

Nori Sato (pseudonym) is an American citizen of Japanese ancestry who was evacuated from the Eastern Defense Area by military exclusion order. (For background, refer to special report to Morton Grodzins, dated April 8, 1943, from Chicago entitled "Exclusion from Eastern Defense Command Area.")

Nori Sato, as of this date, is dissatisfied with his present job; he is looking for another one. He absented himself from his unskilled labor duties at the Lanzit Corrugated Box Company in Chicago today to answer two advertisements he had read in the newspaper. He brought himself up to date:

"I get 60 cents an hour where I'm working. It's just picking up scrap and doing things to help a man who runs a machine. Even a grammar school kid can do what I'm doing. It doesn't take any brains. The Negroes who are there hardly work at all; just take things easy. They get the same pay. They're sure lazy. I started out at 55 cents an hour. Then I asked for a raise. I wanted 10 cents extra raise. My boss gave me four cents. I been working since middle of April. It was easy to get job, after you gave me the lead here. (American Friends Service Committee office). Man didn't ask me anything about my education and such things. Just asked I could come to work at once. I said no, in few days, as soon as I got settled. He said hurry up and come to work. I went. After four cents raise, I got another one cent an hour raise. But no more it seems. The boss told one man on the machine to teach me how and let me run it, but he seems to be afraid that I'll take his job

away. He doesn't want to teach me. I'm still picking up scraps and doing that kind of work."

When Nori started out from his apartment in Garfield Park this morning, he was undecided whether he would go to work or look for another job. He had packed his customary lunch and automatically started for the Lanzit plant. Somewhere along the way, aboard the street car, he decided to go job-hunting. He carried the Sunday want-ad columns in his pocket; he had marked two possible prospects, one at an electrical engineering firm near the Loop, the other at Zenith Radio. He called at the engineering firm and found a long line of applicants, apparently got cold feet and decided to "go back later." He knocked at the Zenith Radio reception office and was handed an application form which he filled out. He does not expect to get any results.

He had then come up to the American Friends Service Committee to seek assistance in job placement and spend the morning reading some of the office literature on the table in the outer office.

Nori Sato is a kibe.

He is a graduate of the Meiji Gakuin in Tokyo. He has been in Chicago alone since early April. He arrived here from New York, excluded by military order of the Eastern Defense Command after an individual hearing. Before that he had been held twice, once for eight months' duration, a second time for five months--after a brief interlude of free-

dom--in federal custody at the Ellis Island Immigration station. His American citizenship had been challenged on the basis of his education in Japan, his employment since 1937 when he returned to the United States, by the Japanese government Ministry of Commerce and later by the Mitsubishi Company in New York, and on the basis of his contacts with enemy alien Japanese prior to Pearl Harbor. While his citizen status had been questioned, it had not been successfully revoked or denied by the government. He continues to place emphasis upon this fact, as he repeatedly says: "They tried to take away my American citizenship, but they couldn't. I'm an American citizen."

In addition to these troubles, he relates, his name appeared on the repatriation list which the State Department received from the Japanese government for an exchange of civilians between the two countries. Nori Sato says he made his own decision quickly and with conviction. He said he had long ago decided not to go back to Japan. He considers America his home and himself an American citizen.

Despite his own claims and pledges of American loyalty, he says he was ordered out of the Eastern Defense Area after a military hearing, and he came to Chicago. In nearly five months here, he has not been happy. He has made no new friends, he relates. He has reported daily for work, put in overtime, averaged around \$40 weekly pay. He has enrolled at the Chicago Technical College on South Michigan, aiming for a Bachelor of Science degree. He has completed

one course, is at present taking two more at night sessions. He studies during his off-hours from work; he reads several magazines, especially the Reader's Digest, regularly, follows the newspapers. His leisure time, he says, he spends in his apartment just "doing nothing". He rarely, if ever, has visitors or callers. He corresponds with old friends in New York; and every Sunday he gets up around 8 or 9 o'clock, cooks his own breakfast, puts on a clean shirt and tie and his Sunday suit, takes the Garfield Park elevated for the Loop, and attends services to hear Rev. H. Ray Anderson at the Fourth Presbyterian Church. Nori is not a baptised Christian himself, he says, but he has found much satisfaction out of regularly attending Church. He believes in one God and states firmly that when his loyalty to the United States is challenged, as it is frequently by government officials and agents, he says:

"God knows the truth. And maybe someday you'll know it too."

He mentioned this in connection with an experience of a fortnight ago which he related.

"I got a message from the United States Attorney's office, to call on him. I thought maybe they were going to put me in jail again. Like they did in New York. Let me out once saying that I'm cleared. Then putting me back in again for five months. I reported and the Assistant Attorney, I can't remember his name, they're all alike to me now, began asking me questions right away. He got after me because he said I did not report my change of address to him. I said I

did. I sent it in on post card to the FBI, but he said they didn't get it at all. He questioned me for an hour and a half. He asked me all kinds of things. He said he didn't believe I could be loyal to the United States because of my education in Japan. He said he thought I should be interned and he said he was writing to Washington about this. I told him it's too bad he didn't believe me because God knows the truth and maybe some day you'll know it too. He asked me if I was a Christian. I said no but I go to Church every Sunday. After many questions, he asked me about Japan and about the department stores there and things like that and a lot of other questions. Then he let me go. I thought it was jail again but it wasn't."

Nori Sato is an extreme introvert and does not make a favorable impression at first meeting. At second meeting, he does not speak unless spoken to first. He is quiet, unobtrusive, and speaks in a tone of voice so low one has to strain to catch his words. His English is fairly good, he has a slight trace of accent; he has none of the slang or idioms typical of the Nisei. As the result of his experiences of the past year and a half, Nori Sato is nervous, uncertain, and filled with the feeling that he is being unduly persecuted by government officials incapable of understanding his feelings.

Physically, Nori is small. He stands about five feet one inch, weighs 105 pounds, is slim of build, sallow of complexion. He does not appear of good or robust health. He says, voluntarily:

"My health is very bad now. I lost so much weight in

detention, and I am run down very much. I feel weak. If I wasn't going to Chicago Technical College, I'd like to go to a farm, maybe in Colorado, and work outdoors for awhile to build up my health. I think I would probably be 4-F."

He was asked:

"Would you be happy to go if you were drafted?"

"I'd go. But I'm 4-C right now. I'd probably be 4-F."

Nori Sato seems almost to be obsessed by his desire to get his Bachelor of Science degree. This desire seems to stem from his recent experiences in which his Japanese education has been held up to him as a liability. He says:

"Everywhere I go, when they ask what my education has been, and I put down Japan, I don't have much chance. I am going to stay in this country and make my living here. I will need an American education. Beside Mitsubishi will never hire me again because I didn't follow their orders and return to Japan. I don't know how long it will take me to get a degree. It's night school. But one reason I am going to Chicago Technical College is that it is one of the quickest colleges. I applied first to the Illinois Tech but that was in the middle of the semester. Now they have a lot of Army Air Corp men and I don't think they'll take me."

Nori Sato is not sure of himself. He is quite desperately lonely. He has no social life to speak of. He is hungry for friendly conversation by persons who are not suspicious of him. Reticent as he is, once drawn out and assured of friendly recep-

tion, he will talk on literally for hours. He has had almost no recreational activity with others during his stay in Chicago. He says he used to go to a show "almost every day" in New York before war; this was during the time he held a job with Mitsubishi Company that carried considerable prestige in the Japanese group; it also furnished him with a chauffeur. But since coming to Chicago, he has hardly gone to a show once. He says he just stays in his apartment and does nothing. He was warned by the Assistant Attorney that if he was "seen hanging around with suspicious Japanese", he would be picked up. He seems to live in almost constant fear of being arrested and detained, although he says, with an attempt toward smiling wryly: "I'm used to it now."

He relocated to Chicago from New York through the Friends hostel and was assisted in securing his present job. He then went out and found his own apartment. His house-hunting experiences, he says, weren't so "very hard." He recalls that "I walked around the Sears Y in Garfield Park. There are quite a few vacancies and housekeeping rooms. I called on several places. They always asked me what I was or what was my nationality. One lady asked me if I was Chinese or Japanese. I said American. She said sure we're all Americans now, but what was my old nationality. I said Japanese, and she said she would talk it over with her husband and for me to come back later that day. When I went back, the 'vacancy' sign was taken away, so I didn't go in. Some places said no Japanese right away. The place I'm staying at now, the man was pretty nice.

He asked me first if I could afford it. I asked him how much it cost. He said ten dollars a week. I said I thought so and he asked me if I was Chinese or Japanese and I said American. He said yes he knew that but what was my ancestry. I said Japanese. He said he felt sorry because it must be hard for me. I've never had any trouble at my place at all. I have two rooms; it's pretty nice. There is a kitchen, and I can do my own cooking. There is no private bath, but I must share the one with other tenants."

Nori Sato is somewhat "homesick" for New York. He misses his old friends and contacts, although these apparently were Japanese business men and the consular group in pre-war days. Nori is not the sociable type, but rather extremely retiring. He has been eating lunch alone and in silence at his place of employment. He still corresponds with a few friends in New York, and one of the the most memorable events of his Chicago residence was the visit by a Mary Nagai (pseudonym), from New York recently, stopping over here enroute to see relatives at the Granada Relocation Center. Nori recalled the visit with pleasure lighting up his face. This is an unusual sight, for Nori's face is almost always marked by a wrinkled forehead and furrowed brow. He describes the places he visited with Miss Nagai. However, he indicated that he had no romantic interest in her. Nori is 24 and single. Miss Nagai is slightly older. He infers in his non-committal manner, that his loneliness was overcome happily, even for a short time, by a familiar, friendly face.

Nori Sato has a married sister at the Topaz, Utah, relocation center. She and her husband have a daughter about three years old. Nori's mother is also at Topaz. His father is dead. Nori writes occasionally, but not often, to his relatives. He says:

"I'd like to have them come out of camp, and I know they'd like to come."

Nori doesn't think they should come to Chicago yet, however. He doesn't like Chicago and says so. He was here in 1939 for a period of residence, he says, and "I still don't like this city." He did not know exactly why he didn't like it, but was emphatic in reiterating his dislike.

Nori has been demoralized considerably by the single fact of his exclusion from the Eastern Defense Area. This seems to be on his mind constantly. He finds it difficult to understand the logic of his exclusion. He says over and over, and implies in other statements frequently, that he is a good American citizen. He can't fully understand, he says, why he should be considered harmless in Chicago and potentially dangerous in New York. He seems burdened by the weight of suspicion cast over his head. He is somewhat sensitive about the fact he was ordered a out of the eastern area, and he seems to live in the constant dread of being snatched up by the F.B.I. again, having his possessions confiscated and being held incommunicado, he says.

EVACUATION & RESETTLEMENT STUDY University of California
To: Morton Grodzins, Research Assistant
From: Togo Tanaka, Chicago, Illinois
Date: April 8, 1943 (Special Report)

EXCLUSION from the Eastern Defense Command Area

The first American citizen of Japanese ancestry to be excluded from the Eastern Defense Command Area arrived in Chicago on April 6, a month after his release from the Ellis Island Detention station in New York. He is Naoye Suzuki, 24, single, born in San Francisco, California, of alien Japanese parents, sent to Japan at the age of six and educated there, graduating from the Meiji Gakuin in Tokyo. Suzuki returned to the United States in 1937 when he was 20 years of age, enrolled in high school in San Francisco, to learn English. He was shortly employed in a clerical capacity by the Japanese government Ministry of Commerce in its sponsorship of the Japanese Pavilions, first at the San Francisco World's Fair and later in New York at the Fair held in that city.

In 1940, Suzuki secured employment with the Mitsubishi Company offices in New York; he apparently maintained unofficial contacts and social relations with Japanese government officials.

On December 7, 1941 (Pearl Harbor), he was in the hotel room with his boss, a non-resident alien Japanese, when Federal Bureau of Investigation agents arrested his employer. "They asked me for my name and address and came after me at my apartment on the next day," he relates. He was held at Ellis Island until August, 1942, then released. Early in November, 1942, he was arrested again and detained.

(2) Tanaka Special Report --Exclusion from Eastern Area

According to Suzuki, three specific charges were brought against him in the detention orders: (1) He is a dual citizen (2) He was formerly employed by the Japanese government, having been educated in Japan (3) He had in his possession, four cameras, four expensive radios, including those with short wave and other valuable equipment bringing suspicion on him and his activities.

He says that the Assistant United States Attorney in New York who conducted the questioning in his case "tried to take away my citizenship." To quote Suzuki: "They treated me like I was a criminal at first; then I just answered like a criminal and pretty soon they were treating me like a gentleman; they started all over. I was asked where my loyalty was. I said I preferred to stay in the United States; that I wanted to be loyal and a good citizen. They said they didn't believe me. Finally a military hearing was held for me. It was decided that I was a dangerous person. I received the exclusion order on March 27. I had to leave the Eastern Defense area. I'm the first American citizen Japanese to be ordered out of the Eastern Defense Command"* (Note--Whether he is actually the first or not has not been officially confirmed; he is the first to come to my attention here in Chicago, evidently the first on record in the U.S. Attorney's office here.--TT)

A military hearing was held before the decision to issue an exclusion order was reached. Suzuki's testimony apparently failed to convince military authorities that he was not potentially dangerous. He was excluded under Article 3 of a war-time regulation:

"2. Within three (3) days after 12:00 midnight, Eastern War Time, of the day

(3)

of service of this order, you are required to report in person at the place and time designated by the Commanding General, Second Service Command, S.O.S., in the attached letter, for the purpose of making arrangements for compliance herewith and at that time to have your photograph, fingerprints, and specimen signature taken. At such time and place you may, if you require assistance, consult with a representative of the War Relocation Authority who will be sent present and who is authorized to assist you in the settlement of business, farm or other property matters connected with your exclusion from this area, and also to arrange for the necessary funds, if needed to enable you to comply with this order.

Suzuki's personality undoubtedly must have proven a handicap in his efforts to be treated as an American citizen of trust. He speaks English both with an accent and with some difficulty. His thinking appears to be attuned to Japanese processes rather than English. "You see I was educated mostly in Japan," he will explain. His mannerisms do not make for a favorable first impression under circumstances in which those of his race in America now generally find themselves, i.e. suspicion. He does not give the impression of being straightforward. It is apparent that he did not give the whole truth in his testimony before the military hearing. He is keenly aware of his rights as an American-born citizen, but he is not aware equally of his obligations as a citizen. This impression may be due to the fact that for the past year he has been treated more or less as an enemy alien and not as a citizen. He resents the fact that his citizenship has failed to protect him against

treatment even more restrictive than that applied to enemy aliens. With a wry smile, he will say: "I have to report to the F.B.I. when I arrive in the city within 24 hours. Yes, I reported here yesterday after 18 hours; I still had six hours to go before the deadline. You know, an issei enemy alien has three days to do the same thing."

The American Civil Liberties Union in New York interested itself in Suzuki's case, he says. He has a card of Roger Baldwin's (national executive secretary of the ACLU). His version: "Mr. Baldwin was contacted for me by Rev. Akamatsu of the New York Japanese Methodist Church and Toru Matsumoto (of the Federal Council of Churches). He went into my case and background quite a bit; he decided that maybe I'd lose if we challenged or contested the exclusion order, so here I am."

Suzuki's family: His father died when he was five years old; he was sent to Japan for his education the following year. His mother is now living in Utah with a married sister. He has another sister who was born in the United States but married a newsman formerly with the San Francisco New World-Sun Daily; they are now in Japan. He has a brother, age 30, who was born in Japan and apparently has never been in this country. According to Suzuki, he told the military hearing that he had no relatives in Japan. In view of the fact that such statements can easily be checked through the State Department passport division, it is altogether possible that this falsehood on

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his part may have been a contributing factor in the decision to exclude his person. The Exclusion Order in his case applies not only for the Eastern Defense Command Area, but also the Southern and the Western.

His future plans: In New York during the two months last year when he was freed temporarily, Suzuki made his living teaching the Japanese language; he had about six students who paid him \$1.50 per hour for daily lessons. He earned about \$19 weekly and thus sustained himself; before war he earned considerably more. He was during this two-months period, constantly looking for factory work; his education in Japan and detention at Ellis Island were two strikes against him everywhere, he says. Now in Chicago, he is being assisted by several agencies, both government and religious, in seeking work of a non-defense nature where his record will not be held against him. He has tried, he says, to enlist as an instructor at the Army Language School, Camp Savage, Minnesota. Whether the Army authorities who excluded him will permit his application to be passed is a doubtful question, he says. Friends are also trying to get him into the Navy Language School at Boulder, Colorado, he says. He says that he wants to be loyal to America, but his experiences to date have brought him into few Caucasian Americans who either believe him or want him to be loyal to America.