

R E P O R T  
OF  
CONFERENCE OF AMERICANS OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY

o  
ooo  
o

September 12, 1943  
Honolulu, T. H.

## PREFACE

It is the hope of the Emergency Service Committee, the sponsor of the Conference, that the viewpoints and ideas presented in this report will serve as a basis for discussion in all districts. The Committee does not and cannot subscribe to all the views expressed by the speakers and delegates. However, the Committee believes that a free and open discussion in which popular as well as unpopular ideas are carefully scrutinized, is the best way to achieve unity of thought and action.

To reduce the number of pages and thereby keep the cost within budgetary limits, the proceedings of the Conference have been edited. When and if there is sufficient demand for any one of the speeches or for any section of the proceedings, copies of the original will be made available.



# CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Masa Katagiri, chairman  
Mitsuyuki Kido, secretary

Hung Wai Ching  
Masao Watanabe  
Masao Kanemaru  
Moriso Matsuno  
Chinpei Goto  
Ernest Furukawa  
Harry Komuro  
Yoshio Hasegawa  
Umematsu Watada  
Raymond Ogawa  
Yuki Kimura  
Ryohei Asakura  
Henry Nakamura  
Charles Loomis  
Florence Amano

Shigeo Yoshida  
Shizuo Onishi  
Keiji Suzuki  
Seichi Miyasaki  
Brian Mukai  
Isaac Iwanaga  
Ralph Honda  
Jack Kawano  
Shunzo Sakamaki  
Robert Murakami  
Kazu Watanabe  
Gus Yamagata  
Horace Sakoda  
Thomas Takemoto

## AGENDA COMMITTEE

Mitsuyuki Kido, chairman  
Shizuo Onishi  
Shigeo Yoshida  
Hung Wai Ching  
Shunzo Sakamaki  
Masa Katagiri

## RECEPTION COMMITTEE

Walter Mihate, chairman  
Ayano Kishida  
Katsuro Miho  
Ernest Murai  
Horace Sakoda  
Henry Nakamura

## MEETING PLACE & LUNCHEON COMMITTEE

U. Watada, chairman  
Thomas Takemoto  
Masao Watanabe  
Brian Mukai  
Edith Tokimasa  
Yuri Hosoi  
Keiji Suzuki  
Masao Kanemaru  
Tadashi Haga

## REGISTRATION FEES & ATTENDANCE COMMITTEE

Ralph Honda, chairman  
Yoshio Hasegawa  
Ernest Furukawa  
Yoshito Matsusaka  
Florence Amano  
Philip Minomiya  
Chinpei Goto  
Iwao Miyake  
Robert Komenaka

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Robert Murakami, chairman  
James Kuninobu  
Baron Goto  
Harry Komuro  
Ryohei Asakura  
Isaac Iwanaga  
Laura Inouye

#### OFFICERS OF THE CONFERENCE

Chairman - Masa Katagiri

Vice Chairman - Yoshito Matsusaka

Vice Chairman - Brian Mukai

Vice Chairman - Momoye Mitsuda

Treasurer - Robert Komenaka

Secretary - Mitsuyuki Kido

Assistant Secretary - Laura Inouye

#### DISCUSSION LEADERS & THEIR SECRETARIES

Yoshito Matsusaka	Chiyoko Miyasato
Katsuro Miho	Florence Amano
Stanley Miyamoto	George Fuji
Robert Murakami	Iwao Miyake
Shunzo Sakamaki	Mitsu Oka Shizuo Onishi
Umematsu Watada	Henry Nakamura Itsuo Tokunaga



EMERGENCY SERVICE COMMITTEE  
Agenda of the Conference

Nuuanu YMCA Sept. 12, 1943

8:00 - 9:00	Registration of delegates and reception
9:00 -	Star Spangled Banner - Assembly
9:00 - 9:05	Greetings - Katsuro Miho, Chairman of Emergency Service Committee
9:05 - 9:10	Report of Nominating Committee
9:10 - 9:15	Introductory Remarks - Masa Katagiri, Chairman, Conference Committee
9:15 - 9:35	War and the Japanese Americans - Mr. Hung Wai Ching
9:35 - 9:50	Open discussion
9:50 - 10:10	Problems of Social and Family Relation- ships Involving the People of Japan- ese Ancestry in Hawaii - Dr. Andrew W. Lind
10:10 - 10:25	Open discussion
10:25 - 10:35	Recess
10:35 - 10:55	Economic and Employment Problems In- volving the People of Japanese An- cestry in Hawaii - Mr. Arnold L. Wills
10:55 - 11:10	Open discussion
11:10 - 12:45	Sectional discussions
12:45 - 1:45	Lunch -- Problems of the People of Japanese Ancestry in Hawaii as Seen from the Military Point of View - Lt. Colonel Charles Selby
1:45 - 3:00	Sectional group meetings
3:00 - ----	General Meeting a. Report of discussion groups b. Summary meeting c. Closing remarks - Mr. Shigeo Yoshida



PROBLEMS OF FAMILY AND SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS INVOLVING  
THE PEOPLE OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY

DR. ANDREW LIND

It requires no profound insight to recognize how crucial a part the family (and values associated with it) plays in the internal security of this community, and whatever we can do by taking thought and collectively planning to undergird the family and what it stands for in this period of stress and strain is a permanent contribution to war-time morale as well as to peace-time security. One of the major objectives in modern total warfare is to undermine the sources of discipline and loyalty in the civilian population of the enemy, and to protect within its own ranks such instruments of strength as the family.

It is true that the circumstances of modern warfare inevitably threaten this source of internal strength. War always brings its heavy toll of family casualties - divorce, desertion, illegitimacy, child neglect, and delinquency. These are perhaps among the less sensational, but no less painful, of the costs of war in any community, and it is doubtful whether we can by any means avoid heavy payments in terms of a weakened family life and endangered internal morale.

It is no accident that the number of divorces in Honolulu increased 37% in 1942 above the 1941 figures, and that despite blackouts and martial law the number of girl delinquencies definitely increased during 1942 and that further increases are expected in 1943.

We are so prone to single out the Japanese as the one group in Hawaii peculiarly "on the spot" at present that it has seemed advisable to set the problem first in a somewhat broader perspective. The available evidence seems to show that the Japanese have actually suffered less from family disorganization since the war than most of the other racial groups in the territory, and we could easily exaggerate the trend of family breakdown among the Japanese.

It is probably true, however, that the interpretations which other groups in the community place upon the facts and alleged facts of family breakdown among the Japanese are far more important than the actual facts themselves. From the standpoint of Hawaii's internal security the myth, for example, prevalent among certain groups that Japanese girls are collectively falling in love with haole service men and are marrying them is far more significant than the actual trends of inter-racial marriage revealed by the Board of Vital Statistics. If, for example, there were a sizable group of persons in the community convinced that even some of the girls who date service men are interested chiefly in extracting military secrets from them, this conviction might far outweigh the significance of perfect conduct by the girls themselves. But you know better than I the difficulty of convincing minds that do not choose to be convinced. Ordinary discretion compels us to recognize that the intangibles of group attitudes and prejudices may be far more important to



morale than the objective facts alone.

Actually there is a sizable problem of family and personal breakdown among the Japanese. Despite the initial shock of the 7th which temporarily increased greatly the solidarity of Japanese families, the long-term effect has been to add new tensions to those which existed within the Japanese homes in pre-war days. Alien parents have been discredited from their positions of responsibility and control, and immature and inexperienced children have suddenly been forced into positions of authority for which they are utterly unprepared. As one thoughtful student expressed it:

"In hundreds of Japanese homes in Hawaii the second generation have told their parents in effect 'You can't tell us what to do any more - you are enemy aliens', and the parents have reluctantly yielded authority to the children. All too often it has been misplaced".

Increasingly Japanese girls are throwing over the traditional restraints upon their dating and mating behaviors. The very fact that the controls exercised by the home were once so rigorous make the flaunting of them now all the more disorganizing. Particularly in some of the rural areas where Japanese communities are situated close to troop encampments, the older generation are virtually helpless to govern the conduct of their adolescent daughters and the consequences are frequently disastrous. If the good name which the individual and the racial group has enjoyed in Hawaii is to be preserved, the leadership must largely come from the second generation.

Due credit must be given to the valiant efforts of the first generation to deal with the situation according to their best judgments, but the old tabus are clearly ineffective today. Most of my Japanese students are quite convinced that the war is bringing a wholesome acceleration of the transition to American standards of dating and courtship practice. I merely suggest that it would be well to be prepared for the unsuspected by-products of rapid change.

Such commendable efforts as the Speak English Campaign and the formal Americanization movement have furthered the displacement of the first generation from positions of authority and must inevitably put a greater strain upon the individual citizen of Japanese ancestry.

From the standpoint of a sociologist one of the most significant consequences of the war is then the weakening of Japanese family controls and the releasing of the individual citizen to follow his own impulses and dispositions. He is being freed from the customary controls not only of Japanese society but of American society as well. As frequently happens when freedom is suddenly acquired without a struggle, it is likely to be abused in certain instances. We are hearing all too frequently these days of individuals of Japanese ancestry who have taken their liberties lightly, who are complacent not only about their family and civic responsibilities but also those which relate to the nation and the world. As a part of this tendency we observe occasionally a sullen and resentful attitude among those who feel their liberties are being interfered with.



ECONOMIC AND EMPLOYMENT PROBLEMS INVOLVING THE PEOPLE  
OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY IN HAWAII

ARNOLD L. WILLS

(Note: Mr. Wills presented his talk extemporaneously. The following is a brief summary of his speech.)

Mr. Wills opened his remarks with the statement that labor unions are essential parts of industrial life. He believes that labor is a bulwark of democracy and cited the fact that every democracy in the world has had growing with it a labor organization.

Many people get their information about the labor movement from Westbrook Pegler. This is unfortunate, and it is also unfortunate that so much of what Mr. Pegler writes is true.

"Why do we need a labor movement in Hawaii? It is because more than ever we have got to become Americanized, and in order to be vigorously democratic, I believe more than ever, we've got to have a strong responsible labor movement in the Territory of Hawaii. I say that without any intention of criticizing the employers of Hawaii. From what I have seen on numerous occasions, we have in Hawaii probably the most intelligent, socially-minded group of employers anywhere in the United States. We have been able to accomplish in a short time more than any other group in the United States.

"I want to take off my hat to the American citizens of Japanese ancestry whom I have met in the five years I have been here. I feel that during the war and in the problems that come after the war we can be assured that we need not be concerned about this group of American citizens of Japanese ancestry from the mere fact that they have been on the spot and continue to be on the spot; and the mere fact that they have examined this matter of Americanism - what it means, what its responsibilities are - is going to make them better citizens than the rest of us. I am not worried much about them."

Mr. Wills then went on to say that no one institution, day by day and week by week, provides more opportunity to practice democracy than the labor unions. Unfortunately not all of the unions are aware of their opportunities. He concluded his remarks with this statement: "I believe that with the fine policies on the part of the employers concerned, together with the proper kind of intelligent, responsible labor leadership we can do a great deal to make this place a real Paradise of the Pacific".



PROBLEMS OF PEOPLE OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY IN HAWAII  
AS SEEN FROM THE MILITARY POINT OF VIEW

LT. COLONEL CHARLES SELBY

I presume that you have rejoiced at the good news from Italy, but have you stopped to realize that the Italian capitulation may actually be bad news for you? By bad news I mean in the sense that this capitulation is the forerunner of intensification of the war in the Pacific; the war of extermination against the Japs. This will result in heightening the feeling against Japan and the Japanese - this theater will be the scene of much greater activity, with casualties and convalescents returning here. Stories of atrocities which to date have had a relatively limited circulation will undoubtedly begin to spread through the community with an inevitable reflection in the attitude toward those of Japanese ancestry.

Therefore, you gentlemen cannot afford to be complacent or retrogress to the pre-war attitude but must redouble your efforts, lest you soon find the people of Japanese ancestry are more than ever on the spot.

Some of you get pretty tired of hearing about that "spot", and perhaps some of you are wondering why such feeling can exist in a community under a democratic system, you may even have had a fleeting thought that while we are fighting for the Four Freedoms for the rest of the world we fail to apply them in toto here.

Granting that the principal reason for Americans of Japanese ancestry being put on the spot - the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor - was not of your doing, let's face this fact; if your group is still on the spot when the AJA's come marching home it will be because of people in this room - the leaders among the people of Japanese ancestry - you - have not kept the faith, haven't done your job. Your job is to develop solutions for the problems facing people of Japanese ancestry, and, to take aggressive action to apply these solutions.

Anything that members of your racial group do which tends to antagonize other elements of the community, is, as we see it, a problem which you must solve. Remember that adverse criticism usually originates from some one who has a personal annoyance; if you can minimize the number of actions of Japanese that cause personal annoyance to those of other racial ancestries, you will have gone a long way in solving many of your problems.

An annoyance is the use of the Japanese language by people who are able to speak American; you know it goes on - what aggressive steps are you taking about it? We know that around 2,000 people of Japanese ancestry have enrolled in English classes, only a beginning.

Another annoyance, a wide-spread one, is the oft mentioned "cockiness" of the younger generation of Japanese ancestry. It has been said that this is merely an expression of a truly American trait; perhaps this is true. But that doesn't alter the fact that it is annoying and that it does cause criticism of your ra-



cial group.

In your efforts to solve these problems you must expect plenty of misunderstanding from within your own group as well as from the rest of the community, but you can't afford to let it make you either discouraged or impatient.

An example which has apparently been considered by many of your group as being too hot to handle - but which is important now, and will be much more important later - concerns loyalty to the emperor of Japan. You know that there are plenty of people in these islands who consider themselves loyal Americans but who wouldn't think of making any derogatory remarks about him.

You have frequently heard said, and perhaps repeated - something like this - "We of Japanese ancestry are on the spot; we are just as loyal as other Americans but people won't believe it; our motives are questioned because of our race". Let's think about that a minute. If that is true, have you ever asked yourselves why? Well here it is straight from the shoulder. One reason is that you people here have not spoken out as frankly against Japan and the rest of the axis as other Americans.

When Americans fight a war, they put their hearts and their mouths into it; they hate Hirohito, Hitler and the rest of the axis crowd and they make no bones about saying so. Too often - not always, but too often - Americans of Japanese ancestry in this community are silent on that particular subject. If they expect to be accepted as Americans, then let them adopt an earthy and refreshing American trait - cussing the enemy frequently and unmistakably.

A problem which you have acted on most successfully in the past, may come up again - it is conceivable that your group may again be called on for translators and interpreters - are you organized to handle such a call?

At the start of the war you were fortunate to have had in General Emmons and his staff men of broad vision - men who were thoroughly in accord with the purposes and aims of your group. You are doubly fortunate to have in his successor, General Richardson, a man of cosmopolitan background and experience, another commander whole-heartedly approving of your work - don't let him down - don't give critics a chance to say to the Army "we told you so".

To sum up: Your problem requires immediate, aggressive, and continuing action to educate all people of Japanese ancestry in these Islands, so that there will be a minimum of criticism and a maximum contribution toward beating the hell out of the Japs.



## WAR AND THE JAPANESE AMERICANS

HUNG WAI CHING

Two years ago a mass meeting of Japanese Americans in Honolulu was held at McKinley High School. The Army then enunciated its policy toward the Japanese community in case of war between Japan and America. That policy is still in effect.

The few months after McKinley High School to the morning of December 7th, there was a feeling of uneasiness among the Japanese community despite assurances given by the Army. Coupled with this uneasiness, there was a strong desire to let the world know that come what may, the Japanese Americans could be depended upon to behave and act in the manner that was expected of them.

A complete relaxation of leadership came about because of lack of information and wrong interpretation. It was a return to a pseudo feeling of security. This dulling effect was due particularly to the fair and democratic spirit of the enunciated policy of the Army. There was complete over-confidence and a belief that there was sufficient leadership developed among the second-generation. We took things easy - feeling that there was still time to do those things that ought to have been done.

The attack of December 7th came suddenly and in a manner which upset the mental equilibrium of the most stable of the group. Then came a period of uncertainty and fear. It was a paralyzing period.

After this short period of uncertainty and fear, adjustment took place. The Japanese community began to orient itself to an abnormal situation highly charged with emotions.

It was necessary for outlets to be set up to release the pent-up feelings of the people. Kiawe Corps, Red Cross work, and bond purchases helped a great deal. Outstanding was the organization of the Varsity Victory Volunteers. This project set a very high standard for the people.

Despite many little unsatisfactory facets, the over-all picture in regard to the Japanese is an excellent one.

The threat of evacuation was one of the most upsetting situations during this period. The Army authorities allayed this fear by official announcements.

The Japanese community then entered into a phase of constructive participation in the war effort. The outstanding event was the volunteering of our AJA's into the United States Army.

Slowly but painfully, a group of men became gradually accepted by the Japanese community as possible guides to better



participation and understanding. This group has not been given unanimous support by the entire community. But great headway has been made.

But this is no time to gloat over past accomplishments. From our behavior and actions in the past, we can assume that come what may, we will surmount whatever difficulties and obstacles that may come before us in the future. It is well to make such a prediction, but it isn't easy to face actual realities and conditions. That is why we are here today - not to look back but to look ahead. There is much to worry about and plenty to do.

The military situation is moving in a fast tempo each day. The coming offensive against Japan will bring about conditions in Hawaii which may be worse than those which we have gone through. The pent-up hatred against the military machine of Japan when released will create situations and conditions that are foreign to us right now.

Remember too, that the kind of fighting that is now going on in the South will not in any way help improve race relations. All peoples of all racial backgrounds must be cognizant of what is coming. You and I must prepare ourselves for the worst.

A kamaaina in a position to gauge public opinion told me lately that there is a growing feeling of distrust toward the Japanese right here in Honolulu. Why this growing animosity after all the Japanese community has done?

Is this distrust brought about by the intensification of the unionization of the labor groups in this community? What about the yardman and maid situation? Can it be that the Speak American campaign flopped because it has been reported that youngsters and know-better adults are still using the enemy language in public? Can it be that Japanese parents are not controlling their children and that there is a very serious problem of families breaking down? Are the girls of Japanese parentage irritating others by going out with soldiers and sailors and haole defense workers? Is it true that Japanese clerks are "sassy" and rude to customers?

I want to share with you some of my observations from my mainland trip, which are pertinent to the problems I am discussing today.

I talked to a great many of the boys at Shelby. It was good to sit down to talk about that something which holds them together; that something which pushes them on daily on tasks that are difficult and not much fun; that something which gives them a feeling of great confidence that they will do a job expected of them; that something which makes them very anxious that the people back home don't let them down; that something which stirs them to overlook the inequalities of the social,



economic and racial situation in the South; that something which relegates physical hardships, thoughts of death, and injuries to a minor category in their daily life; that something which is akin to faith that the government of the United States will do right by them and will not let them down; that something which makes them feel that their lives are now meaningful.

I did not hear a single word of idle boasting. They know what it means to fight a modern war; they know the awful price demanded. It is not luck that they have made such wonderful progress in their training, in their fine discipline, in their whole morale.

These boys have a message for you. You, too, gathered here must be disciplined; you, too, must strengthen your morale, undergird and strengthen your faith in our democratic ideals so that you will have lives meaningful and purposeful. You, too, are soldiers. You have jobs that you must do. You have obligations. The home front is just as important as the front lines. Be assured that these boys of the 100th and 442nd will do their duty.

Ask yourselves whether or not you are doing your share of helping to create better conditions here. Are you setting aside petty things that come in the way of an all out effort to help win this war? Are you letting obstacles and handicaps make you lay down your responsibilities? Are you doing right by those boys on the mainland who are now doing so much for you?

Another problem must be brought to your attention. It is a condition which has existed in the past and still exists in certain quarters among you - of constantly withdrawing when faced with critical and embarrassing situations. There are too many who have failed to realize that the group is on the spot and that pollyanish thinking of pre-December 7th days cannot hold water. There was and is that sensitiveness to criticism which seems to stifle progressive action and negates constructive thoughts. Typical is an expression: "Why are we picked on? Aren't we Americans and aren't we doing as much as other groups?" This attitude of mind failed utterly to see the special position imposed on the group.

Undoubtedly the attitudes of the other members of this community towards you have a great deal to do with creating an abnormal situation. Rightly or wrongly those of non-Japanese background expect the Japanese to do more; to come out more openly in action and activities supporting the war effort. The saying - "you will be damned if you do, and damned if you don't" - has been much quoted by too many who adopt the position that if the saying is true, then let's be safe and do nothing. Fortunately this attitude was not universally accepted. The more aggressive among you, a minority of unrewarded heroes, have stepped forward to plug away for some answer to the critical problems besetting the Japanese community. We can now point with pride to the many



projects initiated by these forward looking individuals.

On my journey I told the story of Hawaii since December 7th. To many my story is incredulous. Why, with one-third of the Hawaiian population of enemy ancestry, it is fantastic to believe that nothing serious has happened. One can make a dramatic story but the facts themselves were sufficient to arouse interest in Hawaii. You here have no idea of the tremendous amount of work necessary to correct false impressions the average mainlander has of Hawaii.

It was my privilege to meet a great number of so-called big shots in important cities. In Washington I met important government officials. What is my impression of them?

They are men intensely interested in what is going on in Hawaii. They are men gratified in the way the military handled our local race situation. They are not particularly concerned that you are of Japanese ancestry, but are concerned how you as American citizens are treated by other Americans and how you as Americans behave and act. These are the men we visualize as real democratic Americans. They will fight for your rights as Americans. No one will deny that much injustice has been corrected and this credit must be given to these men. Let me mention a few who believe you will come through as any other American - Assistant Secretary of War McCloy, General Herron, Secretary Ickes, Colonel Scobie, Dillon Myer, Clarence Pickett, Chester Rowell, President Wilbur of Stanford, Senators Thomas and La Follette.

I was invited to the White House twice. The president and Mrs. Roosevelt are interested in Hawaii. The president was gratified in the way our people handled our own internal race problems. He hoped that we all would maintain a "cool head" through this critical period and make a great contribution of race relations for others to see.

This is a significant Conference. The boys of the 100th and 442nd will want to know what you intend to do. The men and women both here and on the mainland who have the greatest confidence in your loyalty will want to know also. The job ahead is a difficult one. You simply cannot lay down. You have to make good. There is no other way. There is too much at stake. We believe you will succeed.



SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION GROUP REPORTS

MITSUYUKI KIDO

The delegates entered the discussion with the conviction that Hawaii's traditional racial harmony must be preserved and that the record of the participation in the war effort by the American citizens of Japanese ancestry must be kept unblemished.

After listening to the speakers, the delegates were convinced that the situation in the future will be more critical. It was generally believed that we should begin now in order to be prepared to meet such an eventuality. The idea crystallized into a firm conviction that the only way to "weather the storm ahead" was to become intensely more American - in thoughts and in deeds. Some of the specific suggestions made were:

1. While we realize that maintaining racial harmony is a task that cannot be accomplished by the effort of our group alone, there are some things we must do. One of these is to remove the major sources of irritation and misunderstanding involving people of Japanese ancestry. The speech used by some of us and our attitude and behavior were cited as areas in which some improvement should be made. There was a suggestion that the Speak American campaign should be revived and carried on again.
2. As a group we should work together with other racial groups in our community whenever the opportunities present themselves. We must fraternize with our neighbors and friends so that we will not set ourselves apart from the rest of the community - socially as well as economically.
3. Although there is an awareness of the seriousness of the situation among a small group, unfortunately this is not the case with the rank and file. To secure the active support and cooperation of all Americans of Japanese ancestry, there is an urgent need for a strong, united organization of men and women who will be willing to contribute their time and effort to work in their districts.
4. We should develop an attitude of mind that will make us realistic, less sensitive, and more tolerant of criticisms, no matter how unfair.
5. A sound public relations program designed to maintain racial amity and to present the truth about the Americans of Japanese ancestry should be developed.
6. Interest and participation in war activities should be intensified. The good record established in volunteer services, the Kiawe Corps, bond purchase, etc. should be kept up and a greater effort should be made in soliciting blood donors.



7. No matter how trying the times may become, we must maintain a deep and abiding faith in the ultimate justice of the American government and people.

After discussing social problems involving the people of Japanese ancestry, the delegates felt that some positive steps must be taken. One discussion group believed that the major problems in this area were (1) "hoodlumism" among our adolescent youths, (2) boy and girl relationship and (3) gambling. A suggestion was made that each locality organize clubs with the approval of the Army to give guidance and supervision to the younger people. There was a strong feeling that additional wholesome recreational facilities should be provided. The closing of the YMBA's and the Buddhist temples, and the dissolution of many clubs leaving no substitutes in their wake were deplored. The delegates felt that the schools and other community agencies should be asked to increase their services and facilities.

The problem of the relationship between service men and the girls of Japanese ancestry was handled satisfactorily by the Kauai Morale Committee. This Committee made a house to house visit to educate the parents and daughters. The military's view that it does not approve of marriages between service men and the girls of Japanese ancestry was conveyed.

Although there have been many cases of family disintegration, there was a brighter side. In some homes, family ties were further strengthened with the parents looking upon their American educated sons and daughters for guidance.

The problems, according to many delegates, seem to concern mostly the "teen" age youngsters who are not conscious of the fact that their attitude and behavior might bring discredit upon the entire group. There were several suggestions that the schools should be asked to give more guidance and help. Some felt that a course in sex hygiene should be given in every high school.

The maid and yardmen problem received considerable attention. The consensus was that the whole problem is purely economic and not racial. For every case of an unfaithful employee there are hundreds of cases of loyal workers who have remained on their jobs even when offered better jobs with better pay. Unfortunately only the isolated cases have been publicized and the public has been led to believe that the exception is the rule. Some domestic servants left for jobs which were considered more essential, believing that by so doing, they can help the war effort. However, to a person losing the services of a maid or a yard man, this was no solace. In many cases, former employers have become bitter upon discovery that their maid or yard man left their employ by telling a lie. In many cases, when the employees are not satisfied with the working conditions or the wages, they would tell a lie to secure a release. This was to prevent "hurting" the feelings of the employer. It was felt that much of the bitterness might be eliminated if the truth were told.



The delegates entered into a lively discussion of unionism. However, there was a feeling that much more information should be made available on the whole question of the union movement. A recommendation was made to the effect that a hold-over committee be appointed to study this and allied problems.

The problem of organizing to reach the rank and file was discussed. The Kauai Morale Committee organization was explained. There was a feeling that a better organization than that which now exists is needed in Honolulu. A suggestion was made that the schools should be used more frequently to disseminate viewpoints and facts necessary to the successful solution of our problems. To develop new leaders and to secure the active support of the younger people, Kauai appoints a "teen" age youth as an assistant to every adult leader.

Why has Honolulu failed to make a creditable showing in the blood bank? This question was asked by several delegates. It was explained that it is more difficult to contact people in Honolulu than in rural areas where the people live in one neighborhood and usually have the strong leadership of plantation managers. The other explanation offered was that not enough planning and effort have been put into it thus far.

The delegates concluded the discussion feeling that much more study and exchange of ideas must take place before they can arrive at solutions. For lack of time many problems were not delved into fully. The delegates left the Conference cognizant of the many problems involving the people of Japanese ancestry.

#### LOOKING AHEAD

SHIGEO YOSHIDA

Our job ahead is to still improve the situation, at least to keep it from deteriorating. Our friends have stood by us; it is up to us to show that their confidence in our Americanism has not been misplaced.

It is our job to further strengthen the ties of our alien parents to the land of our birth; to improve those points at which our own Americanism needs improvement; to still further increase the participation of our group, both citizens and aliens, toward speeding the day when all our enemies shall have been defeated and the whole world can live in peace again. It is our job to remove from among our group those things which tend to rightfully irritate others. It is our job to see that the traditional pattern of race relationships in Hawaii is maintained not only for the contribution it has made and is making in Hawaii but for the invaluable contribution it can make in the future in other parts of the world, including the mainland U. S.



It is our job to help keep Hawaii at least as good as, and if possible, make it a better place than, the one that our boys in the armed services left but a short while ago. It is our job to look ahead into the postwar period, determined not to repeat the mistakes that we made in the past and are still making to a lesser degree. We must see to it that none of our children and our children's children grow up with the same handicaps with which so many of us were permitted to grow up - namely, a very ineffective command of our national language, certain mannerisms and practices which tend to set us apart, at least socially, from the rest of the community, and submission to certain alien influences even after reaching maturity.

We are living in a dynamic society. The old world is irrevocably gone. What the future shall be is partly for us to determine. As a group, we are helping to mold the shape of things so far as the rest of the world is concerned. We are helping, for instance, to set certain precedents in the handling of racial minorities in a democratic society. What we do now is not only going to determine our place in the larger American community for generations to come; it will also determine to some extent the policies of not only our government but perhaps of other governments in the handling of racial problems.

This war has taught us a great deal. It has shown us more clearly what it means to be a citizen of this country. It has deepened our appreciation for, and our faith in, the fundamental values of the democratic way of life. It has shown us that we have men in authority and positions of responsibility who are fair and who not only believe in democracy but are willing to see others enjoy it. It has shown to what length certain bigoted and super-patriotic individuals and groups will go to for the denial of the rights of certain other Americans whose color and racial origin are not the same as theirs. It has also made us realize clearly the sinister ideology of present-day Japan which must be eradicated if the peoples of the Pacific are to enjoy an era of peace and security again. It has made us more convinced than ever that the only future for us in Hawaii depends on a smashing defeat of Japan and her removal forever as a threat to America. It has, finally, made us realize more clearly, as I have already stated, our mistakes of the past and has strengthened our determination to see that they are not repeated.

Let us then leave this conference today not only with a clearer vision of the task ahead but with a greater determination to do something about it. This is no time for complacency, for, as the European end of the axis is defeated and the full fury of the American war machine is concentrated on Japan, our position here is going to be more, not less, difficult. We must prepare the people of Japanese ancestry for the difficulties that lie ahead; we must help them to keep faith in the constituted authorities and in the fundamental fairness of the American people. We must see to it that the remaining sources of irritation are removed; we must remove every vestige of Japanism from our community; we must guard against rumors that tend to



break down the morale of the community and thus help our enemies; we must continue to be alert against the slightest possibility of subversive activities which will not only impair our national security but which will most certainly tear down overnight everything we have been able to build up so far.

We've got to pull together or we go down together. We have an opportunity now to make ourselves a real part of the larger American community. But we've got to work for it. Some of us are going to die for it. A few already have and many more will undoubtedly follow. It's not going to be given to us on a silver platter. Either we make use of the present opportunity or we let it slip out of our hands and we remain forever a kind of second-rate, pseudo Americans so far as the rest of our fellow Americans are concerned.

#### HOLDOVER COMMITTEE

Masa Katagiri, chairman	Katsuro Miho
Mitsuyuki Kido, secretary	Ernest Murai
Hung Wai Ching	Henry Nakamura
Yuki Kimura	Shizuo Onishi
Tadao Kobayashi	Shimeji Ryuzaki
Harry Komuro	Umematsu Watada
Taichi Matsuno	Shigeo Yoshida