was so pressed with requests for material and guidance, that an office secretary was secured, to handle much of the detail involved.

Preparation of Material and Determination of Policy.

One of the most useful pieces of material prepared by the Committee was the statement drawn up and published on June 15, 1943. Outlining the principles upon which the organization was based, it provided the yardstick by which all subsequent action of the Committee was measured. More than ten thousand copies of the original statement, plus several thousand more, as it was later brought up to date, have been distributed. A portion of the statement is as follows:

"Our primary concern is to insure the application of the following principles to the solution of these problems. (ed. note: Problems concerning lawabiding persons of Japanese ancestry.)

- (1) Attacks upon the constitutional rights of any minority tend to undermine the rights of the majority;
- (2) Attempts to deprive any law-abiding citizen of his citizenship because of racial descent are contrary to fundamental American principles and jeopardize the citizenship of others;
- (3) Legislation to deprive Americans of Japanese descent of any of their legal rights would set a precedent for depriving other racial groups of their rights and would weaken the confidence of our allies, particularly those in Asia and Latin America, in the sincerity of our professions to be fighting for the rights of all peoples;

- (4) It is un-American to penalize persons of Japanese descent in the United States solely for the crimes of the Government and military caste of Japan.

With the distribution of the foregoing Statement of Policy, the Committee established its interest in the attitudes of policy-making bodies, whether civic, religious, or governmental. While many of its members were associated in one way or another with groups whose primary interests included problems of welfare, often effecting the evacuees, it was decided that the program of the Committee would be limited to the support of the rights of Americans of Japanese ancestry, rather than to include a program of welfare and/or personal service to the evacuees.

(See attached sheet for list of material prepared and distributed by the Committee)

Much of the work was done through other organizations, whose members made use of the factual material provided by the Fair Play Committee. Church groups, student organizations, labor unions and various civic bodies were advised, upon their own request, as to what might be done through their own channels, to develop unbiased attitudes toward the Japanese Americans.

In order that the Committee might feel sure that the suggestions made were in full accord with the government's wartime policies, certain members of the Advisory Board, and Executive Committee, as well as the Executive Secretary, kept in touch with both the War Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

On several occasions Advisory Board members met with members of the General Staff of the Western Defense Command. The Executive Secretary conferred with Assistant Secretary of War John McCloy and with Attorney General Francis Biddle in Washington. All of the Committee's releases were sent to representatives of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in San Francisco. At all times, excellent relations were maintained with the Department of the Interior and the War Relocation Authority, and upon one occasion, Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes met with the Advisory Board in San Francisco.

Because its members felt confidence in the government's policy as administered by the War Relocation Authority, much of the Committee's work during 1943, and 1944 was concentrated upon an interpretation of that agency's program. Faced with an overwhelmingly difficult administrative task, W.R.A. also had to meet a wartime Congress, and an indifferent or openly hostile press, not to mention repeated attacks by the Dies Committee and its state-sized counterpart in California.

When the War Department, largely as a result of efforts of Assistant Secretary of War, McCloy, activated an all Nisei Combat Unit in the Army, one of the main objectives of the Committee was gained. The right of loyal citizens to serve in the armed forces was established.

Tremendous pressure was directed at Washington to prevent the acceptance of Nisei in the Army. The anti-Nisei forces well knew that a large step had been taken in restoring rights which would eventually lead to the return of Japanese Americans to the Pacific Coast.

Approximately one-half of the material released by the Fair Play Committee during 1943 and 1944 referred to Nisei in the armed services. Many articles and releases were in support of the rights of the Nisei servicemen and his law-abiding parents. As the unsurpassed record of the 442nd Infantry has become familiar to the American public, and the exploits of the Intelligence units in the South Pacific have been recounted, there has been a ~~marked~~ decrease in anti-Nisei agitation, even on the West Coast. In 1943-1944, however, that record was only in the making.

Both the War Department and the War Relocation Authority have done an outstanding job of publicizing the record of the Nisei servicemen. That record has done more than any or everything else to convince hostile Westerners that the War Department has sound reasons for disagreement with General DeWitt's ill advised statement that "A Jap is a Jap".

"If and When".

War Department responsibility for ordering the evacuation was always recognized by the general public.

War Department responsibility for the return of the evacuees has still to be recognized by many.

The Committee at no time questioned the right or wrong of evacuation as ordered. However, it did contend that if and when the order was rescinded, the evacuees should be allowed to return. To that end, material was prepared and distributed, pointing out the contributions the law-abiding Japanese Americans would be able to make to the war effort and to national unity, if and when the War Department permitted their return.

Strong opposition was presented in portions of the press and by telegrams to the President and in letters to Congressmen. Resolutions (strangely similar in form and content) were passed by Boards of Supervisors, Chambers of Commerce, American Legion Posts, and many other organizations, strongly protesting any return of evacuees. All predicted dire results to the nation at large, to the Pacific Coast specifically, and last but not least, to any person of Japanese ancestry who might appear in the evacuated area, should the order be rescinded.

Up and down the Pacific Coast, other groups, stimulated by the Committee, were taking measures, openly and privately, assuring the War Department, the War Relocation Authority, and the Western Defense Command that the majority of the people living on the Pacific Coast were willing to abide by the decisions of the War Department in time of War. Assurances were made by some law-enforcement bodies, and particularly by the Attorneys General of the states of Washington, Oregon, and California, that if and when the evacuation order was rescinded, law and order would be maintained. (See Period II and Period III for further report on law enforcement).

During this period, Nisei in uniform, and later members of their immediate families who had been cleared by the military, were permitted to return to the evacuated area. Strong groups in the Northwest, particularly in Seattle, were outspoken in support of the rights of the servicemen. The Committee membership in Washington and Oregon remained small--in Washington because existing groups were already doing effective work, in Oregon because of the distance between the Executive office in California and Portland, where some of the bitterest anti-Nisei organizations originated.

In December of 1943 an executive office was set up in Los Angeles to serve southern California, and in June, 1944, a strong committee was organized in that city.

As nearly one half of the Japanese Americans evacuated from California left from Los Angeles County, it was highly important that feeling against their right to return should not crystalize if and when they were permitted to do so. Therefore, the formation of a strong Fair Play Committee, whose efforts could be added to those already being made by the other civic, religious and educational groups in the Los Angeles area, was timely and effective.

PERIOD II.

(December 18, 1944, to August 14, 1945)

Almost simultaneously with the rescission of the exclusion order by the War Department, (December 18, 1944) came an announcement by the War Relocation

Authority that all Relocation Centers would close by December, 1945.

There was no longer any question as to the right of the evacuees to return.

All of the persons and organizations who had been trying by every means possible to prevent the return of law-abiding Japanese Americans had been shown by War Department action, that they had failed utterly. They now found themselves in the embarrassing position of opposing the War Department in time of war.

The Committee, however, had always based its program on mobilization of support for the War Department if and when a rescission of the Exclusion would be announced.

Thus the work of the Committee was, overnight, changed from an "if and when" to a "when" basis. The law-abiding people whose rights had been obscured during the dark days of group suspicion were enjoying the support of the War Department, and the work of the Committee became easier.

In December of 1944, the Executive Committee, together with several members of the Advisory Board, met to consider the problems which would face the returnees. It was felt that, inasmuch as the federal government had moved the evacuees out, government agencies could be expected to assist in their return.

Government Responsibility for Evacuee Aid

Shortly after the announcement of the closing of the Relocation Centers, certain problems presented themselves to the evacuees as they planned to return to their homes. More than half were expected to resettle elsewhere, but most of those remaining in the centers expected to return to the Pacific Coast. The most pressing needs were:

- (1) Financial aid.
- (2) Housing.

Most of the evacuees had been working in the centers for \$16.00 per month. Expenses had eaten up any or most of their reserve, and they disliked asking for charity. The W. R. A. was faced with an enormous administrative task unparalleled in United States history. With little support from an unsympathetic Congress, it has managed to carry out a very distasteful task in a more humanitarian way than could have been hoped for.

The limitations of W. R. A. made it impossible that truly adequate financial provision be made for the returning evacuees. As a result, much bitterness and distrust of W. R. A. developed within the Centers. The Committee has given all possible support to W. R. A. in its efforts to secure adequate funds for a satisfactory conclusion of its program.

The housing shortage throughout the United States is now a matter of common knowledge. However, early in 1945 the picture was not as clear as it is now, in December of 1945. W. R. A. announced the coming closing for the Centers and told evacuees that if they had no other relocation plans they would be put on trains which would return them to their former homes. The acuteness of the housing shortage was not recognized in time to make proper provision for housing the returnees.

As a result, the War Relocation Authority has promoted a mass return of the evacuees to areas where housing is already inadequate. Such a return is often not only a physical hardship to the returnee, but also presents problems in public relations which threaten to undo much which the Committee has been able to accomplish in the past three years.

The Committee, while continuing to support the W. R. A. relocation policy, has given no support to its present program, and has sent memos sharply critical of that program, to Secretary of the Interior Ickes, President Truman, and Dillon Myer,

Director of the War Relocation Authority.

Community Cooperation With Returnees

Development of civic groups throughout the state which would provide permanent organizations equipped to combat community tensions rising from racial and other minority problems was undertaken by the Committee.

It was recognized that county and local welfare agencies, religious groups and other organizations whose programs served minority constituencies, could be expected to cooperate with the government agencies.

It became a policy of the Fair Play Committee to work for recognition of the rights of law-abiding persons of Japanese ancestry to membership in any inter-racial post-war or social planning group in California.

A statement made by the Committee at this time reads, "Of this we are certain. The status of any one minority is irretrievably related to all minorities. There are many able groups and individuals here on the Pacific Coast and elsewhere who have made the problems of minorities their chief concern. Some have maintained a warm and active interest in the thousands of Americans of Japanese ancestry during these past bitter years. More have allowed problems of a less vicious controversial nature to take first place in their overcrowded schedules and budgets.

"One of the most important things we must do is to gain 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.

"We have occasionally, in the past, been criticized for concentrating our efforts in behalf of law-abiding persons of Japanese ancestry. We look forward to the day when that concentration of effort will not be necessary, when members of this, one of our smallest racial minorities, will receive friendly recognition by all groups working in the field of minority problems.

"When that day comes, our immediate task will be done, and we can turn our keen interest and strong support toward the development of proper attitudes and conduct among men of all races."

In an effort to draw together the government and private agencies for a consideration of their responsibilities, a conference was called for January 10 and 11, 1945.

CONFERENCE ON INTER-RACIAL COOPERATION
PALACE HOTEL, SAN FRANCISCO, JANUARY 10-11, 1945

Sponsored by the Pacific Coast Committee on American Principles and Fair Play, the Conference was built around the following purposes:

1. To draw together persons connected with Government Agencies and voluntary organizations in order to plan jointly for the orderly and harmonious integration into community life of such evacuees of Japanese ancestry as may return, with Army approval, to the West Coast, and
2. To consider creating machinery to ensure coordination of plans agreed upon and of activities of organizations concerned with inter-racial and inter-cultural relations.

Participants: Representatives of Government Agencies:--

War Relocation Authority
Federal Social Security

War Manpower Commission
Federal Public Housing Administration
Children's Bureau
U. S. Office of Education
Civil Service Commission
President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice
Public Health Service
State War Board
California Agricultural Adjustment Agency
California Department of Agriculture
Farm Security Administration
Emergency Farm Labor Project, Agricultural Extension Service
Federal Land Bank, Berkeley
United States Employment Service

Members of Voluntary Organizations:

Pacific Coast Committee on American Principles and Fair Play--
Representatives from: Los Angeles, Pasadena, Santa Barbara,
Sacramento, Fresno, San Mateo, San Jose, Seattle.
San Francisco Council for Civic Unity
Seattle Council for Civic Unity
Berkeley Democratic Club
National Conference of Christians and Jews
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
Filipino Groups
Residents of relocation centers
Berkeley Inter-racial Committee
American Council on Race Relations
Berkeley Branch--Women's International League
Committee on Resettlement, Federal Council of Churches.
Rosenberg Foundation
Columbia Foundation
Chinese Six Company
Office of Community War Services
Young Men's Christian Association
Young Women's Christian Association
American Civil Liberties Union.
International Institutes
Congress of Industrial Organizations
Northern California Council of Churches
East and West Association
Community Chest
American Friends Service Committee
Japanese-American Citizen's League
Jewish Survey Committee
Representatives of the different churches.

Statements were made by representatives of government agencies, pledging non-discriminatory treatment for returnees.

In round table discussions, it was concluded that some expert guidance was necessary to provide a coordinated program of inter-racial and inter-cultural groups on the West Coast.

The second day of the Conference was devoted to a consideration of the "Outlook and Situation of Japanese Americans in Pacific Coast Agriculture".

Discussion was introduced by a series of ten minute statements by:

Director of the War Relocation Authority.
Chairman of the State War Board and California AAA Committee.

Director, California Department of Agriculture.
Regional Director, Farm Security Administration
Associate State Supervisor, Emergency Farm Labor Project, Agricultural Extension Service, University of California.
President, Federal Land Bank of Berkeley.

In a discussion led by the Chairman of the State Board of Agriculture, committee members joined with returned evacuees in an attempt to clarify the situation of the returning Japanese American Farmers.

Field Work Following Conference

As the paid personnel of the Committee has never been adequate to do all of the field work necessary for the development of a full program, other organizations have contributed the services and expenses of their own personnel to assist in the work. The Federal Council of Churches, the American Council on Race Relations, the Young Men's Christian Association, the Young Women's Christian Association, and the Congregational Church have all assigned staff members to the task of going out into the counties and smaller cities of California in an effort to mobilize the fair-minded people in those communities. These representatives worked out of the Committee's office, developing the program as outlined by the Committee.

The marked success of such field personnel, plus a natural upsurge of community concern, has resulted in the formation of organizations in at least fifty communities in California. Some already existing organizations were strong, notably the Berkeley Inter-racial Committee, the San Francisco Council on Civic Unity, the Los Angeles Council on Civic Unity, the Mayor's Committee of San Francisco, and the Inter-racial Committee of Monterey. These groups had been going concerns for some time, and had developed excellent programs by the end of 1944. Others, like the the Mayor's Committee in Fresno, and certain smaller groups in more rural communities, are off to a strong start, while others are still rather nebulous and in great need of direction.

Suggestions have been sent to some of these organizations from time to time, such as:

(1) Guide Posts. Mimeographed sheet sent out at request of church groups, indicating what practical services might be offered to returnees and instructing members as to procedure to be followed in case of trouble or rumored trouble involving returnees.

(2) Homeward Bound. A pamphlet prepared and sent out by the American Council on Race Relations and the Fair Play Committee together, with suggestions to community groups wishing to assist the evacuees in their return.

(3) Actions to Take Immediately When An Offense Occurs. Mimeographed sheet prepared and signed by State Attorney Robert W. Kenny, giving concise instructions as to how to notify authorities of any offense, threatened or actual.

Further Community Organization.

As an outgrowth of the Palace Hotel Conference, plus an increasing number of requests from groups in outlying communities, a second conference was planned.

To an increasing degree, the work of the Fair Play Committee was being taken over by other organizations. This was highly gratifying, as it indicated that the Committee had been successful in gaining support for the Nisei by other groups.

Outstanding members of the press were now outspoken in support of loyal Japanese Americans. Certain American Legion Posts had taken an excellent stand and had initiated Nisei members. The C. I. O. had come out strongly in support of the right of law-abiding Japanese to employment. The International Longshoremen and Warehousemen's Union had expelled two of its members who persisted in discrimination against a Japanese American fellow member. Schools and Universities were showing

fine attitudes in welcoming their returning faculty members and students of Japanese ancestry.

To insure an ongoing development of this trend toward true Americanism, the Committee called a conference to be held, at the request of the local Fair Play Committee, in Sacramento.

Conference of California's Councils of Civic Unity
and Similar Community Organizations
Sacramento, California, July 6, 1945

The following organizations were invited to send representatives:

Council for Civic Unity, Mountain View
Council for Civic Unity, Vallejo
Council for Civic Unity, Oakland
Council for Civic Unity, Stockton
Council for Civic Unity, San Jose
Council for Civic Unity, Sacramento
Council for Civic Unity, Long Beach
Council for Civic Unity, Los Angeles
Mayor's Committee on Civic Unity, Oakland
Mayor's Committee on Civic Unity, San Francisco
San Diego Committee for Civic Unity
Inter-racial Council, Stockton
Inter-racial Committee, Berkeley
Inter-racial Committee, Monterey
Inter-racial Commission, Pasadena
Rev. Arthur Fruhling, Vacaville
Mr. Charles Jeppeson, Vacaville
East & West Association, Santa Barbara
Committee on Japanese Resettlement, Stockton
Twin Cities Citizens League, Yuba City
The National Conference of Christians & Jews, San Francisco
Fair Play Committee, Fresno
Fair Play Committee, Palo Alto
Fair Play Committee, Pasadena
Fair Play Committee, Los Angeles
Fair Play Committee, San Mateo
Fair Play Committee, Santa Barbara
Friends of the American Way, Pasadena
Race Relations Group, University of California, Berkeley
Open Forum, Vacaville
Japanese American Citizen's League, San Francisco
Council for Civic Unity, San Mateo

At the invitation of the Committee, observers were sent by the Western Defense Command and the Ninth Service Command.

In three work sessions, the following subjects were discussed:

1. The place and functions of Councils of Civic Unity in the Contemporary Picture.
2. "Racial Tensions and the Law."
3. "California vs. Un-American Practices."

In the discussion on the Place and Functions of Councils of Civic Unity, the Regional Director of the American Council on Race Relations, as chairman, was able to bring before the conference a consideration of types and programs of Civic organizations most effective in resolving community tensions due to minority problems.

Racial Tensions and the Law

In a consideration of racial tensions and the law, the chairman, Robert Kenny, Attorney General of the State of California, prefaced his talk by reading a release from the American Civil Liberties Union, in which a reward of \$1,000 was offered for "information leading to the arrest and conviction on a felony charge of persons who molest the returning Japanese Americans within one year from that date."

During the first half of 1945, there had been an increasing number of "incidents" where violence and threats of violence had been known to occur. There had been no bodily harm done any returnee, but more than eighty reports of arson and other destructive acts or threats had been made to the authorities.

One of the reasons for the holding of the Conference in Sacramento was to call attention to the determination of both the Governor and Attorney General to maintain law and order. The discussion revealed the dissatisfaction of those attending with the lack of law-enforcement. It also gave the Attorney General an opportunity to outline procedures for implementing the law-enforcement officers and courts.

At a luncheon meeting between sessions, the speaker, Frank A. Clarvoe, Editor of the San Francisco News, challenged members of both majority and minority groups to develop attitudes and practices which would contribute something constructive to a society all of whose members were fighting for "freedom".

Following a discussion of the general inter-racial picture in California, it was generally concluded that some kind of integration of all groups working on problems related to racial tensions was desirable.

A motion was passed providing that "the program committee (of the Conference) be asked to act as a nucleus and to undertake any procedure that recommends itself to them in order to make the next step in tackling the problems of organizing a statewide council."

The program committee was made up of the following:

1. Executive Secretary of the San Francisco Council of Civic Unity.
2. Executive Secretary (Regional) of the Japanese American Citizen's League.
3. Director (Regional) The American Council on Race Relations.
4. Assistant Treasurer, Fair Play Committee.
5. Executive Secretary, Fair Play Committee.

In the weeks immediately following the Sacramento Conference, several meetings were held for a discussion of a statewide organization. (Further account of organization to be continued in Part III of this Report).

PART III

(August 14, 1945 to December 15, 1945)

With the abrupt end of the War with Japan, the work of the Committee took on still further changes.

Once again, there was a twofold task. First, support of evacuee right to return. Second, Development of state organization.

Support of Evacuees

The Committee has always refrained from undertaking any kind of welfare work. At the same time, it has done what it could to analyze the evacuees needs, and to enlist the interest of other groups in developing welfare programs.

As most of the returnees were returning to the southern part of the state, it was natural that the Los Angeles Committee would spearhead the development of committees whose members would try to meet the welfare needs of returning evacuees.

Since V-J Day, particularly, the Los Angeles Office has been instrumental in developing widespread and generous interest in such welfare program. From September, 1945, to the present, southern groups have been practically autonomous and have carried on a program specifically in line with local needs. At the same time they have remained closely allied with the Central Office, and have had its continued and full support.

After V-J Day, the problem of housing returnees was lessened considerably. It was made possible for the War Department to provide a number of vacated army installations, and the Federal Housing Authority to provide unneeded housing projects and trailer camps.

It became evident that existing provision for those in need of public assistance was either inadequate or was not being satisfactorily administered. When this was pointed out to the Federal Social Security, through whose offices public assistance funds were being distributed, way and means of creating a more satisfactory procedure were worked out.

The Committee is presently engaged in efforts which may assist in securing additional funds to be administered by Social Security should need arise after the present government fiscal year.

Statewide Organization

Following several meetings of the Organizing Committee, copies of a preliminary set of By-Laws was sent to each organization represented at the Sacramento Conference. After much consultation it had been concluded that the type of coordination and leadership which a statewide organization would need could best be secured if a considerable portion could be found in some already established body.

The Fair Play Committee, as an emergency, war-time organization, felt that the times called for a more permanent structure. The organizing committee decided to ask the American Council on Race Relations to provide leadership and guidance to that permanent structure.

At the present date (December 15, 1945) a second, amended set of suggested By-Laws is being drawn up, and will be submitted immediately, to the cooperating bodies for acceptance or rejection.

Final organization will be effected in January, 1946, and an ongoing program assured.

PUBLICATIONS, REPRINTS AND RELEASES

Used by

COMMITTEE ON AMERICAN PRINCIPLES AND FAIR PLAY

1. Statement of Purpose and Policy. (See p. 5 of report for full description) Brochure setting forth the policy of the Committee. 30,000 copies distributed.
2. Signed statement by outstanding citizens, a brochure made up of statements of President Roosevelt, Secretary of War Stimson, Col. Kendall J. Fielder, of Military Intelligence, Hawaiian Department, Attorney General Francis Biddle, and others, expressing concern that distinction be made between law-abiding resident Japanese Americans and our enemy in Japan.
3. Signed statements, of J. Edgar Hoover, of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Chief of Policy Gabrielson of Honolulu, testifying to the lack of sabotage in Honolulu on December 7, 1941.
4. War Department Release carrying facts concerning Americans of Japanese ancestry in the United States Army.
5. Editorial by Chester Rowell, a reprint from the San Francisco Chronicle of June 14, 1943, headlined "Much Hysteria About Japanese Americans".
6. A Balance Sheet on Japanese Evacuation, by Galen M. Fisher. A booklet containing reprints of four articles appearing in the Christian Century of August 18, and 25, and September 1, and 8, 1943. (1) "Untruths About Japanese-Americans", (2) "Our Two Japanese-American Policies", (3) "Are the Evacuees being Coddled?", and (4) "What Race-Baiting Costs America". (Ed. note: With this writing, December, 1945, orders and requests are still coming in for this booklet, from Universities and libraries throughout the country. To date there have been 16,500 printed, but few still to be distributed).
7. Truth about the Jap Camps, reprint of an article by Maxine Davis, Liberty Magazine, August 7, 1943.
8. Democracy Begins at Home, reprint of two articles from Summer edition, 1943, of Common Ground. (1) "Get the Evacuees Out", by M. Margaret Anderson, (2) "Relocating a People", by Robert W. Frase, of the Employment Division, War Relocation Authority.
9. Beyond the Horizon, reprint of autobiographical sketch by Sgt. Yori Wada, appearing in the University of California Alumni Monthly, December, 1943.
10. American Fighting Men Speak Out, booklet prepared by the Committee, made up of quotations from letters from service men both Caucasian and Nisei, on the fighting fronts, expressing their attitudes toward the anti-Nisei hysteria then being expressed at home.
11. A Voice That Must Be Heard, an amplification of the Committee's "American Men Speak Out", prepared by the War Relocation Authority, and containing many more letters.
12. Ben Kuroki's Story, the Committee's pamphlet edition of "An Address by Sergeant Ben Kuroki of the United States Air Force", presented before the Commonwealth Club, in San Francisco, February 4, 1944.

13. Our 110,000 New Boarders, reprint from Reader's Digest of March, 1943, of an article by J. P. McEvoy, condensed from the Baltimore Sunday Sun, February 7, 1943.
14. Pertinent Facts, a sheet prepared by the War Relocation Authority in February, 1944, and revised in the spring of 1945, calling attention to important data concerning Japanese Americans and their life in and out of the Relocation Centers.
15. Myths and Facts About the Japanese Americans, a booklet prepared by the Department of the Interior (W.R.A.) in June, 1945, "Answering Common Misconceptions Regarding Americans of Japanese Ancestry".
16. "The Test of A Free Country", a pamphlet prepared by the Committee, presenting a talk given by Dr. Robert G. Sproul, President of the University of California, and honorary Chairman of the Committee, in Los Angeles, California, on June 29, 1944.
17. Poster - carrying excerpts from the aforementioned "The Test of A Free Country".
18. Addresses of Dillon S. Myer, Director, War Relocation Authority.
 - (1) The Truth About Relocation. (Commonwealth Club, San Francisco, August 6, 1943.)
 - (2) Racism and Reason. (Meeting sponsored by Committee, Los Angeles, October 2, 1944.)
19. Nisei In Uniform, booklet of photographs and text, prepared by the United States Army and the War Relocation Authority, describing work of Japanese Americans in the Armed Forces.
20. Homeward Bound, a pamphlet prepared and sent out by the American Council on Race Relations and the Fair Play Committee, suggesting specific and practical aids to returning evacuees. Suggested for use by organized groups.
21. Racial Relations on the Pacific Coast, reprint from the San Francisco News of an address by its Editor, Frank A. Clarvoe, before the Commonwealth Club of California, January 19, 1945.

Several thousands of copies of additional material, some provided by the Department of the Interior, some by Denominational Presses, and still others mimeographed on Committee orders, have been distributed. All were as carefully prepared and documented as the foregoing, and contributed materially to the growth of confidence its constituents felt in the work of the Committee.

COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY AND FAIR PLAY

Office of the Chairman
311 California Street
San Francisco, California
Sept. 11, 1942

To Vice-Chairmen:

Our Committee on National Security and Fair Play was formed just about a year ago, under the name "Committee on Fair Play", and has worked to good purpose. Five Releases have been sent to several hundred papers and influential persons, and reprints of two articles, together with one Release, have been sent to all Members of Congress. Members of the Committee have had numerous conferences with both Army and Civil officials in charge of executing the Presidential Order which led to the evacuation of the Japanese. We labored hard, but unsuccessfully, to secure selective, instead of indiscriminate, evacuation.

Now that evacuation has been completed, it seems to me and several vice-chairmen whom I have consulted, that our Committee should be dissolved; but also, that serious consideration might be given to the advisability of bringing about the formation of a national, instead of a regional, committee, specifically adapted to meet the present situation. Our Committee has actually concerned itself almost exclusively with the Japanese issue. If a new nation-wide committee were formed, it seems desirable to me and others that it should deal with the constitutional rights of all enemy aliens, as well as with those of Japanese-American citizens; furthermore, that it should give special attention to the resettlement of the evacuees and their reincorporation into American life.

To make an impression on the nation along these lines will manifestly require a persistent, well-financed campaign, and the active support of prominent citizens all over the country.

Before reaching any decision on these matters, I am taking two steps: 1) Asking you and other Vice-Chairmen either to write me a letter or check the questions on the accompanying sheet; 2) Seeking the judgment of well-informed persons in the eastern states as to whether a new national committee for the purpose stated is needed, or whether some existing agency can meet the situation. Kindly reply promptly and frankly.

Sincerely yours,

Henry F. Grady
Chairman



AMERICAN PRESIDENT LINES, LTD.
SAN FRANCISCO

October 24, 1942

HENRY F. GRADY
PRESIDENT

To Vice-Chairmen of the Committee on National Security
and Fair Play:

Re: The future of the Committee and its work

Your replies to my letter asking your opinion regarding the possible dissolution of this Committee and provision for continuing its work indicate a nearly unanimous opinion in favor of dissolution, and a two to one opinion favorable to persuading some existing national agency to cover the field of problems related to the Japanese evacuees and other minority and alien groups. Only a few of you favored making our present Committee nationwide.

My consultation with eastern advisers on the question of the best existing agency to meet the situation points to the Council for Democracy, of New York. This Council is headed by Raymond Gram Swing as Honorary Chairman, Ernest Angell as President, Lyman Bryson of the Town Hall as Chairman of the Executive Committee and Evans Clark as Executive Secretary. The Board of Directors includes three of our Vice-Chairmen - Dr. Millikan, President Sproul and Mr. Rowell. It also has from five to twenty representatives in various categories, such as education, religion, journalism, labor, law, business, public affairs, radio, the arts and sciences.

A letter from Mr. Angell says: "We feel that we could take on the additional problem of the Japanese evacuees, and perhaps contribute substantially to its solution, if the conditions were right. No one on the staff here has first-hand knowledge of the situation, and therefore the staff would have to be enlarged to include such an executive. He could not operate effectively without substantial allowance for travel expense, and all in all, I do not see how we could do a creditable job in this field without a supplementary annual budget of approximately \$12,000. Raising this amount of money in the East is made particularly difficult, since the problem is not acute here. Do you believe that the sum mentioned could be secured from interested parties in the West Coast states?"

To Vice-Chairmen

-2-

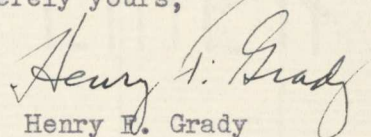
Committee on National Security and Fair Play

Fortunately, I was able to confer with Mr. Angell a week ago in New York and was favorably impressed with him and with the character of the Council for Democracy. It seems to me we should now move vigorously toward trying to secure at least half of the \$12,000 required to enable the Council to undertake the task.

Mr. Angell strongly desires to add a number of representative persons from the West Coast to the Council's Board of Directors and will also be looking for a suitable person to head up the new activities as soon as the necessary funds are in sight.

As a first step, I am asking the following persons to serve as a special committee to secure funds: Alfred J. Lundberg, President Aurelia H. Reinhardt, Rabbi Irving F. Reichart, and Maurice E. Harrison. They have all signified their willingness to serve. Any aid that you can render will be greatly appreciated by them and by myself.

Sincerely yours,


Henry E. Grady

[1942] ✓
EVACUATION PROBLEMS

Resume of Conference with Col. W. L. Magill, Jr., Director of Evacuation, at Presidio, San Francisco, on March 10, 1942, by representatives of Committee on National Security and Fair Play, following up an earlier conference between him and other Government officials and Chairman Henry F. Grady.

Participating were: Monroe E. Deutsch, Alfred J. Lundberg, Chester H. Rowell, Maurice E. Harrison, Jesse H. Steinhart, Galen M. Fisher. Pres. Sproul was detained at the last moment.

A memorandum on "Selective Evacuation of Japanese-American Citizens" had been given in advance to Colonel Magill. He made a careful statement of the Army's policy, and answered questions with courtesy and frankness for an hour. The main conclusions emerging were approximately as follows:

1. No Hearing Boards in advance of evacuation acceptable to Army, for either citizens or alien Japanese. Although no assurances were given that Hearings would be allowed for citizen Japanese at the Reception Centers, we felt that there was a slight chance that they would be, provided we could propose a water-proof plan for impartial and competent Hearing Boards. Dr. Grady has therefore approved making the attempt to do so.

2. Japanese whether citizens or aliens now serving in essential posts, such as in Federal bureaus connected with defense, will be exempt from evacuation if their record is clear. Half Japanese (Eurasians) vouched for by reputable citizens and innocent of suspicious conduct likely to be exempt.

3. Personal property to be protected by the Federal Reserve Bank, as specified in the announcements issued March 11th. Enemy aliens should refrain from sacrificing properties and depend on Federal authorities to advise them.

4. Completion of naturalization of aliens who have taken out second papers has been held up in thousands of cases by congestion of Government bureaus. Army is urging this be corrected at once by engaging more clerks and by prompt Court action. Meanwhile, the Army proposes to allow some leeway of time so that evacuation of such persons may be avoided. Aliens who have taken out only first papers stand no show of being left alone. Refugee Germans and Italians, however distinguished and anti-Nazi, likewise subject to evacuation. (Some members of the Committee felt strenuous efforts should continue to be made to secure exemption for obviously anti-Nazi, anti-Fascist aliens, especially those now serving in colleges.

5. Plans for resettlement being pressed by the Federal agencies and soon should be ready for announcement. Groups of Japanese ready to resettle on their own should go ahead after clearing with the Federal authorities as to site, finances, personnel, etc. Army opposes precipitate action. Many colonies will constitute self-contained communities, utilizing professional as well as agricultural workers.

6. Magill and his associates have spent hours conferring with Japanese-American Citizens League as to taking lead in organizing both first and second generation for resettlement, beginning with an occupational census of colonists.

7. The authorities will welcome aid from the churches and Friends Service Committee. He thanked the Church representatives for offers of help contained in Memo given Magill on March 2 by Herron Smith, Chapman, Doubleday, Richardson and Fisher, and said he would acknowledge the March 9 letter from Northern California friends.

8. Japanese college students may possibly be allowed to complete present semester but must then be evacuated.

Dr. Robert A. Millikan has accepted appointment as a vice chairman,

Galen M. Fisher, Secretary.

*Int. of Pacific Relations
260 California St.*

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PACIFIC COAST COMMITTEE

ON

AMERICAN PRINCIPLES AND FAIR PLAY

The Committee on American Principles and Fair Play vigorously endorses the following government policies. It is our conviction that these policies strengthen the war effort of the nation and are in line with our democratic traditions, based upon the federal Constitution.

1. Continued segregation of all disloyal persons of Japanese ancestry, in order to insure maximum national security.

"... all known subversive Japanese (should) be immediately segregated and removed from existing relocation camps and be confined in special detention camps for the duration of the war with Japan."

... Special House Committee of California Representatives: Costello, Englebright, Tolan, Izac, and Anderson.
(I.N.S. Washington, May 12, 1943)

"... Immediate internment of all disloyal Japanese."

... Recommendation by Senator Albert B. Chandler to Senate Military Affairs Committee.
(A.P. Washington, May 7, 1943)

2. The full recognition of the constitutional rights of loyal Americans of Japanese ancestry who have served in the armed forces of the United States.

"It is the inherent right of every faithful citizen, regardless of ancestry, to bear arms in the nation's battle."

... Henry L. Stimson, Secretary of War.

"The first prisoner of war taken by the United States was captured by a Hawaiian-born Japanese American national guardsman, who overpowered the operator of a Japanese submarine, while patrolling a Hawaiian beach on Dec. 7, 1941."

... United Press, April 22, 1943.

"I have never had more whole-hearted, serious-minded cooperation from any troops than I have received from my present command."

... Lt. Colonel Farrant L. Turner, commanding 100th Inf. Battalion, U.S.A., formed from Americans of Japanese ancestry.

"Your record in battle has been marked by one outstanding achievement after another. You are always thinking of your country before yourselves. . . . You have written a brilliant chapter in the history of America's fighting men."

... Lt. General Mark W. Clark, Commander of the Fifth Army, upon the occasion of the presentation of a citation to the 100th Battalion in the vicinity of Belvedere, Italy, June 20, 1944.

3. The opportunity for loyal Americans of Japanese ancestry to resettle in the manner which, in the judgment of the federal government and in recognition of their constitutional rights, can make the greatest contribution to the national economy.

"In accordance with the directive in the Presidential Executive Order which created the Agency, the War Relocation Authority has developed procedures which are aimed at bringing about the relocation into normal communities of the largest possible number of the evacuated people consistent with the national security."

... Dillon S. Myer, Director War Relocation Authority. June 9, 1943.

"Every loyal American citizen should be given the opportunity to serve this country wherever his skills will make the greatest contribution—whether it be in the ranks of the armed forces, war production, agriculture, government service, or other work essential to the war effort."

... President Franklin D. Roosevelt, February 1, 1943, commenting on the organization of the War Department's combat unit for Japanese Americans.

4. Fair Play for Americans of Japanese ancestry who are loyal.

"The mass evacuation of Japanese did not imply disloyalty on the part of all Japanese and it does not appear either right or in accord with the American conception of democracy to retain these loyal ones in restrictive custody,"

... Colonel William P. Scobey, War Department General Staff.

"Having been in charge of military intelligence activities since June, 1941, I am in a position to know what has happened. There have been no known acts of sabotage, espionage, or fifth column activities committed by the Japanese in Hawaii either on or subsequent to December 7, 1941."

... Colonel Kendall J. Fielder, Assistant Chief of Staff for Military Intelligence, Hawaiian Department.

"The Americans of Japanese origin are an invaluable element in our population; I welcome their presence, and regret the bitter necessity of imposing on the trustworthy and loyal majority of nisei the restraints which are made needful by the bad behavior and evil repute of a minority I welcome the policies of our government which are designed to relieve the nisei of discriminatory restrictions as rapidly and fairly as possible."

... Joseph C. Grew, former United States Ambassador to Japan, April 26, 1943.

We support these government policies.

The Committee has taken no position on any suggestion that persons of Japanese ancestry be returned to the Pacific Coast at this time. We have confidence in the present policies of the War Department, and will support the War Department if and when it decides that national security will warrant such return.

Our primary concern is to insure the application of the following principles to the solution of these problems.

- (1) Attacks upon the constitutional rights of any minority tend to undermine the rights of the majority;
- (2) Attempts to deprive any law-abiding citizen of his citizenship because of racial descent are contrary to fundamental American principles and jeopardize the citizenship of others;
- (3) Legislation to deprive Americans of Japanese descent of any of their legal rights would set a precedent for depriving other racial groups of their rights and would weaken the confidence of our allies, particularly those in Asia and Latin America, in the sincerity of our professions to be fighting for the rights of all peoples;
- (4) It is un-American to penalize persons of Japanese descent in the United States solely for the crimes of the Government and military caste of Japan.

The Committee on American Principles and Fair Play was formed to support and defend the constitutional rights of law-abiding persons of oriental descent in the United States and particularly of the Japanese American evacuees. Persons desiring to aid the educational program of the Committee either through financial contribution or volunteer service should write to the Executive Secretary at:
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September 1944

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PACIFIC COAST

Committee on American Principles and Fair Play (INCORPORATED)

Headquarters: Room 203, 465 California Street, San Francisco 4

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December 20, 1945

Dear Member:

Enclosed you will find a brief history of the Fair Play Committee which was prepared for the purpose of letting our members know how our program has developed over the past three years. We feel that we can read it with satisfaction, and hope that all of our members share that feeling.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee held in Berkeley on December 12, 1945, it was decided to close the central office of the Committee on December 20, 1945, and to accept the resignation of the Executive Secretary on December 31, 1945.

As you know this organization was formed to meet an emergency. That emergency has now passed.

As residents of Japanese ancestry are returning to the Pacific Coast it is gratifying to note that an increasing number of civic organizations and welfare agencies are developing programs which will help them re-establish themselves in our communities.

May we urge you to join with whatever civic or welfare groups you may find in your community, to assure the development and application of such programs?

We thank you for your interest and help. Without your support, and that of hundreds of other members we could not have developed such a comprehensive program. Thank you again and I speak for your fellow members as well as for the Executive Committee.

Very sincerely yours,

Ruth W. Kingman
Mrs. Ruth W. Kingman
Executive Secretary

RWK:es
Enc.

A BRIEF HISTORICAL REPORT OF THE
PACIFIC COAST
COMMITTEE ON AMERICAN PRINCIPLES AND FAIR PLAY

October 1, 1941 - December 15, 1945

Prepared by Ruth W. Kingman, Executive Secretary of the Committee

That tensions between the United States Government and Japan were felt in California as early as October of 1941, was indicated in a release issued on October 1 of that year by the Northern California Committee on Fair Play for Citizens and Aliens of Japanese Ancestry.

Signed by its chairman, General David Prescott Barrows, the release called upon fair-minded Californians to combat discrimination against their fellow residents of Japanese race. Its introductory paragraph follows:

"....One by-product of the current tension between Japan and the United States is of special concern to California, and may affect the morale of our armed forces. It is this: popular resentment toward Japan may find expression in greater discrimination or even physical violence against fellow-residents of Japanese extraction, distrust of the Japanese Government being transferred to all persons of Japanese race. A moment's thought will show that such animus would be not only unAmerican, but also a menace to public welfare and the good name of our State."

On December 29, 1941, three weeks after Pearl Harbor, the Fair Play Committee, under the new name of Committee on National Security and Fair Play, issued a further release, the introductory paragraph of which read:

"The central objective of our Committee on Fair Play has been supported by the California public, even under the stress of Japan's treacherous attack. Californians have kept their heads. There have been few if any serious denials of civil rights to either aliens or citizens of Japanese race, on account of the war. The American tradition of fair play has been observed."

The release expressed satisfaction on the following points:

1. "All of the organs of public influence and information, press, pulpit, school, radio, etc., have discouraged mob violence and have pleaded for tolerance and justice for all."
2. "Federal and local officials charged with maintaining order and suppressing subversive activities have shown both vigor and sympathetic consideration in the fulfillment of their duty."
3. "Private civic agencies have acted promptly to handle the many difficulties encountered by Japanese residents on account of necessary wartime restrictions on persons and property...."

".....This Committee is not concerned either to appraise or to guarantee the loyalty to the United States of citizens or resident aliens, whether they be of the Japanese or any other race. Espionage or subversive activities by Japanese residents, or by anyone else, should be reported as a matter of course to the F.B.I. or the local police, and they, not private individuals or vigilantes, should be left to take protective measures. We believe in order under law, not under violence or caprice."

On March 3, 1942, a detailed statement of this Committee "welcomed the President's proclamation of February 20th, placing all residents in vital military areas under the control of the Secretary of War and the military commanders....As Californians, no less than as American citizens, we accept it as a wise solution of the vexed problem of handling enemy aliens and dangerous citizens."

This appeal was prepared for the Committee by Galen M. Fisher. No account of the work of the Fair Play Committee could be considered complete without special reference to the tireless efforts put into its program by Dr. Fisher. His leadership in all phases of the Committee's activities has always inspired the people who have been privileged to work with him.

In the March 3 release, it was suggested that (1) in the event of evacuationevacuated persons be committed to civilian governmental agencies rather than military, (2) the removal of aliens and citizens be kept at the minimum consistent with military necessity and national security, (3) "The integrity of our nation and all the liberties guaranteed by it are at stake. It is a national fight, and only the Government should call the signals. In the spirit of the President's proclamation, it behooves us all--public officials and private citizens alike--to set up no impediments in the way of the military and other Federal authorities, and to place ourselves at their command....Engaged as we are in a life and death struggle to preserve our hard-won democratic heritage, we should be traitors if we flouted democratic principles of justice and humanity in our treatment of either aliens, or citizens, even under the stress of war. We, therefore, appeal to our official representatives, municipal, county, state, and national, and to our fellow-citizens of whatever origin, to maintain order under law and the respect for persons summed up in the words "Fair Play".

When the policy of the federal government, as worked out by the War Relocation Authority, permitted the persons of Japanese ancestry who had been excluded from the Pacific Coast to resettle inland, considerable objections were raised by the residents of the inland communities. It appeared to members of the Committee that a more widely representative organization than they had thus far affected would have to carry on an effective program. With that end in mind, the Committee on National Security and Fair Play was dissolved on January 8, 1943, to make way for a larger, stronger organization.

In a letter to the vice-chairmen of the committee, written on January 8, 1943, the chairman, Dr. Grady, said "We may believe that we have exercised a moderating influence on both public opinion and government authorities, and helped avert mob violence against Japanese residents, which was a prime objective of the original founders of our Committee."

The Pacific Coast Committee on American Principles and Fair Play

The Pacific Coast Committee on American Principles and Fair Play was organized on January 28, 1943, in San Francisco, as an outgrowth of the Committee on National Security and Fair Play.

All persons of Japanese ancestry had been evacuated from the Pacific Coast. The hue and cry had been raised which, if successful, would permanently prevent their return. The traditionally anti-Oriental bodies of California, among them the Native Sons and Daughters of the Golden West, the State Grange, and some of our patriotic organizations and their affiliates, were busily at work memorializing Congress and the State Legislature in efforts to bring about discriminatory legislation. Many well-meaning, sincere, frightened and angry persons were being swept into hysterical attitudes by professional agitators whose sponsorship revealed an economic interest in the permanent absence of Japanese American competition, principally in agriculture.

If the Committee wished to prove effective, it was clear that a definite program, organized and administered from established headquarters would have to be adopted. To that end, such headquarters were established at 465 California Street, San Francisco, and a temporary executive office set up in the University of California Young Women's Christian Association in Berkeley, California. An Executive Secretary was employed and the work of the Committee has continued, to date, within the framework of the organization then effected.

POLICY

The policy and program of the Committee were based upon the premise that, given full and accurate information, even on the most controversial subjects, the average American, if he has been reared in the democratic tradition, will remain fair-minded in the face of prejudice.

Surrounded by war-inflamed prejudice and with little accurate information available with which to combat it, the Committee was faced with the necessity of producing its own weapons, instructing its members in their use and directing the ensuing campaign.

The long standing anti-Oriental position of many West Coast groups had produced large quantities of anti-Japanese and anti-Nisei propaganda. Most of it had appeared in the press, notably in the Hearst and McClatchy papers, much in committee and organization reports, some in radio and on the screen. As a result, with the advent of war with Japan, there was much inflammatory material available, but relatively little that was objective and factual.

The Committee decided to make all possible use of the excellent statements which were being made by War Department officials, and Army Intelligence Officers, Justice Department representatives, Intelligence Officers and other government officials, whose attitude could be expected to carry much weight with sincere persons who were willing to listen to facts. As such statements were compiled, it became clear that if the material was to be widely distributed and accepted, a formidable task of public relations lay ahead.

The Fair Play Committee (as it has become generally known) found itself acting as an unofficial public relations representative of the War Department, the Justice Department, the State Department, the War Relocation Authority, and any other government body or civil servant whose responsibility it was to express a considered opinion concerning persons of Japanese ancestry in the United States.

As a matter of policy, the work of the Committee was closely geared to the policies of the federal government, which it heartily endorsed and supported. It was, therefore, natural that the Program of the Committee was developed within specific chronological periods indicated by War Department decisions, and that the Methods used were calculated to liberalize and strengthen government policies as well as to increase their acceptance.

PROGRAM

Chronological Timetable.

Period I. (February 19, 1942 to December 18, 1944.)

Covering the period from the issuing of the Presidential Order which authorized the evacuation of all persons of Japanese ancestry from the Pacific Coast to

Period II. (December 18, 1944 to August 14, 1945.)

Covering the period following the recession of the general order and the substitution of individual exclusion orders, up to

Period III. (August 14, 1945 to December 15, 1945)

The period following the surrender of Japan and the lifting of all exclusion orders.

PERIOD I.
(February 19, 1942, to December 18, 1944)

Membership.

Obviously, the Committee's first task was the creation of a wide organization. Decisions were reached which called for mobilization of all existing sympathetic opinion. It was felt that membership should be drawn from a wide constituency, and should include outstanding representatives of Labor, Education, Religion, and Industry. To this end, hundreds of letters were sent out, and the Executive Secretary spent several weeks conferring with community leaders from Seattle to Los Angeles. Organizations, such as the Pasadena Fair Play Committee, and the Fresno Fair Play Committee expressed a desire to join in the wider organization, and their memberships became the backbone, and from time to time the spokesmen, of the entire group. Committees in Santa Barbara, San Jose, Sacramento were encouraged in their organizing, as were smaller groups in Palos Verdes and several other outlying communities.

Categories of membership were established, ranging from Student memberships, with annual dues of \$1.00, through Regular memberships (dues \$2.00 per year), and Sustaining Memberships (dues \$10.00 per year). The amount of financial support received through these memberships, plus a few moderate gifts, and later generous Foundation grants, made it possible for the Committee to print, mimeograph or multigraph and distribute over 100,000 pieces of material containing well documented statements and facts in support of the government's policy.

(The treasurer of the Committee is Harry S. Scott, President of the General Steamship Corporation of San Francisco. All financial transactions of the Committee have been under his supervision and the books have been audited annually by Long and Wyman, certified public accountants, 300 Montgomery Street, San Francisco)

With leaders in Church, Education, Labor and Business recognizing the Committee as a dependable source of information concerning the evacuees, the Executive office, by the middle of June, 1943, was so pressed with requests for material and guidance, that an office secretary was secured, to handle much of the detail involved.

Preparation of Material and Determination of Policy.

One of the most useful pieces of material prepared by the Committee was the statement drawn up and published on June 15, 1943. Outlining the principles upon which the organization was based, it provided the yardstick by which all subsequent action of the Committee was measured. More than ten thousand copies of the original statement, plus several thousand more, as it was later brought up to date, have been distributed. A portion of the statement is as follows:

"Our primary concern is to insure the application of the following principles to the solution of these problems. (ed. note: Problems concerning lawabiding persons of Japanese ancestry.)

- (1) Attacks upon the constitutional rights of any minority tend to undermine the rights of the majority;
- (2) Attempts to deprive any law-abiding citizen of his citizenship because of racial descent are contrary to fundamental American principles and jeopardize the citizenship of others;
- (3) Legislation to deprive Americans of Japanese descent of any of their legal rights would set a precedent for depriving other racial groups of their rights and would weaken the confidence of our allies, particularly those in Asia and Latin America, in the sincerity of our professions to be fighting for the rights of all peoples;

- (4) It is un-American to penalize persons of Japanese descent in the United States solely for the crimes of the Government and military caste of Japan.

With the distribution of the foregoing Statement of Policy, the Committee established its interest in the attitudes of policy-making bodies, whether civic, religious, or governmental. While many of its members were associated in one way or another with groups whose primary interests included problems of welfare, often effecting the evacuees, it was decided that the program of the Committee would be limited to the support of the rights of Americans of Japanese ancestry, rather than to include a program of welfare and/or personal service to the evacuees.

(See attached sheet for list of material prepared and distributed by the Committee)

Much of the work was done through other organizations, whose members made use of the factual material provided by the Fair Play Committee. Church groups, student organizations, labor unions and various civic bodies were advised, upon their own request, as to what might be done through their own channels, to develop unbiased attitudes toward the Japanese Americans.

In order that the Committee might feel sure that the suggestions made were in full accord with the government's wartime policies, certain members of the Advisory Board, and Executive Committee, as well as the Executive Secretary, kept in touch with both the War Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

On several occasions Advisory Board members met with members of the General Staff of the Western Defense Command. The Executive Secretary conferred with Assistant Secretary of War John McCloy and with Attorney General Francis Biddle in Washington. All of the Committee's releases were sent to representatives of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in San Francisco. At all times, excellent relations were maintained with the Department of the Interior and the War Relocation Authority, and upon one occasion, Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes met with the Advisory Board in San Francisco.

Because its members felt confidence in the government's policy as administered by the War Relocation Authority, much of the Committee's work during 1943, and 1944 was concentrated upon an interpretation of that agency's program. Faced with an overwhelmingly difficult administrative task, W.R.A. also had to meet a wartime Congress, and an indifferent or openly hostile press, not to mention repeated attacks by the Dies Committee and its state-sized counterpart in California.

When the War Department, largely as a result of efforts of Assistant Secretary of War, McCloy, activated an all Nisei Combat Unit in the Army, one of the main objectives of the Committee was gained. The right of loyal citizens to serve in the armed forces was established.

Tremendous pressure was directed at Washington to prevent the acceptance of Nisei in the Army. The anti-Nisei forces well knew that a large step had been taken in restoring rights which would eventually lead to the return of Japanese Americans to the Pacific Coast.

Approximately one-half of the material released by the Fair Play Committee during 1943 and 1944 referred to Nisei in the armed services. Many articles and releases were in support of the rights of the Nisei servicemen and his law-abiding parents. As the unsurpassed record of the 442nd Infantry has become familiar to the American public, and the exploits of the Intelligence units in the South Pacific have been recounted, there has been a marked decrease in anti-Nisei agitation, even on the West Coast. In 1943-1944, however, that record was only in the making.

Both the War Department and the War Relocation Authority have done an outstanding job of publicizing the record of the Nisei servicemen. That record has done more than any or everything else to convince hostile Westerners that the War Department has sound reasons for disagreement with General DeWitt's ill advised statement that "A Jap is a Jap".

"If and When".

War Department responsibility for ordering the evacuation was always recognized by the general public.

War Department responsibility for the return of the evacuees has still to be recognized by many.

The Committee at no time questioned the right or wrong of evacuation as ordered. However, it did contend that if and when the order was rescinded, the evacuees should be allowed to return. To that end, material was prepared and distributed, pointing out the contributions the law-abiding Japanese Americans would be able to make to the war effort and to national unity, if and when the War Department permitted their return.

Strong opposition was presented in portions of the press and by telegrams to the President and in letters to Congressmen. Resolutions (strangely similar in form and content) were passed by Boards of Supervisors, Chambers of Commerce, American Legion Posts, and many other organizations, strongly protesting any return of evacuees. All predicted dire results to the nation at large, to the Pacific Coast specifically, and last but not least, to any person of Japanese ancestry who might appear in the evacuated area, should the order be rescinded.

Up and down the Pacific Coast, other groups, stimulated by the Committee, were taking measures, openly and privately, assuring the War Department, the War Relocation Authority, and the Western Defense Command that the majority of the people living on the Pacific Coast were willing to abide by the decisions of the War Department in time of War. Assurances were made by some law-enforcement bodies, and particularly by the Attorneys General of the states of Washington, Oregon, and California, that if and when the evacuation order was rescinded, law and order would be maintained. (See Period II and Period III for further report on law enforcement).

During this period, Nisei in uniform, and later members of their immediate families who had been cleared by the military, were permitted to return to the evacuated area. Strong groups in the Northwest, particularly in Seattle, were outspoken in support of the rights of the servicemen. The Committee membership in Washington and Oregon remained small--in Washington because existing groups were already doing effective work, in Oregon because of the distance between the Executive office in California and Portland, where some of the bitterest anti-Nisei organizations originated.

In December of 1943 an executive office was set up in Los Angeles to serve southern California, and in June, 1944, a strong committee was organized in that city.

As nearly one half of the Japanese Americans evacuated from California left from Los Angeles County, it was highly important that feeling against their right to return should not crystalize if and when they were permitted to do so. Therefore, the formation of a strong Fair Play Committee, whose efforts could be added to those already being made by the other civic, religious and educational groups in the Los Angeles area, was timely and effective.

PERIOD II.

(December 18, 1944, to August 14, 1945)

Almost simultaneously with the rescission of the exclusion order by the War Department, (December 18, 1944) came an announcement by the War Relocation

Authority that all Relocation Centers would close by December, 1945.

There was no longer any question as to the right of the evacuees to return.

All of the persons and organizations who had been trying by every means possible to prevent the return of law-abiding Japanese Americans had been shown by War Department action, that they had failed utterly. They now found themselves in the embarrassing position of opposing the War Department in time of war.

The Committee, however, had always based its program on mobilization of support for the War Department if and when a rescission of the Exclusion would be announced.

Thus the work of the Committee was, overnight, changed from an "if and when" to a "when" basis. The law-abiding people whose rights had been obscured during the dark days of group suspicion were enjoying the support of the War Department, and the work of the Committee became easier.

In December of 1944, the Executive Committee, together with several members of the Advisory Board, met to consider the problems which would face the returnees. It was felt that, inasmuch as the federal government had moved the evacuees out, government agencies could be expected to assist in their return.

Government Responsibility for Evacuee Aid

Shortly after the announcement of the closing of the Relocation Centers, certain problems presented themselves to the evacuees as they planned to return to their homes. More than half were expected to resettle elsewhere, but most of those remaining in the centers expected to return to the Pacific Coast. The most pressing needs were:

- (1) Financial aid.
- (2) Housing.

Most of the evacuees had been working in the centers for \$16.00 per month. Expenses had eaten up any or most of their reserve, and they disliked asking for charity. The W. R. A. was faced with an enormous administrative task unparalleled in United States history. With little support from an unsympathetic Congress, it has managed to carry out a very distasteful task in a more humanitarian way than could have been hoped for.

The limitations of W. R. A. made it impossible that truly adequate financial provision be made for the returning evacuees. As a result, much bitterness and distrust of W. R. A. developed within the Centers. The Committee has given all possible support to W. R. A. in its efforts to secure adequate funds for a satisfactory conclusion of its program.

The housing shortage throughout the United States is now a matter of common knowledge. However, early in 1945 the picture was not as clear as it is now, in December of 1945. W. R. A. announced the coming closing for the Centers and told evacuees that if they had no other relocation plans they would be put on trains which would return them to their former homes. The acuteness of the housing shortage was not recognized in time to make proper provision for housing the returnees.

As a result, the War Relocation Authority has promoted a mass return of the evacuees to areas where housing is already inadequate. Such a return is often not only a physical hardship to the returnee, but also presents problems in public relations which threaten to undo much which the Committee has been able to accomplish in the past three years.

The Committee, while continuing to support the W. R. A. relocation policy, has given no support to its present program, and has sent memos sharply critical of that program, to Secretary of the Interior Ickes, President Truman, and Dillon Myer.

Director of the War Relocation Authority.

Community Cooperation With Returnees

Development of civic groups throughout the state which would provide permanent organizations equipped to combat community tensions rising from racial and other minority problems was undertaken by the Committee.

It was recognized that county and local welfare agencies, religious groups and other organizations whose programs served minority constituencies, could be expected to cooperate with the government agencies.

It became a policy of the Fair Play Committee to work for recognition of the rights of law-abiding persons of Japanese ancestry to membership in any inter-racial post-war or social planning group in California.

A statement made by the Committee at this time reads, "Of this we are certain. The status of any one minority is irretrievably related to all minorities. There are many able groups and individuals here on the Pacific Coast and elsewhere who have made the problems of minorities their chief concern. Some have maintained a warm and active interest in the thousands of Americans of Japanese ancestry during these past bitter years. More have allowed problems of a less vicious controversial nature to take first place in their overcrowded schedules and budgets.

"One of the most important things we must do is to gain 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.

"We have occasionally, in the past, been criticized for concentrating our efforts in behalf of law-abiding persons of Japanese ancestry. We look forward to the day when that concentration of effort will not be necessary, when members of this, one of our smallest racial minorities, will receive friendly recognition by all groups working in the field of minority problems.

"When that day comes, our immediate task will be done, and we can turn our keen interest and strong support toward the development of proper attitudes and conduct among men of all races."

In an effort to draw together the government and private agencies for a consideration of their responsibilities, a conference was called for January 10 and 11, 1945.

CONFERENCE ON INTER-RACIAL COOPERATION
PALACE HOTEL, SAN FRANCISCO, JANUARY 10-11, 1945

Sponsored by the Pacific Coast Committee on American Principles and Fair Play, the Conference was built around the following purposes:

1. To draw together persons connected with Government Agencies and voluntary organizations in order to plan jointly for the orderly and harmonious integration into community life of such evacuees of Japanese ancestry as may return, with Army approval, to the West Coast, and
2. To consider creating machinery to ensure coordination of plans agreed upon and of activities of organizations concerned with inter-racial and inter-cultural relations.

Participants: Representatives of Government Agencies:--

War Relocation Authority
Federal Social Security

War Manpower Commission
Federal Public Housing Administration
Children's Bureau
U. S. Office of Education
Civil Service Commission
President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice
Public Health Service
State War Board
California Agricultural Adjustment Agency
California Department of Agriculture
Farm Security Administration
Emergency Farm Labor Project, Agricultural Extension Service
Federal Land Bank, Berkeley
United States Employment Service

Members of Voluntary Organizations:

Pacific Coast Committee on American Principles and Fair Play--
Representatives from: Los Angeles, Pasadena, Santa Barbara,
Sacramento, Fresno, San Mateo, San Jose, Seattle.
San Francisco Council for Civic Unity
Seattle Council for Civic Unity
Berkeley Democratic Club
National Conference of Christians and Jews
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
Filipino Groups
Residents of relocation centers
Berkeley Inter-racial Committee
American Council on Race Relations
Berkeley Branch--Women's International League
Committee on Resettlement, Federal Council of Churches.
Rosenberg Foundation
Columbia Foundation
Chinese Six Company
Office of Community War Services
Young Men's Christian Association
Young Women's Christian Association
American Civil Liberties Union.
International Institutes
Congress of Industrial Organizations
Northern California Council of Churches
East and West Association
Community Chest
American Friends Service Committee
Japanese-American Citizen's League
Jewish Survey Committee
Representatives of the different churches.

Statements were made by representatives of government agencies, pledging non-discriminatory treatment for returnees.

In round table discussions, it was concluded that some expert guidance was necessary to provide a coordinated program of inter-racial and inter-cultural groups on the West Coast.

The second day of the Conference was devoted to a consideration of the "Outlook and Situation of Japanese Americans in Pacific Coast Agriculture".

Discussion was introduced by a series of ten minute statements by:

Director of the War Relocation Authority.
Chairman of the State War Board and California AAA Committee.

Director, California Department of Agriculture.
Regional Director, Farm Security Administration
Associate State Supervisor, Emergency Farm Labor Project, Agricultural Extension Service, University of California.
President, Federal Land Bank of Berkeley.

In a discussion led by the Chairman of the State Board of Agriculture, committee members joined with returned evacuees in an attempt to clarify the situation of the returning Japanese American Farmers.

Field Work Following Conference

As the paid personnel of the Committee has never been adequate to do all of the field work necessary for the development of a full program, other organizations have contributed the services and expenses of their own personnel to assist in the work. The Federal Council of Churches, the American Council on Race Relations, the Young Men's Christian Association, the Young Women's Christian Association, and the Congregational Church have all assigned staff members to the task of going out into the counties and smaller cities of California in an effort to mobilize the fair-minded people in those communities. These representatives worked out of the Committee's office, developing the program as outlined by the Committee.

The marked success of such field personnel, plus a natural upsurge of community concern, has resulted in the formation of organizations in at least fifty communities in California. Some already existing organizations were strong, notably the Berkeley Inter-racial Committee, the San Francisco Council on Civic Unity, the Los Angeles Council on Civic Unity, the Mayor's Committee of San Francisco, and the Inter-racial Committee of Monterey. These groups had been going concerns for some time, and had developed excellent programs by the end of 1944. Others, like the the Mayor's Committee in Fresno, and certain smaller groups in more rural communities, are off to a strong start, while others are still rather nebulous and in great need of direction.

Suggestions have been sent to some of these organizations from time to time, such as:

(1) Guide Posts. Mimeographed sheet sent out at request of church groups, indicating what practical services might be offered to returnees and instructing members as to procedure to be followed in case of trouble or rumored trouble involving returnees.

(2) Homeward Bound. A pamphlet prepared and sent out by the American Council on Race Relations and the Fair Play Committee together, with suggestions to community groups wishing to assist the evacuees in their return.

(3) Actions to Take Immediately When An Offense Occurs. Mimeographed sheet prepared and signed by State Attorney Robert W. Kenny, giving concise instructions as to how to notify authorities of any offense, threatened or actual.

Further Community Organization.

As an outgrowth of the Palace Hotel Conference, plus an increasing number of requests from groups in outlying communities, a second conference was planned.

To an increasing degree, the work of the Fair Play Committee was being taken over by other organizations. This was highly gratifying, as it indicated that the Committee had been successful in gaining support for the Nisei by other groups.

Outstanding members of the press were now outspoken in support of loyal Japanese Americans. Certain American Legion Posts had taken an excellent stand and had initiated Nisei members. The C. I. O. had come out strongly in support of the right of law-abiding Japanese to employment. The International Longshoremen and Warehousemen's Union had expelled two of its members who persisted in discrimination against a Japanese American fellow member. Schools and Universities were showing

fine attitudes in welcoming their returning faculty members and students of Japanese ancestry.

To insure an ongoing development of this trend toward true Americanism, the Committee called a conference to be held, at the request of the local Fair Play Committee, in Sacramento.

Conference of California's Councils of Civic Unity
and Similar Community Organizations
Sacramento, California, July 6, 1945

The following organizations were invited to send representatives:

Council for Civic Unity, Mountain View
Council for Civic Unity, Vallejo
Council for Civic Unity, Oakland
Council for Civic Unity, Stockton
Council for Civic Unity, San Jose
Council for Civic Unity, Sacramento
Council for Civic Unity, Long Beach
Council for Civic Unity, Los Angeles
Mayor's Committee on Civic Unity, Oakland
Mayor's Committee on Civic Unity, San Francisco
San Diego Committee for Civic Unity
Inter-racial Council, Stockton
Inter-racial Committee, Berkeley
Inter-racial Committee, Monterey
Inter-racial Commission, Pasadena
Rev. Arthur Fruhling, Vacaville
Mr. Charles Jeppeson, Vacaville
East & West Association, Santa Barbara
Committee on Japanese Resettlement, Stockton
Twin Cities Citizens League, Yuba City
The National Conference of Christians & Jews, San Francisco
Fair Play Committee, Fresno
Fair Play Committee, Palo Alto
Fair Play Committee, Pasadena
Fair Play Committee, Los Angeles
Fair Play Committee, San Mateo
Fair Play Committee, Santa Barbara
Friends of the American Way, Pasadena
Race Relations Group, University of California, Berkeley
Open Forum, Vacaville
Japanese American Citizen's League, San Francisco
Council for Civic Unity, San Mateo

At the invitation of the Committee, observers were sent by the Western Defense Command and the Ninth Service Command.

In three work sessions, the following subjects were discussed:

1. The place and functions of Councils of Civic Unity in the Contemporary Picture.
2. "Racial Tensions and the Law."
3. "California vs. Un-American Practices."

In the discussion on the Place and Functions of Councils of Civic Unity, the Regional Director of the American Council on Race Relations, as chairman, was able to bring before the conference a consideration of types and programs of Civic organizations most effective in resolving community tensions due to minority problems.

Racial Tensions and the Law

In a consideration of racial tensions and the law, the chairman, Robert Kenny, Attorney General of the State of California, prefaced his talk by reading a release from the American Civil Liberties Union, in which a reward of \$1,000 was offered for "information leading to the arrest and conviction on a felony charge of persons who molest the returning Japanese Americans within one year from that date."

During the first half of 1945, there had been an increasing number of "incidents" where violence and threats of violence had been known to occur. There had been no bodily harm done any returnee, but more than eighty reports of arson and other destructive acts or threats had been made to the authorities.

One of the reasons for the holding of the Conference in Sacramento was to call attention to the determination of both the Governor and Attorney General to maintain law and order. The discussion revealed the dissatisfaction of those attending with the lack of law-enforcement. It also gave the Attorney General an opportunity to outline procedures for implementing the law-enforcement officers and courts.

At a luncheon meeting between sessions, the speaker, Frank A. Clarvoe, Editor of the San Francisco News, challenged members of both majority and minority groups to develop attitudes and practices which would contribute something constructive to a society all of whose members were fighting for "freedom".

Following a discussion of the general inter-racial picture in California, it was generally concluded that some kind of integration of all groups working on problems related to racial tensions was desirable.

A motion was passed providing that "the program committee (of the Conference) be asked to act as a nucleus and to undertake any procedure that recommends itself to them in order to make the next step in tackling the problems of organizing a statewide council."

The program committee was made up of the following:

1. Executive Secretary of the San Francisco Council of Civic Unity.
2. Executive Secretary (Regional) of the Japanese American Citizen's League.
3. Director (Regional) The American Council on Race Relations.
4. Assistant Treasurer, Fair Play Committee.
5. Executive Secretary, Fair Play Committee.

In the weeks immediately following the Sacramento Conference, several meetings were held for a discussion of a statewide organization. (Further account of organization to be continued in Part III of this Report).

PART III

(August 14, 1945 to December 15, 1945)

With the abrupt end of the War with Japan, the work of the Committee took on still further changes.

Once again, there was a twofold task. First, support of evacuee right to return. Second, Development of state organization.

Support of Evacuees

The Committee has always refrained from undertaking any kind of welfare work. At the same time, it has done what it could to analyze the evacuees needs, and to enlist the interest of other groups in developing welfare programs.

As most of the returnees were returning to the southern part of the state, it was natural that the Los Angeles Committee would spearhead the development of committees whose members would try to meet the welfare needs of returning evacuees.

Since V-J Day, particularly, the Los Angeles Office has been instrumental in developing widespread and generous interest in such welfare program. From September, 1945, to the present, southern groups have been practically autonomous and have carried on a program specifically in line with local needs. At the same time they have remained closely allied with the Central Office, and have had its continued and full support.

After V-J Day, the problem of housing returnees was lessened considerably. It was made possible for the War Department to provide a number of vacated army installations, and the Federal Housing Authority to provide unneeded housing projects and trailer camps.

It became evident that existing provision for those in need of public assistance was either inadequate or was not being satisfactorily administered. When this was pointed out to the Federal Social Security, through whose offices public assistance funds were being distributed, way and means of creating a more satisfactory procedure were worked out.

The Committee is presently engaged in efforts which may assist in securing additional funds to be administered by Social Security should need arise after the present government fiscal year.

Statewide Organization

Following several meetings of the Organizing Committee, copies of a preliminary set of By-Laws was sent to each organization represented at the Sacramento Conference. After much consultation it had been concluded that the type of coordination and leadership which a statewide organization would need could best be secured if a considerable portion could be found in some already established body.

The Fair Play Committee, as an emergency, war-time organization, felt that the times called for a more permanent structure. The organizing committee decided to ask the American Council on Race Relations to provide leadership and guidance to that permanent structure.

At the present date (December 15, 1945) a second, amended set of suggested By-Laws is being drawn up, and will be submitted immediately, to the cooperating bodies for acceptance or rejection.

Final organization will be effected in January, 1946, and an ongoing program assured.

PUBLICATIONS, REPRINTS AND RELEASES

used by

COMMITTEE ON AMERICAN PRINCIPLES AND FAIR PLAY

1. Statement of Purpose and Policy. (See p. 5 of report for full description) Brochure setting forth the policy of the Committee. 30,000 copies distributed.
2. Signed statement by outstanding citizens, a brochure made up of statements of President Roosevelt, Secretary of War Stimson, Col. Kendall J. Fielder, of Military Intelligence, Hawaiian Department, Attorney General Francis Biddle, and others, expressing concern that distinction be made between law-abiding resident Japanese Americans and our enemy in Japan.
3. Signed statements, of J. Edgar Hoover, of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Chief of Policy Gabrielson of Honolulu, testifying to the lack of sabotage in Honolulu on December 7, 1941.
4. War Department Release carrying facts concerning Americans of Japanese ancestry in the United States Army.
5. Editorial by Chester Rowell, a reprint from the San Francisco Chronicle of June 14, 1943, headlined "Much Hysteria About Japanese Americans".
6. A Balance Sheet on Japanese Evacuation, by Galen M. Fisher. A booklet containing reprints of four articles appearing in the Christian Century of August 18, and 25, and September 1, and 8, 1943. (1) "Untruths About Japanese-Americans", (2) "Our Two Japanese-American Policies", (3) "Are the Evacuees being Coddled?", and (4) "What Race-Baiting Costs America". (Ed. note: With this writing, December, 1945, orders and requests are still coming in for this booklet, from Universities and libraries throughout the country. To date there have been 16,500 printed, but few still to be distributed).
7. Truth about the Jap Camps, reprint of an article by Maxine Davis, Liberty Magazine, August 7, 1943.
8. Democracy Begins at Home, reprint of two articles from Summer edition, 1943, of Common Ground. (1) "Get the Evacuees Out", by M. Margaret Anderson, (2) "Relocating a People", by Robert W. Frase, of the Employment Division, War Relocation Authority.
9. Beyond the Horizon, reprint of autobiographical sketch by Sgt. Yori Wada, appearing in the University of California Alumni Monthly, December, 1943.
10. American Fighting Men Speak Out, booklet prepared by the Committee, made up of quotations from letters from service men both Caucasian and Nisei, on the fighting fronts, expressing their attitudes toward the anti-Nisei hysteria then being expressed at home.
11. A Voice That Must Be Heard, an amplification of the Committee's "American Men Speak Out", prepared by the War Relocation Authority, and containing many more letters.
12. Ben Kuroki's Story, the Committee's pamphlet edition of "An Address by Sergeant Ben Kuroki of the United States Air Force", presented before the Commonwealth Club, in San Francisco, February 4, 1944.

13. Our 110,000 New Boarders, reprint from Reader's Digest of March, 1943, of an article by J. P. McEvoy, condensed from the Baltimore Sunday Sun, February 7, 1943.
14. Pertinent Facts, a sheet prepared by the War Relocation Authority in February, 1944, and revised in the spring of 1945, calling attention to important data concerning Japanese Americans and their life in and out of the Relocation Centers.
15. Myths and Facts About the Japanese Americans, a booklet prepared by the Department of the Interior (W.R.A.) in June, 1945, "Answering Common Misconceptions Regarding Americans of Japanese Ancestry".
16. "The Test of A Free Country", a pamphlet prepared by the Committee presenting a talk given by Dr. Robert G. Sproul, President of the University of California, and honorary Chairman of the Committee, in Los Angeles, California, on June 29, 1944.
17. Poster - carrying excerpts from the aforementioned "The Test of A Free Country".
18. Addresses of Dillon S. Myer, Director, War Relocation Authority.
 - (1) The Truth About Relocation. (Commonwealth Club, San Francisco, August 6, 1943.)
 - (2) Racism and Reason. (Meeting sponsored by Committee, Los Angeles, October 2, 1944.)
19. Nisei In Uniform, booklet of photographs and text, prepared by the United States Army and the War Relocation Authority, describing work of Japanese Americans in the Armed Forces.
20. Homeward Bound, a pamphlet prepared and sent out by the American Council on Race Relations and the Fair Play Committee, suggesting specific and practical aids to returning evacuees. Suggested for use by organized groups.
21. Racial Relations on the Pacific Coast, reprint from the San Francisco News of an address by its Editor, Frank A. Clarvoe, before the Commonwealth Club of California, January 19, 1945.

Several thousands of copies of additional material, some provided by the Department of the Interior, some by Denominational Presses, and still others mimeographed on Committee orders, have been distributed. All were as carefully prepared and documented as the foregoing, and contributed materially to the growth of confidence its constituents felt in the work of the Committee.

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Talk given by Dr. Robert Gordon Sproul, president of the University of California, on June 29, 1944.

(Reprinted from Rob Wagner's Script)

THE COMMITTEE on American Principles and Fair Play, of which I am Honorary Chairman, came into existence at a critical moment in American history, and to afford a means for the expression of views of all but unspeakable importance. It did not come into existence to protect, much less to coddle or glorify, the Japanese, but to champion and help to safeguard American democracy. It is not an organization of starry-eyed Utopians, of intemperate lovers of strange peoples, but of hard-headed believers in the virtues of the American form of government as expressed by the Founding Fathers in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Its leadership in such persons as Dr. Millikan, Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur, and myself may be drawn from the lunatic fringe of American life, but it is not a leadership unacquainted with responsibility or unaware of the score. Many of its less cultured members have demonstrated considerable capacity to make their way in the competition of the market place among the harsh realities of life, and not a few have even shown ability to meet a payroll. I make these preliminary assertions because the opposition to the Committee and its works has consisted almost exclusively of direct misstatements concerning its policies and practices, and intemperate assertions that its members were either traitors to America or fools in their own right.

Nevertheless, in spite of storms of abuse from certain quarters, the Committee has been most successful thus

far. Up and down the Pacific Coast, it has attracted a very considerable part of those who are universally respected as leaders in their communities to participate in its activities and to speak out for its cause. On the larger stage of the Nation, its influence has been even more notable, continuous and effective. In the face of honest hysteria and dishonest demagoguery, it has continuously and notably affected the policies of our government both in the legislative and executive branches. With the judicial branch its cause is secure because, to put it simply, it is just. The chain of American Principles and Fair Play is growing stronger day by day, but its weakest link is here in the City of Los Angeles, in spite of the many able, public spirited men and women who have here declared themselves in favor of the Committee's activities and lent their names to its organization. Indeed, I must confess sadly that this City has been at times a powerhouse of race-baiting opposition to the Committee's efforts. Many people who, like myself, have a stake in the community, and are proud of its progressive character, its forward look in most matters of public concern, deplore this situation deeply. We believe it represents not the true temper of the community but merely accidents of organization and timing, of strategy and tactics. So we have called this luncheon with the hope and the purpose to change the picture, to organize here an active chapter of the Committee on American Principles and Fair

Play, and to make the voice of Americans who try to think with their minds heard amidst the din of those who feel with their blood. To that end I should like to tell you, briefly and factually, what the Committee is and is not, how it works and what it seeks to accomplish, and why it is important that you should make it part of the community life of Los Angeles.

First and foremost, above everything else and for all of the time, the concern of the Committee on American Principles and Fair Play is for the integrity of the Bill of Rights of the Constitution of the United States. It believes with fervor, with fanaticism if you will, that whenever and wherever the constitutional guarantees are violated in the treatment of a minority, no matter how unpopular or helpless, the whole fabric of American government is weakened, its whole effectiveness impaired. Each such violation establishes an evil precedent which is inevitably turned against another minority later, and eventually against the very principle on which our Nation is founded, namely, the dignity and worth of the human individual.

Even on this fundamental tenet of its faith, however, the position of the Committee is not doctrinaire or academic. It has recognized from the beginning, and under considerable heckling from its own more intemperate members, that the exigencies of war demand some sacrifice of the ordinary rights of all citizens, often considerable sacrifice, and that concerning certain groups of citizens, under certain dangerous conditions extraordinary caution and special treatment are necessary and defensible if not desirable. But the Committee believes firmly that the guarantees of the Bill of Rights should be yielded only in extremity, only by deliberate and conscious act, and only in the cases of

individuals or groups proven dangerous or subversive. All others should have its protection until there is proven need for martial law. As Acton, the great historian of human freedom has said, "The test of a free country is the security it gives to minorities."

The second rock upon which the Committee on American Principles and Fair Play establishes its firm foundation, is the assumption, documented by the experience of man over the centuries, that in time of war, the military organization of a nation, in this country the War Department, deserves ungrudging, unstinted, unfailing support in all matters of military concern. The Committee has followed that policy unswervingly ever since it was established, and has found it sound, although it has always reserved the liberty to question any Government action. For example, when the Army decided that evacuation of the Japanese from the Pacific Coast was required by military necessity, the Committee dropped immediately the important questions it had been raising, and properly raising, as to whether such treatment of American citizens or even loyal aliens squared with American ideals. But the Committee continues to combat the idea, now being advanced, that evacuation is proof of disloyalty. There is no basis whatever in any available evidence for such an inference, and there is abundant testimony in the acts of Japanese-Americans and the words of other loyal Americans to the contrary. Moreover, the Committee now contends that, since the Army ordered the evacuation, on grounds of military necessity, the Army should likewise decide when the process is to be reversed, and the evacuees allowed to recover gradually their civil rights. When the Army decides that the time has come to take this step, and issues a proclamation as clear as the original orders

for the evacuation, the Committee on American Principles and Fair Play will once again cooperate to the limit with the military authorities and the War Department. And it believes that every patriot who prizes his own civil liberties should do the same.

There are a number of minor facets of Committee policy, of course, but none which runs counter to the two major principles which I have discussed here today. Of these minor policies, I shall refer only to one, because you are busy men and women who do not have the time for a mass of detail, and that one only because it is a fertile source of misrepresentation as to the Committee's attitude. The Committee does not believe that all Japanese who have been evacuated from California should be returned to their homes. On the contrary, it favors the policy of dispersed relocation, which is the policy of the War Relocation Authority. It holds with all sensible Californians that the swarming of persons of one race in a Ghetto or a Little Mexico or Tokyo, the separation of a minority physically and culturally from the rest of the population, of which it must become a part, is a profound social and political error and a potent breeder of social and political ills. Moreover, it is convinced that there will never be a mass return of evacuees to the West Coast. Half of them, approximately, have already been located elsewhere, or are likely to be by the end of 1944. In many instances, there is nothing for the others to return to here. Among the Nisei, there is a strong and understandable current of feeling against this area, and many of them have no intention of coming back if they can avoid it. But the right of loyal Japanese to come back, if they so elect, cannot be denied without a denial of all that America has hitherto meant to racial and religious minorities, of all that it has symbolized for the hopes of humanity. My own ances-

tors, the Covenanting Scots, were murdered by their neighbors because they did not like the color of their convictions. Some of you here today, of other racial or religious groups, have similar tragic memories, much more recent. The dream of America will be over when the color of men's skins determine the communities in which they may live.

On this most significant issue, the Committee on American Principles and Fair Play stands four square with the President of the United States, in his official statement of federal policy on relocation:

"With the segregation of the disloyal evacuees in a separate center, the War Relocation Authority proposes now to redouble its efforts to accomplish the relocation into normal homes and jobs in communities throughout the United States, but outside the evacuated area, of those Americans of Japanese ancestry whose loyalty to this country has remained unshaken through the hardships of the evacuation which military necessity made unavoidable. We shall restore to the loyal evacuees the right to return to the evacuated area as soon as the military situation will make such restoration feasible. Americans of Japanese ancestry, like those of many other ancestries, have shown that they can, and want to, accept our institutions and work loyally with the rest of us, making their own valuable contribution to the national wealth and well-being. In vindication of the very ideals for which we are fighting this war, it is important to us to maintain a high standard of fair, considerate, and equal treatment for the people of this minority, as of all other minorities."

This statement, we believe, is to be considered as a solemn pledge spoken by the President in the name of the American people.

So much for the policies of the Committee on American Principles and Fair Play, and now for a word or two on how it sets about to implement those policies. The sole weapon of the Committee is the truth, and the Light of Truth it tries to keep shining before our people, and especially those who

determine the acts of our government, brightly and continuously. It seeks to promote cool, clear thinking, especially by the West Coast public, in spite of the distortions of fact and excesses of passion and prejudice which are inevitable in wartime. It helps the public to discriminate sharply between our enemies in Japan, the military criminals for whom no fate is too harsh, no punishment too cruel, and those persons of Japanese stock in the United States, two thirds of whom are free from any blemish of disloyalty, even under the stress of most discriminatory treatment.

The Committee meets *sweeping generalizations* and *wholly unsupported charges* with documented facts. For example, it confronts those who say that the only good Jap is a dead Jap with the extraordinary combat record of the 100th Battalion in Italy, a battalion composed entirely of Nisei privates, with half its officers Nisei, and all of them volunteers. That battalion came out of Salerno and Cassino with 3 Distinguished Service Crosses, 21 Bronze Stars, 36 Silver Stars, and 900 Purple Hearts—900 out of 1400 wounded in action. Again, for example, it answers the threat that returned white service men would murder persons of Japanese stock if they remained in the United States, by publishing hundreds of letters from men in the fighting forces, saying, in the words of one of them "Have no fear that returning soldiers would desire to slit the throats of loyal Japanese at home . . . We'll do our fighting on the battlefronts against our country's enemies, and not on the streets at home against our country's friends."

Finally, the Committee backs every group and every individual that speaks out for sound Americanism and against the evil doctrine that justice and power are synonymous. It supports Seth Millington, Past Grand President of the

Native Sons of the Golden West, and former State Commander of the American Legion, when he says to the Commonwealth Club, "I would have all known disloyal Japs sent to the land of the rising sun . . . by the first ship leaving San Francisco. Those who have volunteered for our armed forces I would keep here as part of our population." And the Committee is sympathetic with Mr. Millington's dilemma (but probably not with his solution of it) when he says further, "As to those that cannot be classified as either loyal or disloyal there is a most difficult problem. Under the law they are citizens and have rights."

The Committee endorses even more heartily these statesmanlike sentences of Commander Wm. P. Houghton, of the American Legion, Department of California:

"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 men 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." These words are a stinging rebuke to those patrioteers who, Nazi-like, would have us substitute a caste system based on race and color for the democratic principles of human worth and equality under the law. We cannot interpret them, or the words of Mr. Millington, as justifying the exclusion of loyal Japanese from California.

Finally, to bring us completely up-to-date, the Committee endorses the plank of the recently adopted Republican party platform which says: "We unreservedly condemn the injection into American life of appeals to racial or religious prejudice."

On the basis of the policies and activities I have laid before you almost

diagrammatically, in the brief time available at this luncheon, I hope that you ladies and gentlemen will be moved to set up in this City of Los Angeles, an active chapter of the Committee on American Principles and Fair Play. The barometer of tolerance toward the evacuees is still too low on this Coast, and the opposition is still vehement and unscrupulous. We need your help to expedite the program of the United States Government, and to create an acceptance by the California public of the enlightened American way of dealing with law-abiding persons even though they are members of an unpopular minority.

In your lifetime and mine, Western civilization has twice drifted into a major catastrophe, due to lack of wis-

dom and understanding on the part of men. We shall do so again, and we shall lose the values for which we fight, unless we understand the implications of those values for the kind of complex world in which we live today.

Basically, what men are seeking the world over is a decent security, an opportunity for a larger share of the good things of the earth, and above all a sense of meaning and dignity in their own lives. The only answer that can be given to these deep, perpetual hungers of men lies in the American concept of democracy, in the ideal of the common humanity of all men. Let us fight to preserve that concept no less vigorously than we fight to destroy the Germans and the Japs in Europe and the Pacific.

From
Common Ground
222 Fourth Avenue
New York City

Autumn 1943 issue

WITH ITS MAIN OBJECTIVE the mobilization and vocalization of the great numbers of fair-minded persons on the West Coast, the Pacific Coast Committee on American Principles and Fair Play came into being in February, 1942, following the evacuation of persons of Japanese ancestry from the Western Defense Command. A small group, including President Robert Gordon Sproul of the University of California, Chester Rowell of the San Francisco Chronicle, General David P. Barrows, U.S.A. retired, Galen Fisher, Christian lay leader, Dr. Henry Francis Grady, former Assistant Secretary of State, and several others, drew up a tentative statement of policy upon which such a group might be organized. Then additional leadership, drawn almost equally from the fields of education, labor, religion, and industry was secured, with representation largely from California, though as the organization grew advisory members from the states of Washington and Oregon were added. While headquarters are in San Francisco (Mrs. Ruth W. Kingman, executive secretary, 465 California Street), branch groups were formed in Santa Barbara, Pasadena, Fresno, Palos Verdes, Sacramento, Seattle, and Portland. Interpretive and educational materials are distributed, mis-statements in the press corrected, speakers supplied, legislators and community leaders interviewed. Work has been outlined for suggested sub-committees in various fields: newspaper, legislative, resettlement, radio, co-ordinating, and student.

"Believing as we do that action affecting any racial group, when that action is placed upon a racial basis as the determining factor, can happen to any other such groups," writes Mrs. Kingman, "our Committee is making every effort to differentiate between the unquestioned quilt of the Japanese war machine and our own people who have Japanese faces. We wish to make war upon Japan and Germany, not upon our loyal citizens whose ancestors came from Japan and Germany. We are concerned that what we do in this regard shall not militate against us in the eyes of our non-white allies, either now or in the postwar period. We are keenly aware that use is being made through Japanese propaganda in China, of our treatment of one of our own ethnic groups. We deplore this and are taking all possible means of calling this danger to the attention of our state and Congressional legislators." The Committee is backing the resettlement program of the WRA and the opening of the armed forces to loyal Americans of Japanese ancestry. It feels that "an alignment with the thinking which maintains a national rather than a sectional point of view is the only effective means of combatting the local, prejudiced, and often hysterical stand of organizations which are taking extreme and racist positions."

THE PACIFIC COAST COMMITTEE ON AMERICAN PRINCIPLES AND FAIR PLAY

Purpose: The fundamental purpose of the Committee is to support the principles enunciated in the Constitution of the United States, and to that end to maintain, unimpaired, the liberties guaranteed in the Bill of Rights.

The Committee Believes:

- 1) That attacks upon the rights of any minority tend to undermine the rights of the majority
- 2) That attempts to deprive any law-abiding citizen of his citizenship because of racial descent are contrary to fundamental American principles and jeopardize the citizenship of others.
- 3) The legislation to deprive Americans of Japanese descent of any of their legal rights would set a precedent for depriving other racial groups of their rights, and would weaken the confidence of our Allies, particularly those in Asia and Latin America, in the sincerity of our professions to be fighting for the rights of all peoples.
- 4) That it is un-American to penalize persons of Japanese descent in the United States solely for the crimes of the Government and military caste of Japan.

Program of the Committee:

- 1) Formation of branches, or affiliates, in cities from Seattle to San Diego, which will serve as active outlets for printed and mimeographed materials, correcting mis-statements in the local press, supplying speakers, and interviewing local, state and Congressional legislators, and community leaders. In the Universities and Colleges, the carrying out of a similar program, under student in co-operation with the Pacific Coast Committee.
- 2) Distribution of pertinent materials to affiliates, press, radio, organizations and individuals, chiefly along the Pacific Coast, but also to strategic persons and groups in the Middle West and East.
- 3) The answering of many inquiries for authentic data from all parts of the country, and the stimulation of the writing of news and magazine articles.
- 4) Constant attention to discriminatory and unfair legislation, either state or Congressional, with efforts to keep all legislators informed of pertinent facts and conscious of the keen interest and concern of our West Coast members.

I hereby apply for affiliation with the Committee on American Principles and Fair Play as (check which):

General member.....(\$2)
Contributing member.....(\$5)
Sustaining member.....(\$10 or over)
Student member.....(\$1)

Signature _____
Address _____

To be returned to the Committee on American Principles and Fair Play
at 2207 Union St., Berkeley, Calif.

[May 22 1944]

Rationale and Importance
of the
Committee on American Principles and Fair Play

1. Its Primary Concern is for the integrity of the Bill of Rights, and not pity for an unfortunate and ill-used minority, the Japanese evacuees. Whenever that Bill is violated or weakened in treatment of any minority, no matter how unpopular and helpless, it is impaired for all of us, and sets an evil precedent which is likely to be turned against some other minority later. Wartime requires some sacrifice of ordinary rights for all of us, but the last point to be yielded is the Bill of Rights. Only proven need for Martial Law has hitherto justified suspending it, and then only by deliberate and conscious act. Our Committee believes we should all be lynx-eyed to prevent denying its protection to any and all persons, unless proven dangerous or subversive.

2. It promotes cool, clear thinking by the West Coast public, despite the abnormal passions and distortions of truth prevalent in wartime. This applies especially to the need of helping the public to discriminate sharply between our enemies in Japan, the military criminals, and persons of Japanese stock in America, about two-thirds of whom are as truly American citizens as any of us.

There is no more excuse for identifying the Japanese-Americans with the Japan militarists than for saddling the millions of German-Americans with the crimes of the Nazis, --in fact much less, since no Japanese-Americans nor even alien Japanese long resident here have been charged with sabotage whereas numbers of German-Americans have been convicted of it.

3. The Committee meets sweeping generalizations, and unsupported charges and prejudices with documented facts and appeals to fundamental constitutional principles. The threat is made that returned white servicemen from the Southwest Pacific front would murder all persons of Japanese stock who might dare to return to the Coast; and the Committee issues FIGHTING MEN SPEAK OUT, in which one Fresno State College alumnus now in service writes: "California and the city of Fresno owes a debt to our Japanese-American citizens in the service who are paying the price of our common freedom with their lives....Fresno owes these soldiers a monument and not a stab in the back!" And a Chinese-American service man, Captain Lui writes from Hawaii: "Have no fear that returning soldiers would desire to slit the throats of loyal Japanese at home....We'll do our fighting on the battlefields against our country's enemies, and not on the streets at home against our country's friends."
4. It confronts those who charge that few if any of the Nisei citizens are loyal with the extraordinary record of the 100th Battalion in Italy, composed entirely of Nisei privates and half the officers Nisei, all of them volunteers. That record shows 3 Distinguished Service Crosses, 21 Bronze stars, and 36 Silver stars, and 900 Purple Hearts, that is, 900 out of 1400 wounded in action at Salerno and Cassino, where they took the hardest assignments without a whimper. Similar heroism has been shown by the nisei in the Alaskan and South Pacific forces.

5. The Committee believes that in wartime it is sound to assume that the War Department deserves unstinted support on all military matters. We have found that policy sound thus far, although we have always reserved the liberty to question any Government action. After the Army decided that evacuation was required by military necessity, we made no further question on that point. We have found the heads of the War Department as eager as ourselves to restore full constitutional rights to the evacuees as soon as the military situation would allow. Since the Army ordered the evacuation, we believe that the Army should decide when to reverse the process and allow gradual recovery of civil rights to the evacuees. When the Army does decide that the time has come to take that step, and makes a pronouncement as clear as its original order for the evacuation, we stand ready to cooperate to the limit, and we believe that every patriot who prizes his own civil liberties should do the same.
6. The policy of dispersed relocation, adopted by the War Relocation Authority, commends itself to every sensible Californian. It will prevent the swarming of colonies of persons of one race which makes "little Tokyos", and separates them from the rest of the population. Fortunately, the evacuees themselves, of the American-born citizen majority, heartily approve this policy. They also are declaring that many of them will not return to this Coast even after the war, but will remain in the states east of the Sierras where they have found congenial new homes.

May 22, 1944

PACIFIC COAST COMMITTEE
ON
AMERICAN PRINCIPLES AND FAIR PLAY

A 16.215
[1943]

The Committee on American Principle and Fair Play vigorously endorses the following government policies. It is our conviction that these policies strengthen the war effort of the nation and are in line with our democratic tradition.

1. Segregation of all disloyal person of Japanese ancestry.

".....all known subversive Japanese (should) be immediately segregated and removed from existing relocation camps and be confined in special detention camps for the duration of the war with Japan."

.....Special House Committee of California
Representatives: Costello, Englebright
Tolan, Izac, and Anderson.
(I.N.S. Washington, May 12, 1943)

".....Immediate internment of all disloyal Japanese."

.....Recommendation by Senator Albert B. Chandler
to Senate Military Affairs Committee
(A.P. Washington, May 7, 1943)

2. The protection of the right of loyal Americans of Japanese ancestry to serve in the armed forces of the United States.

"It is the inherent right of every faithful citizen, regardless of ancestry, to bear arms in the nation's battle."

.....Henry L. Stimson, Secretary of War.

"I applaud the action of the Army in setting up facilities whereby those Americans will be able to show the world what they are able to do."

.....Joseph C. Grew, former United States Ambassador to
to Japan.

"I have never had more whole-hearted, serious-minded cooperation from any troops than I have received from my present command."

.....Lt. Colonel Farrant L. Turner, commanding 100th Inf.
Battalion, U.S. A., formed from Americans of Japanese
extraction in the Hawaiian National Guard.

"The first prisoner of war taken by the United States was captured by a Hawaiian-born Japanese American national guardsman, who overpowered the operator of a Japanese submarine, while patrolling a Hawaiian beach on Dec. 7, 1941."

.....United Press, April 22, 1943.

3. The Opportunity for loyal Americans of Japanese ancestry to resettle in the manner, which, in the judgment of the federal government, is best designed to meet the manpower shortage.

"In accordance with the directive in the Presidential Executive Order which created the Agency, the War Relocation Authority has developed procedures

which are aimed at bringing about the relocation into normal communities of the largest possible number of the evacuated people consistent with the national security."

.....Dillon S. Myer, Director War Relocation Authority.
June 9, 1943

"Food will win the war and write the peace."

.....Claude Wickard, Secretary of Agriculture.

"Every loyal American citizen should be given the opportunity to serve this country wherever his skills will make the greatest contribution--whether it be in the ranks of the armed forces, war production, agriculture, government service, or other work essential to the war effort."

.....President Franklin D. Roosevelt, February 1, 1943,
commenting on the organization of the War Departments
combat unit for Japanese Americans.

4. Fair Play for Americans of Japanese Ancestry who are loyal.

"The mass evacuation of Japanese did not imply disloyalty on the part of all Japanese and it does not appear either right or in accord with the American conception of democracy to retain these loyal ones in restrictive custody..."

.....Colonel William P. Seaboy, War Department
General Staff.

"Having been in charge of military intelligence activities since June, 1941, I am in a position to know what has happened. There have been no known acts of sabotage, espionage, or fifth column activities committed by the Japanese in Hawaii either on or subsequent to December 7, 1941."

.....Colonel Wendel J. Fielder, Assistant Chief of
Staff for Military Intelligence, Hawaiian Department.

"The Americans of Japanese origin are an invaluable element in our population; I welcome their presence, and regret the bitter necessity of imposing on a trustworthy and loyal majority of nisei the restraints which are made needful by the bad behavior and evil repute of a minority.....I welcome the policies of our government which are designed to relieve the nisei of discriminatory restrictions as rapidly and fairly as possible."

.....Joseph C. Grey, former United States Ambassador
to Japan, April 26, 1943.

We support these government policies.

The committee has taken no position on any suggestion that persons of Japanese ancestry be returned to the Pacific Coast at this time. We have confidence in the present policies of the War Department.

Our primary concern is to insure the application of the following principles to the solution of these problems.

- (1) Attacks upon the rights of any minority tend to undermine the rights of the majority;
- (2) Attempts to deprive any law-abiding citizen of his citizenship because of racial descent are contrary to fundamental American principles and

jeopardize the citizenship of others:

- (3) Legislation to deprive Americans of Japanese descent of any of their legal rights would set a precedent for depriving other racial groups of their rights and would weaken the confidence of our allies, particularly those in Asia and Latin America, in the sincerity of our professions to be fighting for the rights of all peoples;
- (4) It is un-American to penalize person of Japanese descent in the United States solely for the crimes of the Government and military caste of Japan.

The Committee on American Principles and Fair Play was formed to support and defend the constitutional rights of law-abiding persons of oriental descent in the United States and particularly of the Japanese American evacuees. Persons desiring to aid the educational program of the Committee either through financial contribution or volunteer service should write to the Executive Secretary at:
456 California Street, San Francisco, California.

Honorary Chairman

Dr. Robert Gordon Sproul

Chairman

Mr. Maurice E. Harrison

Executive Chairman

Dr. Arthur Cushman McGiffert, Jr.

COMMITTEE ON AMERICAN PRINCIPLES AND FAIR PLAY

Fisher
[Feb, 1942]

Honorary Chairman: President Robert Gordon Sproul

Chairman Advisory Board: Maurice E. Harrison

Chairman, Executive Committee: Dr. Arthur C. McGiffert

Vice-Chairmen: Mrs. Alfred McLaughlin, Dr. Paul S. Taylor, Rabbi Irving F. Reichert and others.

Members of Executive Committee: Alfred J. Lundberg, Bartley Crum, Mrs. Wallace M. Alexander, Mrs. Philip Bancroft, Miss Leila Anderson, and the following, if they accept: F.P. Foisie, Richard R. Perkins, Jesse H. Steinhart, Paul C. Edwards, George Wilson, Ruth M. Fisher, two labor representatives, and, ex officio, the Chairmen of the Regional Committees being formed in Southern California and the Northwest.

Treasurer, Harry S. Scott, 465 California Street, San Francisco,

Assistant Treasurer, Galen M. Fisher.

POLICIES

as adopted January 25, 1943

The fundamental purpose of the Committee is to support the principles enunciated in the Constitution of the United States, and to that end to maintain, unimpaired, the liberties guaranteed in the Bill of Rights.

As a West Coast body, the Committee recognizes its distinctive obligation to defend the liberties of law-abiding persons of Oriental ancestry, whether citizens or aliens, including persons of Japanese descent who formerly resided on this Coast but who, under the war emergency, have been deprived of freedom of movement.

The COMMITTEE believes:

- (1) That attacks upon the rights of any minority tend to undermine the rights of the majority.
- (2) That attempts to deprive any law-abiding citizen of his citizenship because of racial descent are contrary to fundamental American principles and jeopardize the citizenship of others.
- (3) That legislation to deprive Americans of Japanese descent of any of their legal rights would set a precedent for depriving other racial groups of their rights, and would weaken the confidence of our Allies, particularly those in Asia and Latin America, in the sincerity of our professions to be fighting for the rights of all peoples.
- (4) That it is un-American to penalize persons of Japanese descent in the United States solely for the crimes of the Government and military caste of Japan.

PLAN OF ORGANIZATION

1. The Advisory Board will consist of about 60 representative citizens from the Pacific Coast States, among whom will be practically all the former Vice-Chairmen of the Committee on National Security and Fair Play, as follows:

Dr. Henry F. Grady	General David P. Barrows	Alfred J. Lundberg
Joseph S. Thompson	Provost Monroe E. Deutsch	Dean J. Hugh Jackson
Pres. Ray Lyman Wilbur	Dr. Robert A. Millikan	Pres. Aurelia Reinhardt
Mayor Frank S. Gaines	George G. Kidwell	George Wilson
Mrs. Alfred McLaughlin	Mrs. Robert McWilliams	Mrs. Wallace M. Alexander
Rt. Rev. Karl Block	Mrs. Duncan S. Robinson	Mrs. Agnes M. Cleaveland
Dr. Chester H. Rowell	Rabbi Irving F. Reichert	John S. Curran
Dr. Benjamin W. Black	Hon. C.C. Young	Gerald H. Hagar
Dr. Ralph T. Fisher		

This group will be supplemented by well-known persons, especially from the Southern and Northern regions.

2. The central Executive Committee will have responsibility for the program, budget and staff of the Committee, within the adopted Policies given above.
3. Regional and Local Committees or Chapters. Autonomous groups which accept the Policies and desire to cooperate with the Committee will be recognized and aided in carrying out the purposes of the Committee in their areas. They will be expected to share in the general expenses, since they will benefit from the services of the Executive Secretary, the printed matter, and the activities of the Committee. Local groups which have some other title may be recognized as "Chapters."
4. Membership Fees. General, \$2. Students, \$1. Sustaining, \$10, or more. Estimated budget for six months from February 15, 1943: \$2,000.

To the Members of
The Pasadena Chapter of the
Pacific Coast Committee on American Principles and Fair Play:

Since the meeting held on April 20th your officers and Executive Committee have enlisted new members and in cooperation with Mrs. Kingman, Secretary of the Central organization, planned certain lines of work and certain working committees to carry out this program.

Your executives wish to consult with the full membership regarding this work and the constitution of these working committees and to enlist the help of as many as are willing to act as members of these committees. Consequently, they have arranged for a meeting of all members to be held at the Public Library at 8 P.M. on June 8th and they hope all members will attend.

The working committees proposed for the present are on -

1. Membership: To select and enlist as many new members as possible.
2. Publicity: To check statements particularly in news columns in local papers, answer inaccuracies when possible and generally circulate accurate information to promote the policies of the Pacific Coast Committee.
3. Legislative: To check on the activities of legislative bodies and by personal contact and correspondence. To keep our state and national representatives informed of the opinions and principles we advocate.
4. Coordination: To interest other groups in the community in these policies and to secure their cooperation.
5. Contact : To keep in contact with local, loyal evacuees and by encouragement help maintain their morale and loyalty; by correspondence with eastern friends endeavor to assist in the efforts of the Relocation authority to place loyal citizens of Japanese descent in useful work.
6. Student : To build up membership and cooperation among students in the various local educational institutions and to encourage them to take an active part in our work.

It would assist in building up this committee organization if members would advise the Secretary promptly and in advance of the meeting in which lines of work they would be willing to assist (Address Wm. C. Burton, Secretary, 989 So. El Molino Ave., Pasadena).

You will find enclosed your formal membership card issued by the Pacific Coast Committee.

Come to the meeting on Tuesday, June 8th.

PACIFIC COAST COMMITTEE ON AMERICAN PRINCIPLES AND FAIR PLAY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairman: Dr. Arthur C. McGiffert, Jr.
President, Pacific School of Religion
Vice-Chairman: Dr. Irving F. Reichert
Jewish Rabbi
Vice-Chairman: Dr. Paul S. Taylor
University of California

Treasurer: Mr. Harry S. Scott
Businessman
Ass't. Treas: Mr. Galen Fisher
Inst. of Pacific Relations
Executive Secretary:
Mrs. Ruth W. Kingman

Mrs. Wallace Alexander
Bd. of Directors, Oakland Red Cross
Miss Leila Anderson
General Secretary: University YMCA
Dr. Monroe E. Deutsch
Vice-President and Provost
of the University of
California

Mrs. Ruth M. Fisher
Vice-President of the
Student Body of the Univer-
sity of California (1942-3)
Mr. Alfred J. Lundberg
past President, State C. of C.
Mr. John T. Wagner
A.F. of L.

Mr. George Wilson
President, S.F. C.I.O. Council

ADVISORY BOARD

Honorary Chairman
Dr. Robert Gordon Sproul
President, University of California

Chairman
Mr. Maurice E. Harrison
Attorney

Bishop James C. Baker
Methodist Church
Mrs. Nina E. Bancroft
farm representative
General David P. Barrows
former President, Univ. California
Mr. Frank S. Bayley
former Pres., Nat'l. Council YMCA
Dr. Benjamin W. Black
Physician
Mr. Allen C. Blaisdell
Director of International House
- Bishop Karl M. Block
Episcopal Church
Mr. Bartley C. Crum
Attorney
Mrs. Josephine W. Duveneck
American Friends Service Committee
Mr. Henry Elliott, Jr.
Businessman
- Dr. Donald Erb
President, University of Oregon
Mr. Ralph T. Fisher
Vice-Pres. Amer. Trust Co. (Oakland)
Mr. Frank S. Gaines
former Mayor of Berkeley
Dr. Henry F. Grady
President, American President Lines
Mr. Gerald Hagar
Attorney
Mr. George Hjelte
Superintendent of Recreation (L.A.)
Dean J. Hugh Jackson
Graduate Sch. of Business (Stanford)
Mr. Will C. James
Businessman
Mr. George G. Kidwell
California State official (former)
- Mr. Harry L. Kingman
General Secretary: University YMCA
Dr. Tully C. Knoles
President, College of the Pacific
✓ - Mr. K.L. Kwong 555 Montgomery
Mgr. Bank of Canton (San Francisco)
Mr. Robert A. Leet
Businessman

Dr. Vere V. Loper
Congregational Church
Dr. Edgar F. Magnin
Jewish Rabbi
Mr. Philip N. McCombs
Businessman
- Mr. A.J. McFadden
past President, State C. of C.
Mrs. Alfred McLaughlin
Inst. International Relations
Mr. E.B. MacNaughton
Pres. First Nat'l. Bank (Ore.)
Mrs. Robert McWilliams
Citizens for Victory (S.F.)
Dr. Robert A. Millikan
Calif. Inst. of Technology
- Father Joseph P. Mulkern
Director, Catholic Charities
Dr. William B. Munro
Calif. Inst. of Technology
Mr. Joseph A. Murphy
Attorney
Mr. Richard M. Neustadt
Reg. Dir., Soc. Security Bd.
Dr. Aurelia H. Reinhardt
Pres. Emeritus, Mills College
Mr. Chester H. Rowell
Ed. Staff, S.F. Chronicle
Mr. A.B. Ruddock
Businessman
Dr. Jesse Steiner
University of Washington
Bishop Bertrand Stevens
Episcopal Church
Mr. Joseph S. Thompson
Attorney
Rev. Donald H. Tippet
Methodist Church
Mr. August Vollmer
noted Criminologist
Father Edward J. Whelan
Catholic Church
Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur
Chancellor, Stanford Univ.
Mr. C.C. Young
former Governor, California

SUGGESTED AGENDA FOR PRELIMINARY MEETING

Committee on American Principles and Fair Play

Hotel Biltmore, Los Angeles, September 10, 1943, 8 p.m.

I Short statement concerning preceeding meeting held in July.

II Discussion

A Background of organization

B Background of Committee membership

C Bases of Principles adopted by Committee

D Problems to be met

1. Opposition based either upon principles involved or disagreement as to best method of approach.
2. Analysis of situation in relation to changing state of war and resulting national policy.
3. Analysis of principles in relation to present national policy.
4. Analysis of principles in relation to post-war thinking.
5. Relation to other groups holding some, but not all of the positions, with whom we find ourselves in partial agreement.

E Local problems, unique to area.

1. Suggestions from the floor.

III Consideration of Organization Procedure.

A Election or appointment of officers pro tem.

B Plan for future meeting and action.

C Discussion of ways and means, and relation to West Coast Office.

IV Consideration of Possible Program in Los Angeles Area

V Suggestions from the floor.

VI Adjournment.

AMERICAN PRINCIPLES AND FAIR PLAY

EDWARD J. WHELAN, S.J.

CAME PEARL HARBOR. And after that there was much excitement in military circles on the Pacific coast. The Japanese might possibly follow up their partial destruction of our Pacific Fleet with an attack on the mainland; and that meant the Pacific Coast of California, Oregon and Washington. Certainly, there was little to hinder them at that time; for, as we learned later, the greater part of our capital ships had been disabled. There was little protection on the Pacific Coast. In Southern California airplane industries, all of them very close to the coast, were running day and night; and at night their lights could be seen from a great distance. One doubts if there was a single gun protecting those factories; the target was wide open. Had the Japs chosen to attack, little resistance could have been offered. It is true that billions of dollars had been voted prior to Pearl Harbor for national defense; but very, very little of it was spent on defense of the Pacific Coast. Why the Japanese did not further pursue their advantage, we ordinary individuals do not know.

HYSTERIA AND EVACUATION

The Military realized the danger, and feverish preparations were made. Another danger lurked in potential collaboration, in case of an attack, by the Japanese residing on the Coast. They numbered about 110,000, of whom 75,000 were born in this country and, hence, were citizens of the United States; and by far the great majority were living in California. At Los Angeles Harbor many were engaged in the fishing industry, and their fishing expeditions took them at times some distance out into the Pacific and up and down the Coast. These were immediately forbidden to leave the harbor; for among them, undoubtedly, would be found spies and collaborators.

The other Japanese were engaged in a variety of pursuits. They raised most of the vegetables and berries in Southern California, and much in the central part of the State. In San Francisco and Los Angeles they had their section of the city known as "Little Tokyo." They worked in private homes as maids, house-boys and cooks. They had nurseries for flowers, and took care of most of the gardens of the larger residences in Los Angeles. For the most part they resided near the coastal area.

The Japanese caused very little trouble. In fact, the police used to say of them (this was before Pearl Harbor, when it was not a crime to say anything good of a Jap) that they had less trouble with the Japanese than with any other foreign element; they are naturally law-abiding.

But now, with the war on, something had to be done. That there were spies and enemy agents among those 110,000 there is no doubt; and our Government agencies had known of some and immediately rounded them up. But how many were in league with the Japanese Government, how many would betray the United States in case of an attack, how many would be thoroughly loyal, were questions no one could answer satisfactorily. Certain precautionary measures were immediately taken; all Japanese had to be in their homes at a certain hour and could not leave them in the morning before a set time.

However, since many of them lived in close proximity to essential war industries, and since most were in the coastal area, the War Department finally determined that

all Japanese, both non-citizens and citizens, should be moved from the Pacific Coast. It was an Army order. Camps were hurriedly constructed away from the coast; dates and points of departure were set for different groups for the evacuation. This compulsory movement of both citizens and non-citizens was something unprecedented in the history of our country. The evacuees had to sacrifice their business, their farm lands, sell for a pittance their furniture, electric refrigerators, washing-machines; and were sent off in buses and trains to the Relocation Centers in the interior.

And then were heard the voices of certain people, motivated by hysteria and fear and hate. All Japs were spies, they said. Not one could ever be trusted. And this from certain vociferous people who had had none but Japanese help in their homes and who were, up until the war, thoroughly satisfied with them. Others madly contended that the only good Jap was a dead Jap. A certain Congressman proclaimed he would introduce a bill prohibiting Japanese, even if they had lived here for ten generations, from becoming citizens. Others shouted that all with Japanese blood in them should be deprived of their citizenship. Others again, that after the war all of them, whether born in Japan or born in America, should be sent to Japan. And still others maintained that the Japanese should never be allowed to return to California.

Such were the voices of hysteria; but many of them were voices of hate and avarice. Some who shouted the loudest about the Japanese had managed to take over the very fine farm lands which the Japs had labored for years to bring under cultivation; and these citizens were loath to give up what they had so easily acquired. So they disguised their cupidity as patriotism.

PROGRAM OF AMERICAN FAIR PLAY

Something had to be done to set people thinking rightly in a crisis of this kind. So there came into being about two years ago an organization known as the Pacific Coast Committee on American Principles and Fair Play. It was started in San Francisco by a group of leading citizens in every walk of life. The honorary chairman is Dr. Robert Gordon Sproul, President of the University of California; the chairman is the Hon. Maurice P. Harrison. On the Committee are such men as Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur, formerly President of Stanford University and Secretary of the Interior under the Hoover Administration, and Dr. Robert A. Millikan, Chairman of the Executive Council of the California Institute of Technology. More recently a branch committee was organized in Los Angeles.

The Committee on American Principles and Fair Play came into existence at a critical moment in American history, not to coddle, and much less to glorify, the Japanese, but to champion and to safeguard American democracy. Its members are thoroughgoing believers in the virtues of the American form of government as expressed by the Founding Fathers in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights; and the safeguarding of the Bill of Rights of the Constitution is first and foremost the concern of the Committee on American Principles and Fair Play. The Committee holds that whenever and wherever the Constitutional guarantees are violated in the treatment of a minority the structure of American government is threatened. Such a violation establishes a precedent; grant such a violation of rights against one minority, the rights of no minorities are safe, and the final result would be the overthrow of the very principle on which our nation is founded.

Furthermore, the Committee asserts that in time of war considerable sacrifice is demanded of all citizens and that

concerning certain groups of citizens, when dangerous conditions arise, particular caution is necessary. Hence, the War Department deserves the fullest and unfailing support in all matters of military concern; but the Committee reserves the liberty to question any Government action. Thus, when the Army insisted that military necessity required the evacuation of all Japanese, the Committee did not press the question, which had been raised, and rightly raised, whether such treatment of American citizens, or even of loyal aliens, fits in with our standard of American ideals. But the Committee does unceasingly insist that evacuation is no proof of disloyalty. The Committee further contends that, since the Army on the grounds of military necessity ordered the evacuation of the Japanese, it must be from the Army that the order will come allowing the evacuees to return and recover their civil rights.

As a minor point of policy the Committee feels that the gathering of persons of one race, as in a Little Tokyo, is liable to be a cause of social and political ills; and therefore, on return, the Japanese should be more dispersed. But it does not seem that there will be a mass return of evacuees to the West Coast. About half, or nearly half, of them have already left the relocation centers and have settled elsewhere. There is nothing for many of them to return to here; their business has been ruined, their farms occupied by others. And among the Nisei—the American-born who are American citizens—there is a strong and readily understandable current of feeling against the area from which they were driven. Many of them would prefer to settle elsewhere. But that they have a *right* to return, if they so desire, cannot be denied without denying all that our country has meant to racial and religious minorities.

HOW THE COMMITTEE FUNCTIONS

Such are the policies of the Committee on American Principles and Fair Play. How does it go about to give expression to these policies? The Committee has but one weapon—Truth; and it endeavors to keep the light of truth shining before our people, especially before those who ordain the acts of our Government. It endeavors to promote cool, clear thinking on the West Coast, and show that passion and prejudice, the inevitable companions of wartime, should not guide our actions. It tries to draw a sharp line of demarcation between our enemies in Japan, the military leaders and criminals, and persons of Japanese ancestry in the United States, the vast majority of whom are free from any stain of disloyalty, in spite of the fact that they have been the victims of discriminatory treatment.

When sweeping generalities and charges lacking support are hurled forth, the Committee answers them with documented facts. When, for instance, our misguided citizens assert that the only good Jap is a dead Jap, the Committee counters with the remarkable combat record of the 100th Battalion in Italy, a battalion composed entirely of Nisei privates, with half of its officers Nisei, and all of them volunteers. That Battalion went through Salerno and Cassino and has to its credit three Distinguished Service Crosses, twenty-one Bronze Stars, thirty-six Silver Stars, and nine hundred Purple Hearts—nine hundred out of 1,400 wounded in action. And the Committee quotes the words of Lt. Colonel Farrant L. Turner, the commanding officer of that 100th Battalion: "I have never had more whole-hearted, serious-minded cooperation from any troops than I have received from my present command."

Or when other vocal citizens shout that the Japanese cannot be trusted in our midst, the Committee quotes Colonel Rendall J. Fielder, Assistant Chief of Staff for Military In-

telligence, Hawaiian Department, who says: "Having been in charge of Military Intelligence activities since June, 1941, I am in a position to know what has happened. There have been no known acts of sabotage, espionage, or fifth-column activities committed by the Japanese in Hawaii either on or subsequent to December 7, 1941." And this in the Island of Hawaii where the danger of attack was immeasurably greater, but where the Japanese were not evacuated from their homes and placed in so-called relocation centers.

Thus the Committee on American Principles and Fair Play does its work; and it has met with great success in making people realize that they should not be moved by hysteria and prejudice. It has found that the press is sympathetic. Basically, men throughout the world are in search of the same thing—a decent security, an opportunity to advance themselves and better their position for themselves and their families, and thus realize in themselves the great dignity of man. The answer to these longings of the human heart is best found in the American concept of democracy. It is this we must fight for with all the vigor that characterizes our armies on the battlefields abroad.

THE SUMMER'S WAR IN EUROPE

Col. CONRAD H. LANZA

AS THESE LINES are written in mid-September, the war in Europe is starting on a new phase. Since June, two great campaigns have been fought—one east of Germany by Russia; and the other west of Germany in France by the combined Allied armies of Americans, British and Canadians. A secondary campaign has been under way in Italy.

In both main theaters of operations extraordinary victories have been won. Great areas have been freed from German rule and occupation. The German armies have been all but driven back into Germany. Apparently they will be able to make but one more serious resistance.

In five years of uninterrupted war no summer has been more fruitful of important changes than the one just closing. It is well to review what has been accomplished and how it was done. It will then be easier to understand the campaigns scheduled for the coming autumn.

THE CAMPAIGN IN FRANCE

The plans for the invasion of France were commenced by a joint American and British staff in 1942. The decision was made in that same year that the invasion would not occur until everything was ready, and not until it was certain that, once commenced, it could be kept rolling on toward victory.

At the Quebec conference in August, 1943, Mr. Churchill had with him the complete plan for the invasion. This plan selected the beaches to be attacked and outlined the main operations to follow. There was also a mass of detail to support the conclusions arrived at.

Although the plan was ready a year ahead of the time it was to be put into effect, it took until this summer to assemble, train and equip the vast armies which were to be employed. On June 6 of this year the invasion was launched.

At that time, according to Allied Intelligence reports, the Germans had a million troops in France and the Low Countries. The strength of the Allied armies has not yet been divulged. But a million Allies had been landed in Normandy by July 4, which is at the rate of a quarter of

[end]

SUGGESTED SUB-COMMITTEES
FOR
COMMITTEE ON AMERICAN PRINCIPLES AND FAIR PLAY

1) Newspaper Committee:

Check on all statements, particularly news columns, in local newspapers, answer inaccuracies wherever possible, refer others to Pacific Coast office, and report all such items to our office.

2) Legislative Committee:

Obtain names and addresses of all legislators, State and Congressional, from your local districts, where possible, gain personal acquaintance with same, and keep them informed by word of mouth when possible, and by mail otherwise, not only of the thinking of the local group but also of activities of Newspaper Committee.

3) Resettlement Committee:

Work up mailing list of personal acquaintances in Middle West and East to whom Pacific Coast Headquarters can send news releases and other material supporting government Resettlement Policy, taking care that names represent significant groups who might have influence.

4. Radio Committee:

Obtain free, if possible, time on local radio stations, and have committee work up short broadcasts, perhaps of a round-table nature. (If charge is made, it is possible that the Pacific Coast Committee can help.) For material, use factual matter particularly applicable to local questions, refer to experiences and files of your own group with files, releases and other material coming from Headquarters available at all times.

5. Coordinating Committee:

Group to work together with any others whose interests and activities are parallel, taking natural precautions against methods not in accord with the policies of the Committee. For instance, go now into each of the church groups with suggestion as letters to Congressmen, etc.

6. Student Committee:

A group of adults to give leadership if needed to student organization which is

to be started in each College and University community. Usually the student body or Christian Association leaders are ready to provide the needed leadership, but often experienced thinking from the adult group is helpful.

COMMITTEE ON AMERICAN PRINCIPLES AND FAIR PLAY

January 27, 1943

At a well attended meeting at the Commercial Club in San Francisco on Monday, January 25, the Committee on American Principles and Fair Play was definitely organized. The statement of purpose, policies, and general outline of organization were adopted very much as originally sent to you. I have been asked to serve as chairman of the Nominating Committee for the officers and committees of the organization. The other members of the committee are: Mrs. Alfred McLaughlin, Mr. Harry Kingman, Dr. Paul Taylor, and Mr. Galen Fisher.

It is our feeling that in making these nominations we should have before us the names of prominent citizens and leaders from the various groups that we desire to draw into cooperation. Those suggested should be known to be sympathetic to the purposes of the Committee. Will you assist us by giving careful thought to this matter by noting on the attached sheet the names and addresses of selected individuals within the general classifications noted? Brief comments regarding them, their positions or qualities of leadership and influence will be of great help to the Committee. The suggestions are for consideration as officers or committee members and not for general membership purposes. To facilitate the return of these suggestions promptly, a self-addressed envelope is enclosed.

The committee is meeting on Friday, February 5, and it is important that we receive your suggestions before that date.

Very cordially yours,

Allen C. Blaisdell
International House
Berkeley, California

ACB:WLB
enclosure

Next on the Agenda for Returning Evacuees

Suggestions to Chapters and Members of Committee on American Principles and Fair Play

Since the exclusion orders were cancelled on January 2, 1945, ^{only about} ~~less~~ ~~than~~ two thousand have returned to the West Coast. Why? For many reasons, but local hostility, and shortage of housing, jobs, and funds are among the chief.

What can we now do to remove the obstacles? Read Guide Posts for many practical suggestions. The following points are supplementary.

1. Stimulate the formation of local Councils for Civic Unity in county seats and other cities where there are minority groups, unless there is already an equivalent organization, needing only to be expanded, or one can be formed by federating several committees. Such councils should cover all minorities, not simply Japanese. See paragraph 2 and 3 of Guide Posts.
2. Help us secure capable Field Workers, especially to form Councils for Civic Unity. They should be able to give enough time to follow through on such organizations. Send us particulars about available persons living anywhere on this Coast who could give two weeks or more. In certain cases, our Committee will grant travel expenses. Already, six Field Workers have been supplied by cooperating agencies. As many more are urgently needed.
3. See the nearest WRA representative and ascertain what specific aid he needs as to jobs, housing, and service to individual returnees. See Guide Posts for list of WRA local agents.
4. Enlist Japanese-speaking persons to serve as interpreters for Issei when needed. Give one copy of the list to the WRA agent.
5. Interview Government officials as to reinstating former Nisei employees.
6. Consult local Labor Unions as to applying to returnees the national code of non-discrimination on account of race.
7. Secure a Revolving Loan Fund, to help returnees get established, if careful inquiry shows loans to be warranted. Consult WRA agent.
8. Get committees in churches and clubs to keep educating their members and the public in sound ideas and practices toward ~~and~~ ^{other} ~~and~~ minorities.. ^{evacuees}
9. If no other agency is canvassing for jobs and housing for returnees, tackle this, in cooperation with WRA and U. S. Employment Service.
10. National and West Coast Protestant Church bodies have strongly endorsed the policy of integrating the returnees, especially Nisei, into regular churches. Encourage local churches to make returnees heartily welcome in their activities and membership.

April 6, 1945

Ruth W. Kingman and Galen M. Fisher
for the Executive Committee
2287 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley 4, Calif.

*"The test of a free
country . . .*



Dr. Robert Gordon Sproul

**President of the
University of California**



*A talk given by Dr. Robert G. Sproul,
President of the University of California,
at the California Club in Los Angeles,
California on June 29, 1944, at a lunch-
eon meeting of a group interested in the
Pacific Coast Committee on American
Principles and Fair Play.*

... is the security it gives its minorities"

The Committee on American Principles and Fair Play, of which I am Honorary Chairman, came into existence at a critical moment in American history, and to afford a means for the expression of views of all but unspeakable importance. It did not come into existence to protect, much less to coddle or glorify, the Japanese, but to champion and help to safeguard American democracy. It is not an organization of starry-eyed Utopians, of intemperate lovers of strange peoples, but of hard headed believers in the virtues of the American form of government as expressed by the Founding Fathers in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Its leadership in such persons as Dr. Millikan, Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur, and myself may be drawn from the lunatic fringe of American life, but it is not a leadership unacquainted with responsibility or unaware of the score. . . .

In spite of storms of abuse from certain quarters, the Committee has been most successful. Up and down the Pacific Coast, it has attracted a very considerable part of those who are universally respected as leaders in their communities to participate in its activities and to speak out for its cause. On the larger stage of the Nation, its influence has been even more notable, continuous and effective. In the face of honest hysteria and dishonest demagoguery, it has affected the policies of our government both in the legislative and executive branches. With the judicial branch its cause is secure because, to put it simply, it is just. . . .

AN EVIL PRECEDENT

FIRST AND FOREMOST, above everything else and for all of the time, the concern of the Committee on American Principles and Fair Play is for the *integrity of the Bill of Rights of the Constitution of the United States*. It believes with fervor, with

fanaticism if you will, that whenever and wherever the constitutional guarantees are violated in the treatment of a minority, no matter how unpopular or helpless, the whole fabric of American government is weakened, its whole effectiveness impaired. Each such violation establishes an evil precedent which is inevitably turned against another minority later, and eventually against the very principle on which our Nation is founded, namely, the dignity and worth of the human individual.

Even on this fundamental tenet of its faith, however, the position of the Committee is not doctrinaire or academic. It has recognized from the beginning, and under considerable heckling from its own more intemperate members, that the exigencies of war demand some sacrifice of the ordinary rights of all citizens, often considerable sacrifice, and that concerning certain groups of citizens under certain dangerous conditions extraordinary caution and special treatment are necessary and defensible if not desirable. But the Committee believes firmly that the guarantees of the Bill of Rights should be yielded only in extremity, only by deliberate and conscious act, and only in the cases of dangerous or subversive individuals or groups. All others should have its protection until there is proven need for martial law. As Acton, the great historian of human freedom has said, "The test of a free country is the security it gives to minorities."

SUPPORTED MILITARY

THE SECOND rock upon which the Committee on American Principles and Fair Play establishes its firm foundation, is the assumption, documented by the experience of man over the centuries, that in time of war, the military organization of a nation, in this country the War Department, deserves ungrudging, unstinted, unfailing support in all matters of military concern. The Committee has followed that policy unswervingly ever since it was established, and has found it sound, although it has always reserved the liberty to question any Government action.

For example, when the Army decided that evacuation of the Japanese from the Pacific Coast was required by military necessity, the Committee dropped immediately the important questions it had been raising, and properly raising, as to whether such treatment of American citizens or even loyal aliens squared with American ideals. But the Committee continues to combat the idea, now being advanced, that evacuation is proof of disloyalty. Moreover, the Committee contends that, since the Army ordered the evacuation, on grounds of military necessity, the Army should likewise decide when the process is to be reversed, and the evacuees allowed to recover gradually their civil rights. When the Army decides that the time has come to take this step, and issues a proclamation as clear as the original orders for the evacuation, the Committee on American Principles and Fair Play will once again cooperate to the limit with the military authorities and the War Department. And it believes that every patriot who prizes his own civil liberties should do the same.

DISPERSED RELOCATION

THERE ARE a number of minor facets of Committee policy, of course, but none which runs counter to the two major principles which I have discussed here today. Of these minor policies, I shall refer only to one, and that one only because it is a fertile source of misrepresentation as to the Committee's attitude. The Committee does not believe that all Japanese who have been evacuated from California should be returned to their homes. On the contrary, it favors the policy of dispersed relocation, which is the policy of the War Relocation Authority. It holds with all sensible Californians that the swarming of persons of one race in a Ghetto or a Little Mexico or Little Tokio, the separation of a minority physically and culturally from the rest of the population is a profound social and political error and a potent breeder of social and political ills. Moreover, it is convinced that there will never be a mass return of evacuees to the West Coast. Half of them, approximately, have already

been located elsewhere, or are likely to be by the end of 1944. In many instances, there is nothing for the others to return to here. Among the Nisei, there is a strong and understandable current of feeling against this area, and many of them have no intention of coming back if they can avoid it. But the *right* of loyal Japanese to come back if they so elect, cannot be denied without a denial of all that America has hitherto meant to racial and religious minorities, of all that is has symbolized for the hopes of humanity. The dream of America will be over when the color of men's skins or other physical characteristics determines the communities in which they may live.

On this most significant issue the Committee on American Principles and Fair Play stands four square, with the President of the United States in his official statement of federal policy on relocation:

"With the segregation of the disloyal evacuees in a separate center, the War Relocation Authority proposes now to redouble its efforts to accomplish the relocation into normal homes and jobs in communities throughout the United States, but outside the evacuated area, of those Americans of Japanese ancestry whose loyalty to this country has remained unshaken through the hardships of the evacuation which military necessity made unavoidable.

RIGHT TO RETURN

"WE SHALL restore to the loyal evacuees the right to return to the evacuated area as soon as the military situation will make such restoration feasible. Americans of Japanese Ancestry, like those of many other ancestries, have shown that they can, and want to, accept our institutions and work loyally with the rest of us, making their own valuable contribution to the national wealth and well-being. In vindication of the very ideals for which we are

fighting this war it is important to us to maintain a high standard of fair, considerate, and equal treatment for the people of this minority, as of all other minorities."

This statement, we believe, is to be construed as a solemn pledge spoken by the President in the name of the American people.

CLEAR THINKING

SO MUCH for the policies of the Committee on American Principles and Fair Play, and now for a word or two on how it sets about to implement those policies. The sole weapon of the Committee is the truth, and the Light of Truth it tries to keep shining before our people, and especially those who determine the acts of our government, brightly and continuously. It seeks to promote cool, clear thinking, especially by the West Coast public, in spite of the distortions of fact and excesses of passion and prejudice which are inevitable in wartime. It helps the public to draw a line sharply between our enemies in Japan, the military criminals for whom no fate is too harsh, no punishment too cruel, and persons of Japanese extraction in the United States, two-thirds of whom are free from any blemish of disloyalty, even under the stress of most discriminatory treatment.

The Committee meets *sweeping generalizations* and *wholly unsupported* charges with documented facts. For example it confronts those who say that the only good Jap is a dead Jap with the extraordinary combat record of the 100th Battalion in Italy, a battalion composed entirely of Nisei privates, with half its officers Nisei, and all of them volunteers. That battalion came out of Salerno and Cassino with three Distinguished Service Crosses, 21 Bronze Stars, 36 Silver Stars, and 900 Purple Hearts—900 out of 1400 wounded in action. Again, for example, it answers the threat that returned white service men would murder persons of Japanese stock if they remained in the United States, by publishing scores of letters from men in the fighting forces, saying, in the words of one of them "Have no

fear that returning soldiers would desire to slit the throats of loyal Japanese at home. . . . We'll do our fighting on the battlefields against our country's enemies, and not on the streets at home against our country's friends."

Finally, the Committee backs every group and every individual that speaks out for sound Americanism and against the evil doctrine that justice and power are synonymous. It supports Seth Millington, Past Grand President of the Native Sons of the Golden West, and former State Commander of the American Legion, when he says to the Commonwealth Club, "I would have all known disloyal Japs sent to the land of the rising sun . . . by the first ship leaving San Francisco. Those who have volunteered for our armed forces I would keep here as part of our population." And the Committee is sympathetic with Mr. Millington's dilemma (but probably not with his solution of it) when he says further, "As to those that cannot be classified as either loyal or disloyal there is a most difficult problem. Under the law they are citizens and have rights."

The Committee endorses even more heartily these statesman-like sentences of Commander Wm. P. Haughton, of the American Legion, Department of California:

SALUTE NISEI

"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 men 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." These words are a stinging rebuke to those patrioteers who, Nazi-like, would have us substitute a caste system based on race and color for the democratic principles of human worth and equality under the law. We cannot interpret them, or the word of Mr. Millington, as justifying the exclusion of loyal Japanese from California. . . .

The barometer of tolerance toward the evacuees is still too low on this Coast, and the opposition is still vehement and unscrupulous. We need to expedite the program of the United States Government, and to create an acceptance by the California public of the enlightened American way of dealing with law-abiding persons even though they are members of an unpopular minority.

In your lifetime and mine, Western civilization has twice drifted into a major catastrophe, due to lack of wisdom and understanding on the part of men. We shall do so again, and we shall lose the values for which we fight, unless we understand the implication of those values for the kind of complex world in which we live today. Basically, what men are seeking the world over is a decent security, an opportunity for a larger share of the good things of the earth, and above all a sense of meaning and dignity in their own lives. The only answer that can be given to these deep, perpetual hungers of men lies in the American concept of democracy, in the ideal of the common humanity of all men. Let us fight to preserve that concept no less vigorously than we fight to destroy the Germans and the Japs in Europe and the Pacific.



C u r r e n t N a t i o n a l A t t i t u d e s

as recognized in the platforms of the Republican
and Democratic National Conventions.

"We unreservedly condemn the injection into American life of appeals to racial and religious prejudice."

—*Republican Equality Plank adopted in
Chicago on July 19, 1944.*

"We believe that racial and religious minorities have the right to live, develop and vote equally with all citizens and share the rights that are guaranteed by the Constitution. Congress should exert its full constitutional powers to support those rights."

—*Democratic Equality plank adopted in
Chicago on July 26, 1944.*

April 16, 1945

Policy of the Fair Play Committee as to local organization in Communities especially hostile to returning Evacuees.

Adherence to Original Basic Policy.

The Committee adheres strictly to its original policy, namely, "to support and defend the constitutional rights of law-abiding persons of Oriental descent in the United States, and particularly, of the Japanese American evacuees."

Means of Applying this Policy.

The Committee has adopted many means to carry out this policy. It has been found, however, that in communities where opposition to the return of the evacuees is strongest, the leading citizens are unwilling to form any organization, like the Fair Play Committee, which makes its sole objective to aid Orientals, and "particularly Japanese American evacuees." They will, however, form an organization committed to defending the rights of all minorities, including the Japanese evacuees. This has been the experience at Sacramento, Fresno, and Turlock, in recent months.

When such a comprehensive organization was formed at Fresno, with the name, Council for Civic Unity, the local Chapter of our Fair Play Committee, headed by Prof. Hubert Phillips, continued their own activities, but also threw their full weight into the new organization, thus helping to ensure that it would give proper attention to helping returning evacuees.

In view of the foregoing experience, the Central Executive Committee advises the affiliated Chapters and all its members, to use whatever methods will best achieve the desired results. In some communities, it may be best to coordinate existing organizations, such as Club and Church Committees for Social Action; or to form a Chapter or an informal group of members of our Committee. In other communities, a Council for Civic Unity will be the best agency.

Plan of Action.

In view of the rising menace of organized boycotts and exclusion leagues in various communities, it is obviously urgent that some prompt and effective action be taken. Since the formation of Councils for Civic Unity has been one of the most effective ways, it not the only way to enlist leading citizens in certain hostile communities, the Executive Committee will continue fostering such Councils, but each Chapter should feel at liberty to choose its own method of procedure.

It would greatly facilitate covering the whole field if each Chapter would assume responsibility for cities in its neighborhood, letting the Central Office know which ones. A few capable field workers are needed for short periods before September, expenses and honorarium to be paid, where necessary. Information as to candidates should be sent to Mrs. Kingman.