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COMMITTEE RECORDS

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP PRESS RELEASES

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Room 311
260 California Street
San Francisco, Calif.
December 27, 1941

Released for December 29, 1941

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COMMITTEE ON FAIR PLAY
FOR CITIZENS AND ALIENS OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY

Governor Culbert L. Olson
Honorary Chairman

General David P. Barrows
Chairman

Vice-Chairmen:

Frederick J. Koster
Alfred J. Lundberg
Joseph S. Thompson
Monroe E. Deutsch
J. Hugh Jackson
Aurelia Henry Reinhardt
Robert Gordon Sproul
Ray Lyman Wilbur
Frank S. Gaines
Richard R. Perkins

James K. Fisk
George G. Kidwell
George Wilson
Mrs. Wallace Alexander
Mrs. Robert McWilliams
Mrs. Duncan Robinson
Mrs. Agnes Morley Cleaveland
Karl Morgan Block
Benjamin W. Black
Chauncey Leake

Chester H. Rowell
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J. S. Curran
Ralph T. Fisher
C. C. Young
Gerald H. Hagar
Galen M. Fisher
Secretary of Committee

RESIDENT JAPANESE SINCE OUTBREAK OF WAR WITH JAPAN

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.

We also have three other reasons for satisfaction:

- 1) All the organs of public influence and information - press, pulpit, school, welfare agencies, radio and cinema - have discouraged mob violence and have pleaded for tolerance and justice for all law-abiding residents of whatever race. Governor Olson and Attorney General Biddle have issued proclamations to the same end.
- 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, and also to interpret to the public and to the aliens affected the sometimes sweeping and technical Government regulations.

College students of Japanese ancestry, anxious to return to distant homes at the close of the semester, were confronted by restrictions on travel and funds. The International House in Berkeley quickly led the way in overcoming these obstacles. The immigrant and family welfare agencies associated with the Community Chest in San Francisco grappled with the problems of other Japanese. The Council of Social Agencies in Berkeley appointed a special committee, and Oakland Community Chest designated the International Institute to act in the same capacity. In all these groups officers and members of the Committee on Fair Play took an active part.

We now urge that members of the Committee on Fair Play, who live in other Northern California cities having numbers of Japanese residents, bring about the formation of similar Committees of Consultation, or make sure that existing agencies are meeting the need. The function of such committees is twofold: to give counsel and relief to the Japanese residents, at a time when many of the Japanese language papers on which they have depended for information have been suppressed; and to utilize all local channels of publicity to make known the following authentic information:

1. All law-abiding aliens who have lived in the United States continuously since June 17, 1940 may transact financial and other business as before the war, and any citizen is free to employ them or deal with them.

2. Needy aliens are entitled to assistance from county relief funds on the same basis as are citizens.

3. Unemployed aliens and naturalized citizens may register with the State Employment Department. Those who have paid into the unemployment insurance fund are eligible for unemployment benefits.

4. Enemy aliens are prohibited from traveling in public carriers and from changing their abode, but they may travel reasonable distances in private automobiles. They may not possess firearms, cameras, short-wave sets, or explosives.

5. About 150 Japanese nationals in Northern California have been detained for investigation by the Department of Justice. Many of them have been sent to Missoula, Montana, for lack of adequate accommodations in San Francisco. Civilian Boards to conduct hearings and make recommendations have been appointed by the Department of Justice. Each person detained may call one witness, but no attorney, to testify in his behalf. Final decision as to internment is to be made by the Department in Washington. Only one citizen of Japanese stock has been detained by the F. B. I. in California, and he was released after a few days. Cases of subversive or suspicious activity by Japanese or any one else should, of course, continue to be reported to the proper authorities.

6. American citizens of Japanese stock enjoy the same rights as any other citizen, but on account of the difficulty of differentiating between them and alien Japanese, public carriers and other parties, may when necessary, ask for the presentation of a birth certificate, to prove citizenship by virtue of birth in the United States.

7. Speakers connected with the Councils of Civilian Defense, ministers of religion and radio commentators are urging fair play and protection of Japanese residents in the enjoyment of their legal rights, both as a demonstration of the American Way and as a contribution to national morale.

8. The Japanese-American Citizens League, consisting of some 8,000 citizens of Japanese ancestry, has made repeated pronouncements of loyalty to the United States and of opposition to the aggressive policies of Japan. Furthermore, several bodies of long-resident first generation Japanese aliens have made similar declarations. Many such Japanese have encouraged their sons to enter the U. S. armed forces and have subscribed to Defense Bonds.

We appeal to all our members and to all citizens who see this statement to make its contents widely known, and to cooperate actively in ensuring fair play and security to all law-abiding Japanese residents.

David P. Barrows, Chairman
Galen M. Fisher, Secretary

Room 311
260 California Street
San Francisco, Calif.
Telephone YUkon 1570
February 28, 1942

Released for March 3, 1942

COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY AND FAIR PLAY

Dr. Henry F. Grady, Chairman

Vice-Chairmen

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| General David P. Barrows | Frederick J. Koster | Alfred J. Lundberg |
| Joseph S. Thompson | Provost Monroe E. Deutsch | Dean J. Hugh Jackson |
| Pres. Aurelia Henry Reinhardt | Pres. Robert G. Sproul | Pres. Ray Lyman Wilbur |
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| John S. Curran | Ralph T. Fisher | Hon. C. C. Young |
| Gerald H. Hagar | Maurice E. Harrison | Galen M. Fisher |

The President's Proclamation and the California Situation

As a group of citizens concerned first and foremost with winning the war, we welcome 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. We believe that the extreme gravity of the situation justifies this drastic step. And 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.

Freedom of speech is still unimpaired, and we are glad to know that national Government authorities, including the military, desire constructive, non-partisan criticisms and suggestions. In that spirit, we venture to offer a few suggestions to them and to our fellow-citizens.

Let the actual care of evacuated persons be committed as heretofore to civilian governmental agencies experienced in matters of social welfare.

Let the removal of aliens and citizens be kept at the minimum consistent with military necessity and national security. The uprooting of alien Japanese and Italian farmers living outside vital military areas obviously would reduce production of the food essential to winning the war, and the indiscriminate removal of citizens of alien parentage might convert predominantly loyal or harmless citizens into desperate fifth-columnists.

The problem of providing permanent homes for the evacuated persons cannot be solved by Government agencies without the cooperation of local officials and private citizens. Thus far, the nine thousand evacuees are reported, for the most part, to have found only temporary homes. In some communities, the entry of Japanese refugees has been resented to the point that long resident Japanese have been warned not to harbor them.

There appear to be only three methods of caring for the evacuees: either allow them to settle where they can work freely and produce; or set up supervised work projects; or support them in whole or in part at public expense. If they are

to find places to settle down and become self-supporting, then some interior communities in California itself or in other states must allow them to settle. This may seem to certain communities like demanding a heavy sacrifice, but without various kinds of sacrifice we cannot hope to win the war. If we mean it when we glibly agree to bear any necessary hardship, then perhaps communities as well as individuals will have to accept this as one of the inescapable sacrifices.

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".

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NOTE: The Committee on National Security and Fair Play is the direct successor of the Northern California Committee on Fair Play for Citizens and Aliens of Japanese Ancestry, but it embraces the wider scope implied in its title. Its primary purpose is to support the Government and the armed forces in preserving national security and winning the war, and at the same time, to foster fair play, especially toward law-abiding and innocent aliens and citizens of alien parentage. The Committee will cooperate with other organizations devoted to similar purposes, such as the Committee on Discrimination, of "Citizens for Victory". Persons in sympathy with the Committee on National Security and Fair Play are invited to enroll as Associates.

Galen M. Fisher, Secretary
of the Committee

May 15, 1942.

Vice-Chairmen, Members, and Friends of the
Committee on National Security and Fair Play:

The enclosed Release has been approved in principle by all the Vice-Chairmen who sent regrets for absence and by all those who attended the special meeting held on May 6. Copies of it will be sent to some 300 daily and weekly journals, and to about 300 individuals, both East and West.

But if we expect to bring about the required change in public opinion in the inland states, each of us will need to write a personal note and send the Release to the most influential persons of our acquaintance, such as executives of the national and state organizations with which we are affiliated, publicists, farm and labor leaders, radio commentators, editors, religious leaders, and educators.

Please indicate on the enclosed card the number of copies of the Release that you can thus use. The sooner the better.

It is gratifying to think of Dr. Grady as being in the thick of the momentous developments taking place in India.

Sincerely yours,

Maurice E. Harrison,
Acting Chairman

Galen M. Fisher, Secretary.

260 California Street, Room 311
San Francisco, California.
Telephone: YUkon 1570

Released for May 18, 1942

COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY AND FAIR PLAY

Dr. Henry F. Grady, Chairman

Maurice E. Harrison, Acting Chairman

Vice-Chairmen

General David P. Barrows
Joseph S. Thompson
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Mrs. Alfred McLaughlin
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Rabbi Irving F. Reichert
Dr. Chauncey D. Leake
Hon. C. C. Young
Galen M. Fisher.
Secretary to Committee

THE BOTTLENECK IN JAPANESE RESETTLEMENT

The evacuation of 110,000 residents of Japanese lineage from the West Coast will soon be history. The process has involved serious sacrifice on the part of the evacuees, many of whom, on any view of the situation, are innocent persons. Two-thirds of them are American citizens, the deprivation of whose rights would not in normal times be tolerated. The evacuation has been executed by military and civil officials with consideration for those involved.

The pressing question now is: How can resettlement be carried out so as to contribute to winning the war, while doing a minimum of violence to our democratic ideals? The answer should enable the evacuees to make the largest possible contribution to national production and unity during the war; should restore their self-respect and the respect for them of the general public; and should facilitate their reincorporation into American life after the war.

The Western Defense Command, under General DeWitt, has endeavored to fulfill these conditions. To that end, until March 29, the Command encouraged voluntary evacuation of the Japanese into inland states. But on that date General DeWitt forbade further voluntary evacuation. The reason given by members of his staff was that he feared lest the evacuees suffer physical violence on account of the strong hostility to them exhibited in many communities east of Military Area No. 1.

The bottleneck in resettlement, therefore, is opposition in certain localities to the coming of even a few Japanese to settle in their midst. Until the mass of Americans is convinced that such opposition is an impediment to winning the war and a violation of American ideals, the policy of wide dispersal must remain in suspense, being replaced by concentration in Settlements under military guard. That this is economically wasteful and socially unsound is evident from the following contrasts.

Economically: In the Settlements, on wild land, they must be fed for many months before crops can be sown, at a cost of \$60,000 a day, and the devising of work for the more than half who are not farmers will be difficult. If scattered in normal communities, they would help meet the labor shortage, would at once be self-supporting, would increase war production, and the non-farmers could find city jobs.

Socially: In the Settlements, they will be insulated from normal life, their American character diluted by segregation, a danger especially dreaded by the younger generation, citizens born. The stigma of suspicion will cling to all of them. In normal communities, they would enjoy free association with other Americans, their faith in democratic fair play would be confirmed, and their self-respect would be restored, so that after the war they could fit smoothly into American life.

It is thus evident that the economic and social losses imposed on the nation by segregation are serious. Yet presumably patriotic citizens, through thoughtlessness or prejudice, are causing these losses by their unwillingness to allow Japanese, even though citizens, to settle near them.

As soon as such opposition abates, so that it is safe for Japanese to be abroad, the War Relocation Authority can release them from the guarded Settlements, and resume the policy of scattering them in hundreds of inland communities. Precautions should, of course, be taken by the Authority to release only persons against whom the Authority and the F. B. I. have no grounds of suspicion, and preference should be given to American-born citizens, educated in our schools and colleges. The Authority should also require state and local officials and private agencies to give satisfactory guarantees as to protection, working conditions, and wages for the evacuees to be sent to their area.

The sweeping evacuation of 70,000 citizens and 40,000 law-abiding alien Japanese was ordered on the grounds of military necessity, during the national emergency. It ill becomes any of those who excused that order to protest when the same national emergency dictates the settling of a few evacuees in their vicinity.

260 California Street, Room 311
San Francisco, California
Telephone: Yukon 1570

Released for June 18, 1942

COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY AND FAIR PLAY

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Maurice E. Harrison, Acting Chairman

Vice-Chairmen

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As soon as such opposition abates, so that it is safe for Japanese to be abroad, the War Relocation Authority can release them from the guarded settlements, and resume the policy of scattering them in hundreds of inland communities. Care would presumably be taken by the Authority to release only persons against whom the Authority and the F.B.I. have no grounds of suspicion, and to give preference to American-born citizens, educated in our schools and colleges. Naturally, the Authority in making resettlement would send evacuees into territory where the proper protection and working conditions for the evacuees are provided.

"The sweeping evacuation of the evacuees was made because of military necessity during a national emergency. We are convinced that good Americans upon mature deliberation should not object to having evacuees in small numbers redistributed near them so as to make possible their reabsorption into American life."

-----Release covering copies of letters to Legislators of California State Legislature.

Every member of the State Legislature of California today received an open letter from the Pacific Coast Committee on American Principles and Fair Play, commending the declared intention of the members of that body to rise above the level of partisanship in its enactments. The Committee, in its letter calls upon and urges the legislators to decide measures proposing race discrimination, especially those directed against Americans of Japanese ancestry, in a spirit of high statesmanship, avoiding haste, and with a clear look at our future relations with all Oriental peoples.

The Committee on American Principles and Fair Play was formed recently in San Francisco, is sponsored by prominent citizens of the community, and composed of people from all walks of life, including employers, financiers, professional men and women, church people and trade unionists.

Similar groups of citizens opposed to discriminatory legislation against the Americans of Japanese ancestry are forming in many communities in Central and Southern California, as well as in Oregon and Washington, and hope to be of assistance to the government in maintaining in the public mind a clear and farsighted view which will prove a constructive force in post-war reconstruction.

The Honorary Chairman is President Robert Gordon Sproul of the University of California. Other officers and members include Maurice E. Harrison, Dr. Arthur Cushman McGiffert, Rabbi Irving E. Reichert, Dr. Paul S. Taylor, Dr. Mary Lyman, Mr. Harry S. Scott, Mr. Galen M. Fisher, Mr. Alfred J. Lundberg, General David Prescott Barrows and others.

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.

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.

PACIFIC COAST
COMMITTEE ON AMERICAN PRINCIPLES AND FAIR PLAY
2234 Telegraph Avenue
Berkeley 4, California

RELEASE PM'S WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 1945

San Francisco--Jan. 11--Dillon S. Myer, national director of the War Relocation Authority said today he expects 40,000 Japanese-American men, women and children may return to the Pacific Coast during 1945.

"These people want a chance to get into the production lines here as they have elsewhere," Myer said. "Thirteen thousand Japanese-Americans have already been inducted into the Army. The returning evacuees mean to back up these boys -- and the sons and brothers of all other Americans."

Myer said it would be short-sighted for Coast residents to fail to aid the Japanese-Americans find jobs and farms from which they can devote their full attention to war production. He pointed out that all who return are first cleared by the Army.

Myer spoke before a three-state race relations conference called by the Pacific Coast Committee on American Principles and Fair Play and attended by leaders of more than a score of private organizations concerned with race problems and by officials of a dozen Federal agencies. The two-day conference was called to formulate a unified and coordinated race-relations program for the Pacific Coast states.

Anthony O'Brien, WMC attorney, representing, Fay Hunter, War Manpower Commission regional director, told the conference there will be no difficulty placing Nisei in essential war jobs and he added "We will welcome any additional labor source to meet our present emergency."

Maurice E. Harrison, San Francisco attorney and chairman of today's meeting, pointed out that "the Constitutional rights of loyal persons of Japanese ancestry to return to their homes has been vindicated by the Supreme Court and recognized by our government.

"The immediate problem is to find how that right may be exercised so as to be most helpful to our national interest and particularly to the war effort.

"The discussion of this problem may well contribute to an understanding of the whole question of racial relations on the West Coast and its bearings on the cause of permanent peace in the Pacific."

Although emphasizing questions raised by the return of the Japanese-Americans, the conference planned to set up machinery for the study of race relations generally, and to coordinate the activities of more than 300 West Coast groups concerned with race problems.

Tomorrow's session will be devoted to farm phases of the Japanese-Americans' return. Speakers will be Harry Osaki, a Japanese-American farmer of Fowler, California; Dr. Paul S. Taylor, professor of Economics at the University of California; and officials of the California State War Board, Emergency Farm Labor Program, Farm Security Administration, and Farm Credit Administration. A. J. McFadden, chairman of the California State Board of Agriculture, will preside.

Room 325, 68 Post Street
San Francisco, California
October 1, 1941

Released for October 6, 1941

Files

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FOR CITIZENS AND ALIENS OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY

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Galen M. Fisher
Secretary of Committee

STATEMENT

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.

Handling relations with the Japanese Government is the job of our National Government, but the treatment given those citizens and non-citizens in California who happen to be of Japanese extraction is the responsibility of us Californians.

This principle was clearly discerned seventeen years ago by the California Joint Immigration Committee. That Committee had been a prominent supporter of the Bill excluding Japanese and other immigrants who were "ineligible to citizenship", which became law on May 26, 1924. But four weeks later, on June 23, 1924, that Committee issued a release, the nub of which is this paragraph:

"... The four California organizations by whose authorized officers this statement has been issued - the American Legion, State Federation of Labor, State Grange, and Native Sons of the Golden West - declare their intention to secure by every means in their power, such rights as the Japanese or other aliens may be entitled during their residence in this State, to protect them from discourtesy of any kind, and to aid in apprehension and punishment of those who may cast discredit upon State and Nation by the commission of overt or unfriendly act against such resident aliens."

The issuance of this Release did credit to its sponsors. They saw then, what we of the Committee on Fair Play are stressing today, that the Japanese and all other residents are entitled to fair treatment and equal protection of the laws. That Release was issued when there were few "American-Japanese" citizens by virtue of birth in the United States. Today three-quarters of the 100,000 Japanese in California are citizens. If the plea in the Release was valid for Japanese aliens, all

the more is it valid for the 75,000 American-Japanese who are as full-fledged citizens as any of us.

It is most reassuring that the tension has thus far been accompanied by few gross violations of justice and good sportsmanship toward Japanese fellow-residents. Upon inquiry, it is learned that insurance companies have little fear of violence against Japanese property, although one company has lately cancelled its policies on Japanese-owned trucks for other reasons.

Thousands of our Japanese-American citizens have entered the armed forces, not a few of them as volunteers. They stand well with both officers and comrades, and have been publicly commended by the Army commanders in Hawaii. The delight of "first generation" Japanese when their "second generation" sons have been drafted has frequently been noted in our press. Many of these first generation non-citizens have declared that even if war came, they would stick by the United States. Even if all such declarations are doubted, it is important to remember that these Japanese residents have had no voice whatever in determining the Japanese Government's policy toward China. To penalize them for that policy could have no effect on the Japanese Government, and would violate our traditions of fair play. Furthermore, if they were mistreated, the morale of their sons serving in the armed forces would be impaired.

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, as by any one 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. It was to such a spirit that Governor Olson appealed when, at Los Angeles on August 31, he declared that if the friction aroused by relations with Japan should "generate much heat, in dealing with them, I shall rely...upon the fact that recognition and protection of the rights and safety of minorities has always been a basic tenet of American government and the American sense and practice of fair play."

We therefore confidently appeal to all patriotic fellow-Californians to foster in their own communities a popular attitude which will assure security, personal dignity, and livelihood to all resident Japanese, citizens and aliens alike.

ADVISORY BOARD

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ROBERT GORDON SPROUL

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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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Executive Secretary
MRS. RUTH W. KINGMAN
Office: 2287 Telegraph Ave.,
Room 215
Berkeley 4
Telephone: ASHberry 6214

FOR RELEASE ON: August 30, 1945

The Executive Committee of the Pacific Coast Committee on American Principles and Fair Play today in an open letter asked Placer County fruit and vegetable growers the following questions:

- 1) Do you believe that American taxpayers, through the War Food Administration and the Agricultural Extension Service, should pay for recruiting, transporting, and supplying Placer County with nationals from Mexico while in your community elements which assume to speak in your name advocate without contradiction, or employ devices to "discourage" Japanese American laborers from returning home?
- 2) Do you expect parents and children from towns and cities to cooperate in recruiting boys and girls to harvest your crops, if that assistance is to be interpreted publicly within your community in your name, and without contradiction, as an aid to a formal program of economic and race discrimination?
- 3) Do you support the public efforts within your county to utilize race prejudice as a device to eliminate that portion of your competitors and laborers which is of Japanese ancestry?
- 4) If so, which of those measures publicly advocated or employed by persons or organizations in Placer County, that are intended to "discourage" the return of persons of Japanese ancestry to their homes and their labors, do you approve, and which do you not approve?

The letter, signed by Dr. Arthur Cushman McGiffert, the Executive Committee Chairman, was addressed to the Auburn Chamber of Commerce, fruit and vegetable growers and shippers of Placer County, and businessmen of Auburn, Loomis, Penryn, and Newcastle, and requested them publicly to clarify their position. It observed that a campaign is being carried on in the name of the "principal economic interests" of these communities, discriminating against Japanese Americans in order to rid themselves of competition and drive out a portion of the local labor supply.

"Fruit and vegetable interests and business men", according to recent items from the Auburn press, "welcome the help of boys and girls from the Bay area, and of Mexican nationals supplied at public expense because these are devices to enable them to eliminate some of their competitors by fostering race prejudice," the letter said.

Pointing out that two hundred and twenty-five Bay area school children had been recruited for farm work in Placer County, the letter asked, "Why, under cloak of patriotism, should the public, and especially boys and girls, be used to foster a program of race discrimination designed openly to line the pockets of Placer County growers, shippers, and business men"?

In support of its charge that farm and business interests are aiding efforts to prevent return of Japanese Americans, the Committee, quoting from the Auburn Journal Republican, noted that leaders of the California Preservation League which, it said, seeks to outlaw the Japanese Americans by boycott, "assume to speak in the name of Placer County and California fruit and vegetable growers".

The Committee quoted a letter from the columns of the **Journal American** which said in part, "In Placer County, as you know, we were so entirely dependent on Japanese farm labor, that it was almost pitiful. That situation now no longer exists. Mexican nationals, as well as school children, have admirably filled the gap, and we are no longer dependent on any group..."

Copies of the Fair Play Committee's letter were sent to the California Congressional delegation, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Commerce, and to the Director of the California Agricultural Extension Service.

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Committee on American Principles and Fair Play

(INCORPORATED)

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

RELEASE --October 3, 1945

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The following telegram was sent to Secretary of War Robert Patterson, today, protesting Governor Warren's request for the assignment of Japanese prisoners of war to the San Joaquin valley. The signers, members of the Advisory Board of the Pacific Coast Committee on American Principles and Fair Play protested the bringing of Japanese prisoners of war into an area where it is feared the presence of Japanese prisoners of war will intensify existing prejudices against law-abiding Americans of Japanese ancestry.

Many such Americans of Japanese ancestry, among them returning veterans, have returned to the San Joaquin valley, and the signers of the protest stated that "employment of returning Americans of Japanese ancestry would greatly modify any existing farm labor shortage in that area." A copy of the telegram was also sent to Governor Warren.

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FOR RELEASE ON:

Berkeley, Calif.

The Pacific Coast Committee on American Principles and Fair Play today in an open letter asked why Bay area school children and Mexican National farm workers should be used "to foster a program of race discrimination designed openly to line the pockets of Placer County growers, shippers, and businessmen".

The letter, signed by Dr. Arthur Cushman McGiffert, Jr., the Committee chairman, was addressed to the Auburn Chamber of Commerce, fruit and vegetable growers and shippers of Placer County, and businessmen of Auburn, Loomis, Penryn, and Newcastle, and requested them publicly to clarify their position. It observed that a campaign is being carried on in the name of the "principal economic interests" of these communities, discriminating against Japanese-Americans in order to rid

themselves of competition and drive out a portion of the local labor supply.

"Fruit and vegetable interest and businessmen", according to recent items from the Auburn press, "welcome the help of boys and girls from the Bay area, and of Mexican Nationals supplied at public expense because these are devices to enable them to eliminate some of their competitors by fostering race prejudice", the letter said.

The letter asked fruit and vegetable growers, shippers, processors and business men of Placer County to declare publicly to what extent they support efforts to drive Japanese-Americans from the area.

"Do you believe that American taxpayers, through the War Food Administration and the Agricultural Extension Service, should pay for recruiting, transporting, and supplying Placer County with Nationals from Mexico while in your community elements which assume to speak in your name advocate without contradiction, or employ devices to 'discourage' laborers from returning home?" the letter asked.

Pointing out that two hundred and twenty five Bay area school children had been recruited for farm work in Placer County, the letter asked, "Do you expect parents and children from towns and cities to cooperate in recruiting boys and girls to harvest your crops, if that assistance is to be interpreted publicly within your community in your name, and without contradiction, as an aid to a formal program of economic and race discrimination?"

In support of its charge that farm and business interests are aiding efforts to prevent return of Japanese-Americans, the Committee, quoting from the Auburn Journal-Republican, noted that leaders of the California Preservation League which, it said, seeks to outlaw the Japanese-Americans by boycott, "assume to speak in the name of Placer County and California fruit and vegetable growers".

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Copies of the Fair Play Committee's letter were sent to the California Congressional delegation, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Director of the California Agricultural Extension Service.

Statement prepared by
Dr. Paul S. Taylor, Professor of Economics,
University of California, for delivery to
Pacific Coast Committee on American Principles
and Fair Play,
Palace Hotel, January 11th

RELEASE PM'S THURSDAY? JANUARY 11, 1945:

Backed by the authority of the United States Supreme Court and the approval of the Western Defense Command of the United States Army, loyal persons of Japanese ancestry now are free to return to the Pacific Coast. Most of those who may return have sons, brothers, or husbands now serving in the United States Army.

This conference has been called to consider problems natural to the readjustment of these people. At today's session we are concerned with agriculture. But first a glimpse at the over-all perspective is in order, for the stresses of wartime have made it easy to produce in men's minds impressions that are grossly exaggerated. Facts are available and these should be known. Facts, not impressions, fancies and rumors, are the proper guides to action. Many facts, based upon the United States Census of 1940, have been published by the Army in its report on the evacuation. Here are some:

1. In 1940 the total numbers of persons of Japanese ancestry in the entire United States was 127,000, or less than one-tenth of one percent of the nation's population.
2. Although most of these persons of Japanese ancestry lived on the Pacific Coast, they comprised less than 1.2 percent of the total population even here.
3. Between 1930 and 1940 the number of persons of Japanese in the United States declined by nearly nine percent.
4. In the decade of the 1930's the number of persons of Japanese ancestry declined in nine of ten west coast cities which had more than 1,000 such persons in 1930. In San Francisco, Oakland, Sacramento, Fresno, Stockton, Berkeley, Portland, Seattle and Tacoma -- the number of persons of Japanese ancestry was less in 1940 than it was in 1930. Only in Los Angeles was there any increase at all, a meager average of 224 persons per year for the decade.

Now let us examine the situation in agriculture.

Some people have been honestly alarmed over the return of persons of Japanese ancestry to agriculture on the Pacific Coast. Their fears have been played upon spreading beliefs that impend grave dangers from a great return movement of people. Upon examination, these beliefs prove generally to have little foundation. Some have no foundation at all. Others prove to be the exact reverse of the truth.

Among the erroneous beliefs are the following:

Error No. 1: That the population of Japanese ancestry on the Pacific Coast "breeds like rabbits" and is destined in a few generations to overwhelm the descendants of the rest of us.

THE FACT IS: There were less persons of Japanese ancestry on the coast in 1940 than in 1930, less by 8,145 or by nearly seven percent. There will be still less in 1950 than in 1940, and this would be true even had there been no evacuation, for the population of Japanese ancestry is decreasing, not increasing. As a Congressional committee declared in 1942: "Contrary to alarmist predictions about the reproductive tendencies of the American Japanese, their birth rate during the past decade has been insufficient to balance mortality and emigration. ... The births of third-generation Japanese will fail for some time to offset the high mortality rates consequent upon the abnormal age composition of the alien Japanese. The total Japanese population, therefore, may be expected to drop substantially during the coming years."

Error No. 2: Japanese laborers offer a serious threat to American laborers in agriculture.

THE FACT IS: The entire number of wage workers of Japanese ancestry in Pacific Coast agriculture in 1940 was 8,307, or less than five percent of the total. As the present time, this small number -- one in 20 -- will be available largely to substitute for an equal number of Mexican nationals whom we now import at the taxpayers' expense. Since most of these agricultural laborers of Japanese ancestry are in the higher age groups, they cannot under any circumstances remain active for very many years in the agricultural labor market. Therefore, the prompt employment of loyal Japanese workers holds no threat at all to other western agricultural workers; their employment now will afford some relief to the taxpayer.

Error No. 3: Farmers of Japanese-American ancestry are a serious competitive threat to other farmers.

THE FACT IS: Farms operated by persons of Japanese ancestry in the three Pacific Coast states were a smaller percentage of the total number of farms in 1940 than 1920. The total number of their farms increased by the slight figures of 43 farms in twenty years, while the proportion of farms which were operated by persons of Japanese ancestry declined from 2.6 to 2.2 percent, or by more than one-seventh.

THE FACT IS: During the same twenty-year period the acreage of land in farms operated by persons of Japanese ancestry declined from seven-tenths of one percent of the total acreage in farms, to four-tenths of one percent.

THE FACT IS: The average in farms operated by persons of Japanese ancestry declined from 65 acres to only 42.2 acres.

THE FACT IS: The total value of farms, land and buildings, operated by persons of Japanese ancestry fell from 148 million dollars to 72 million dollars, or to less than half, during the same period. The average value per farm operated by persons of Japanese ancestry also fell by more than one-half.

Fears that farmers of Japanese ancestry are in process of driving out farmers of other ancestries find no support for these facts.

Error No. 4: Farm operators of Japanese ancestry are a competitive threat to American farm operators because they employ members of their own families to work without wages.

THE FACT IS: The number of unpaid family laborers of Japanese ancestry in the Pacific Coast states in 1940 was only 4,832. The fact that there is less than one unpaid family laborer per Japanese-operated farm, or about one for every 57 farms in the region certainly is no ground for arousing a general fear of competition among family farmers of other ancestries.

A generation or so ago, while the tide of immigration from Japan was still flowing, the number of Japanese farmers on the Pacific Coast naturally grew. But that influx was ended finally in 1924. There is no proposal to revive it. The participation of Japanese in agriculture is now below what it was in 1920.

Old fears revive easily, but the history of two decades has cut away the ground upon which they once rested.

There is, to be sure, one segment of agriculture in which farmers of Japanese ancestry recently have been fairly important. As truck farmers and as produce merchants, they have competed with the most highly-industrialized agricultural operators in the west. People are acutely conscious of this competition in areas where industrialized grower-shippers predominate.

But to those of us whose interest lies in the welfare of western agriculture, the warning of Hood River is clear. There heedless citizens took measures to oppose persons of Japanese ancestry whose loyalty to this country is beyond question. All the money and effort of years to advertise apples never carried the name of Hood River over the nation and across the seas like those measures.

We do not want our lettuce and melons and fruits advertised to the housewives of the nation and to our soldiers overseas as the apples of Hood River were advertised. We do not believe they will be, for we are confident that within these industries and areas, wiser counsels will prevail.

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PACIFIC COAST COMMITTEE ON AMERICAN PRINCIPLES AND
FAIR PLAY

November 6, 1943

Dear Committee Member:

You will be interested to know that we have just sent the following telegram to President Roosevelt, Attorney General Francis Biddle, Assistant Secretary of War, John McCloy, General Emmons, and Dillon Myer, Director of the War Relocation Authority.

"May we urge immediate White House statement differentiating between nature of Tulelake and other relocation centers. Also recognition of loyalty of Japanese Americans in Military units, Intelligence, Food and War Production, and emphasis on excellent results of WRA relocation program which should not be curtailed by public sentiment against disloyal Japanese in Tulelake."

As the reports are still coming in from the disturbances at Tulelake, it will be well for our members to remember that such incidents are to be expected from that Center as a natural result of the proper segregation there of large numbers of persons actively loyal to Japan.

The work of the Committee is progressing well. The Executive Secretary has just returned from a three weeks stay in Washington, where she had profitable and satisfactory conferences with Assistant Secretary of War, John McCloy, Attorney General Biddle and several West Coast and Middle West Congressmen.

We have had many letters in appreciation of the documentary material we sent out last month, and are glad that it is being so widely used.

Very sincerely yours,

Mrs. Ruth W. Kingman
(Executive Secretary)

Executive Office: 2234 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, Calif.

PACIFIC COAST COMMITTEE ON AMERICAN PRINCIPLES AND FAIR PLAY

November 26, 1943

Dear Committee Member:

Enclosed you will find a copy of the release sent out by the Office of War Information, concerning the factual story of Tulelake from November 1 to November 4. To our knowledge, it is the only authoritative statement released to date.

We are also sending a copy of the telegram sent by our Committee on November 26, to President Roosevelt, Assistant Secretary of War John McCloy and Senator Sheridan Downey of the Senate Military Affairs Committee, in which we made specific suggestions covering the Tulelake Segregation Center.

We feel that our suggestions will find favorable reaction by the War Department, and are in complete accord with the best public interest. We also are confident that such a policy will assure proper treatment for all lawabiding evacuees.

May we suggest that fullest possible use of this material be made by all of our members, through local groups, civic, church, fraternal, service, and the press. It is high time that some degree of sanity replace the hysterical attitudes which are receiving so much publicity.

Very sincerely yours,

Mrs. Ruth W. Kingman
Executive Secretary

Executive Office: 2234 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, Calif.

TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT NOVEMBER 25, 1943

As a Pacific Coast body which recognizes many of the difficulties in administering the Tulelake Segregation Center, difficulties due in part to the diversified groups within the center, in part to the unjustified political and journalistic exaggeration of the disturbances inevitable in such a center, we urge that the following facts be considered by any policy making bodies.

1. The War Department has repeatedly expressed reluctance to assume permanent control of any center.
2. The War Relocation Authority, while established primarily as a relocation agency, has worked out satisfactory techniques for administration of various types of centers.

Unless the War Department wishes to control and operate Tulelake may we respectfully submit the following proposals:

1. Continued operation of Relocation Centers by W.R.A. with emphasis upon resettlement of loyal evacuees.
2. Immediate separation of troublemakers in Tulelake from lawabiding members of the colony, and secure incarceration of aforementioned persons in areas established and secured by the War Department for that purpose.
3. War Department responsibility for external security of entire Tulelake Segregation Center.
4. Administration and operation of the Tulelake Center by W.R.A. whose authority and personnel shall be strengthened to meet local conditions.
5. Full public interpretation by the War Department of the local situation.
6. Full public interpretation by the State Department of the international implications involved, since segregees are not prisoners of war.

Most respectfully submitted,

PACIFIC COAST COMMITTEE ON AMERICAN PRINCIPLES AND FAIR PLAY

(signed)
Mrs. Ruth W. Kingman
Executive Secretary