

March 20, 1941: H.T. Komai left a clipping on our desk this morning; it is from the Los Angeles Times, and the headline reads:

"Public Remains Overwhelmingly Opposed
to United States Entry into War, Poll Shows

The story asserts that 17% are in favor of going into war now and 83% are opposed.

A press release dated March 18 but actually not received until today was received by both the English and Japanese sections from the Chuo Nikkai (Central Japanese Association). It was prepared by Gongoro Nakamura, president of the organization. Its intent seems to be to allay growing fears of the Issei as to what would happen to them if war comes to the Pacific. Nakamura's full statement:

"It has always been my opinion that we Japanese residents in America, who were legally admitted into the United States as permanent residents, and who are fathers and mothers of American citizens of Japanese ancestry, and who admire and respect American institutions, ideals and traditions, and who have been endeavoring to promote the general welfare of the community in contributing to the American way of life through our respective occupations and professions, will be treated as residents and not as alien enemies; if we always behave ourselves as good residents and continue to do our part as the members of the community, even though the severance of diplomatic relations between Japan and the United States might unfortunately occur in the future, which of course, we fervently pray will never happen; because America stands for Great Principles--Freedom, Equality, Justice, and Tolerance and because we sincerely believe that America now and always will live up to those Principles which are the priceless heritage of this Great Republic.

"I am very happy to state that my opinion concerning this matter has been confirmed by the Department of Justice at Washington in a letter which I recently received from Hon. Lemuel B. Schofield, special assistant to the Attorney-General, which in part says:

"Section (1) of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States pro-

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vides in part as follows: 'nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the law.'

"From the foregoing, you will readily see that we are amply protected by the Constitution of the United States."

March 27, 1941: At Fred Tayama's invitation, I joined him today to meet a Dr. John R. Lechner, executive director of the Americanism Educational League, Hotel Stillwell, 838 South Grand Avenue. Tayama phoned and said he had been approached by Lechner to come down to his office and talk with him about some Americanism program; Lechner had approached Tayama through the J.A.C.L. office. Tayama, as J.A.C.L. president, thought he would look into the matter. "Since you are chairman of the Equality Committee, you come with me, will you?" he said to me over the phone.

Our recent news clippings have an item from the Los Angeles Evening Herald & Express (circulation 273,000) of March 15:

"JAPAN PERIL
SEEN BY
LECHNER

"Japan not only considers war with the United States inevitable but has already laid plans for a Japanese uprising in Hawaii, a submarine attack on the west coast and the mining of Pacific sea lanes-- this was the startling declaration studied today by a large group who heard Dr. John R. Lechner, executive director of the Americanism Educational League, lecture before the Women's Republican Study Club.

"Dr. Lechner read for the first time passages from a recently confiscated book in the Japanese language entitled 'Triple Alliance and the Japan-United States War'. The book, he said, was written by Matsuo Naoaki and is in the hands of the State Department at Washington.

"NEW TYPE SUBS

"The book, he said, described a new type submarine with a cruising range of 10,000 miles which could attack the west coast in one operation and adds that a large fleet of mine layers would cooperate with these subs in a 'blitzkrieg against the American fleet'.

"Dr. Lechner said he had special permission to release parts of the book. The translated excerpts said, in part:

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"In the Japanese occupation of Hawaii, the Army's co-operation with the Navy is very important. Midway (1160 miles from Hawaii) must be taken before we attack Hawaii, for it would give us a good foothold.

"JAPANESE IN HAWAII

"We will occupy Midway, Canton, and Enderbury in this manner, but we must slip our hands very quietly into the area of the American naval base; if not, we would have something to worry about behind our communication lines.

"There is Hawaii and in this island there are about 150,000 Japanese and one-half the population is Nisei. It would be impossible for the American government to send all of the 150,000 to Japan, therefore a large body of Japanese would be kept somewhere.

"Once the news of the Japanese victory reaches Hawaii, our Japanese in Hawaii would quickly organize a volunteer army and there is no doubt as to the efforts to take Hawaii when the Japanese all get together. Hawaii is sure to come into the hands of the Japanese."

* * *

We walked into Lechner's office at noon; his secretary, a somewhat elderly woman, asked us to wait a moment, he would be back promptly. Lechner is a short, red-nosed man with prominent chin. He has an interesting sense of humor; he offered us a cigar apiece. Tayama took one, I declined mine. He said, mimicking a "pawn-store Jew", that "A guy named Abie, he gave 'em to mee just this morning." Tayama laughed. Lechner took us downstairs to the Stillwell hotel dining room and ordered lunch. Over the table, he asked Tayama and me: "What about the dual citizenship of American-born Japanese? The public is suspicious of you fellows who have dual citizenship."

Tayama said: "I expatriated, and I have papers from the Japanese Consulate to prove that I have."

Lechner said he had mimeographed releases from the California Joint Immigration Committee. These

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releases, he continued, had definite figures on the number of American-Japanese who retained dual citizenship and therefore allegiance to Japan. Both Tayama and I refuted these figures and said that the Joint Immigration Committee was biased and was propagandizing the issue.

Lechner said that he was greatly concerned about Japan's preparations for war against the United States as revealed in the book "Triple Alliance and the Japan-United States War" by Matsuo Kinokaki and asked if we had read it. Tayama had not, and either had I.

The conversation turned to Kilsoo Kenneth Haan, representative of the Sino-Korean People's League.

Lechner: "You met him?"

Tanaka: "Yes, I received a letter recently from him. He was very bitter about the treatment he said I had accorded him."

Lechner: "I think sometimes Haan should have stayed in the religious work on the Islands."

Tayama: "If he is a paid propagandist as they have proven he is, then he is a very poor one."

Lechner: "Kilsoo is a good boy. He's hardly a paid propagandist. A few Korean friends have gotten together and support the activity. Being a Korean, he's got a legitimate complaint against the Japanese."

Tayama: "Dual citizenship is being rapidly eliminated. The important thing is, though, the nisei are not a bunch of flag wavers. They'd rather prove their Americanism and loyalty by their deeds and actions."

Lechner: "I understand that, and I think it is excellent as a trait and characteristic that speaks highly for them. However, you've got a problem of building up, for the psychological benefits, a public relations program to win over the American public to the fact that the nisei are loyal Americans."

Dr. Lechner's proposal, which he enumerated at further length after he had paid the luncheon bill for all three of us: Hire the Shrine Auditorium one evening under joint auspices of the Japanese American Citizens League and the Americanism Educational League

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and put on a huge mass demonstration of 'American loyalty of the Nisei.' He waxed enthusiastic as he said: "Invite such well known people as Reginald Denny, who is on the Board of Directors of the Americanism Educational League; I can get him as master of ceremonies. I can get Mrs. Gale who is President of the Friday Morning Club and Federal Court Judge Benjamin Harrison. A staunch supporter of our League who would pitch in and help also is Mr. G. Skouras who is President of Fox West Coast Theatres, Inc. Why we might even possibly get James K. Fisk of the California Joint Immigration Committee. Whatever we do, we should NOT invite Mrs. Louise Ward Watkins. And lay off that guy Benjamin Neal. His 'I Am an American Foundation' is a phoney. We can really do a bang-up public relations job and convince the public that you fellows are just as good Americans as I am."

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March 27, 1941: Sam Hohri has written the most complete local account of the meeting of Nisei organization leaders with Naval & Army Intelligence officers, in his column, "Rambler's Nemesis" in the Sangyo Nippo, two days running, yesterday and today:

"The Niseis have yet to demonstrate to the great body of Americans that they as a group understand and are prepared to fulfill all the obligations and duties of citizenship. When that day arrives, Commdr. Ringle predicted, prejudice and feeling will disappear and they will be gladly and wholeheartedly accorded all the rights of a citizen.

"National J.A.C.L. Vice-President Ken Matsu-moto pointed out that the presence of every one who had been invited, even when it entailed several hundred miles of travel, was a testimonial in itself that these 'first citizens' are eager to cooperate in studying the problems and removing the misunderstandings.

"Commenting on the published remarks uttered by spokesmen of the National Christian Mission, he took issue with the inference that we are pariahs, declaring that there can be no comparison with the caste of untouchables of India, but that we are worthy of full consideration.

"However, in the spirit of candor of the evening, he did admit that when the avowed loyalty of these citizens but one generation removed from the Orient, are subjected to the probing examination of public opinion, this severe microscope reveals holes like in Swiss cheese which must be recognized and plugged up.

"Togo Tanaka spoke to report on current and recent actions and trends of significance. Our chief problem is not with the officials, he asserted, but with our neighbors. Responsible men are cognizant of our status and attitude but it is the immediate neighbors living around us that must be won as friends.

"We must not be discouraged by those who would pre-judge us as a menace; he cited that after Candidate Husband had broadcast in a mayoralty campaign speech the alleged danger of Niseis in key Civil Service positions who would sabotage the city, Clifford E. Clinton had rapped the aspiring nominee for injecting racial issues.

"Commdr. Ringle took up Editor Tanaka's suggestion that we must affirm our devotion by a

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clear definition of our loyalty and expressed a hope that such a specific might be realized during the evening.

"Acknowledging the singularly extraordinary purpose of the gathering, Sheriff Eugene Biscailuz of Los Angeles county offered himself as 'exhibit A' of a Californian and asked why should people prejudge the Nisei any more than the 'nisei' of any other racial stock.

"He advised that the idea of our sincerity and truth of being good Americans be sold to the doubting Thomases. You have just started in this endeavor, he said, commending the spirit of those assembled, and stated that the start is right.

"Representing the civil community in a gathering of military and naval leaders, Fred Harmon, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, declared the loyal American can not be simply defined as one who is a flag waver; their deeds from day to day may put the lie to such facile exhibition.

"Any American citizen would have it on his conscience for the rest of his life, if he was instrumental in any way which would jeopardize the safety and security of the United States--like the indelible stigma upon Benedict Arnold.

"He agreed that the loyalty of a citizen should not be questioned solely because his bloodline is traced across the Pacific to Japan rather than across the Atlantic to France or Russia or England. Speaking particularly for this latter group, he counselled that strenuous efforts be made to avoid the assumption of a holier than thou position.

"Captain Ralph E. Riordan, representing the military service and at present occupied with the Fort MacArthur receiving center, took over from here and recalled that the Schmidts were right in there along with the Jones and Yorks to lead the AEF over in France in World War I.

"This is a time for discipline; the civilian masses should study and realize the problems of the army involved in training new

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soldiers. In this regards, he invited those present to take advantage of Army day, April 6, to come and see.

"There have been several problem cases already, Captain Riordan admitted, but he went on to say, not one Nisei has gone wrong--and they've been given plenty of chances to do so, he added. The majority of those in training, hke continued, are happy; and he asked that rumors of improper conduct and conditions be examined by simply visiting the reception centers which are open to visitors.

"Dr. Yoshio Nakaji, as chairman of the Southern District J.A.C.L. council, expressed the appreciation of the Nisei in being invited to meet in this friendly fashion with the naval, military and civil leaders to further our common interest in promoting the welfare of the United States,

"Captain B. L. Canaga, the District Intelligence Officer at San Diego, told of his pleasure in being present, having already met with some of the leaders earlier in the week.

"Captain Richard B. Coffman, the Assistant Commandant of the Eleventh Naval District, as the senior officer present, was introduced as the last of the scheduled speakers. He observed that the J.A.C.L. should be a potential source of security, for by their presence and good will, these delegates should carry great weight and influence in their home communities.

"He spoke of a good American citizen as one who is loyal to himself and to his home and since America is the home of the Nisei, there can be no question of their allegiance.

"He read a letter from the Admiral regretting his inability to be present, but declaring that this project by its sincerity of purpose portents good. No problems exist for the United States citizen of Nipponese ancestry than for one of any other, for such a discrimination would be against the spirit of American democracy.

"There is only one requisite and that is complete loyalty to the Constitution and its institutions. When such loyalty is displayed, there will be no Nisei problem.

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"Opening the discussion period, Nobu Kawai of the Pasadena Civic League suggested that time would disperse the 'Nisei problems' but that time alone was not adequate. He brought out the influence of the press, locally and in national publications, and asked the representatives present to deal fairly in presenting truth and avoid distortions or fabrications for the sake of sensationalism.

"He asked that story sources be checked for accuracy and pledged that if any subversive activity was found, the Nisei would take the lead to remove the cancer. The inadequate housing facilities were also noted, stating that unfavorable environment jeopardizes the welfare and attitude of the younger folk.

"Commdr. Ringle replied that in the capacity of public relations, his office had been approached by correspondents, since the publication of the 'menace in the harbor' stories, who wanted to know if there were truth in the allegations.

"'I have been able to very logically convince these correspondents that the thing is absurd from a very practical point of view,' he averred. For granting that it were so, where and how would the materials be coming from? And the Navy is not entirely asleep on the matter either. 'I have been able to take the wind out of such stories.'

"Taking the matter of housing, he asked whether it was not a question of economics since most of the group are just beginning to be wage earners. He acknowledged the existence of restrictions and hoped that they will be amicably solved, but at present there is no answer that he can offer, no panacea.

"George Inagaki, president of the Bay District J.A.C.L., announced that their group had come prepared to offer a suggestion for a program to put into practise the oft repeated assertions of loyalty and asked Joe Masaoka to present the program.

"After copies of the plan were distributed, it was explained that the purpose was to coordinate the agencies and facilities of the Nisei community to cooperate with the federal and local authorities and to attempt to

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avoid situations which may be unwittingly created and subsequently misunderstood by the community at large.

"This plan is carried in whole in another column of this page. At the request for comments, the reaction was to consider it further as a council measure because of its wide reaching scope. Fred Tayama, president of the Los Angeles chapter, observed that it would not be wise to assume such responsibilities lightly.

"Speaking for the SORPWU (Southern California Retail Produce Workers Union), Satoru Sugimura told of the problems faced in the economic field but told of the enthusiastic loyalty of that group by telling of their loyalty turning down a proposition to wear buttons stating 'I'm glad to be an American' on the grounds that they would rather live that attitude rather than pin it on.

"As the lone feminine voice of the evening that brought out but a scant half dozen delegates of the feminine sex, Alyce Asaka said that it was uncertain just what women could do, but volunteered the offering of moral support to the men-soldiers.

"Commdr. Ringle observed that the play which was presented might well be the answer to the question posed earlier in the evening of seeking ~~th~~ to define with clarity just what is involved in demonstrating loyalty to the United States."

April 14, 1941: We are in disfavor again with the secretary of the California Joint Immigration Committee, I hear. Today a letter arrived unexpectedly from the San Francisco headquarters of the Committee, and from other sources I understand that its officers are peeved about something we printed in our Sunday, March 30, edition. But first, the letter:

" James K. Fisk
Dept. Adj. American
Legion
(Chairman)

Hon. D. C. Murphy
Calif. State Fed. Labor

John T. Regan
Grand sec'y Native Sons
of the Golden West

Charles M. Goethe
(Treasurer)

H. J. McClatchy
(Exec. Sec'y)

Hon. U. S. Webb
Robert H. Fouke
V.S. McClatchy
(1857 - 1938)

CALIFORNIA JOINT IMMIGRATION COMMITTEE
85 Second Street
Phone GARfield 26987
San Francisco, Cal.

DOROTHY K A L T E N B A C H
(Secretary)

April 13, 1941

Mr. Togo Tanaka
English Editor
Los Angeles Japanese News
Los Angeles, California

Dear Mr. Tanaka:

It has come to our attention that a census of Japanese has recently been taken in California, and we are interested in the results thereof.

No doubt such information will serve to clear up many points on which there has been some doubt in the past, the number of Japanese in the state, the number of Nisei and Sansei, and the number of Nisei who have dual citizenship.

We would be glad to have you supply us with this information, if it is available to you, which is no doubt the case.

With kind personal regards, I am

Very truly yours,
(signed)
Dorothy Kaltenbach, Secretary "

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A Miss von Waggoner from the Time & Life office in Beverly Hills has been in touch with our office these past few days to get details on our publication. It seems that the California Joint Immigration Committee has threatened to sue Time & Life "a million dollars", on the basis of our having published on Sunday, March 30, 1941, a quotation attributed to James K. Fisk "as reported by Dorothy Kaltenbach, secretary." On that day, on page 3 of our Sunday tabloid, we published two quotations, side by side, to contrast two opposite points of view. The whole article:

'ONE NATION INDIVISIBLE: with liberty and justice for all..'

By TOGO TANAKA
English Editor, The Rafu Shimpō

"This week, in inspiring Westwood on the Los Angeles campus of the University of California, Stanford University's retiring president, Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur, addressed 2000 Collegians at annual Charter Day ceremonies. The peoples of the Pacific rim, he said, have earth's 'last great opportunity' to forge a 'new and more gracious era in the history of man.'

"His message reaches deeply into the hearts and souls of 100,000 Americans of Japanese parentage in this country. For in it is expressed the embracing spirit of the democratic principle--the American creed and philosophy upon which rest the hopes and faith of the Nisei in these days of brewing crisis.

"Let any man question the Americanism of the distinguished president of Stanford University, and a million voices would rise in spontaneous challenge. Former Cabinet Secretary, educator, statesman, leader, Dr. Wilbur has set the pace by example for those who would aspire to the standards of the American way of life.

"The Equality Committee of the Los Angeles Citizens League herewith presents two quotations of timely, vital interest to every Nisei. Apart, each speaks eloquently for itself. Together, they stand in strange contrast by the obvious attitudes each reflects. Need we remind ourselves which represents the truly American viewpoint?

'YOUR ARE NOT WANTED' . 'THERE IS A PLACE FOR YOU'

"'Because of the unassimilability and the impossibility of competing with them due to their low standards of living, Japanese immigrants have never been really welcomed to the United States. America, after all was developed by and belongs	. .	"'Around the Pacific rim are gathered a major portion of all living human beings to whom comes the last great opportunity for man to conquer himself as he masters space and develop a barrier that has held people apart into a passageway to bring them together.
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the white race. Others whose . No one race has an inside
forebears came here, frequent- . track to heaven. If we are
ly in the face of continued . to have our kind of self-
unwillingness on the part of . sustaining, self-respecting
Americans to receive them, to . democracy, then we can leave
take advantage of the better . no one out. If democracy is
economic conditions offered . the answer in human associa-
by this country, must respect . tions, then we have to think
this fact, and should not at- . of one people in one world
tempt to force their interpre- . and calmly work mutual un-
tations of American institu- . derstanding and cooperation."
tions on an unwilling American . --RAY LYMAN WILBUR, President
public.'--JAMES K. FISK, Chair- . of Stanford University.
man of the California Joint .
Immigration Committee, San .
Francisco, as reported by Dor- .
othy Kaltenbach, secretary.

* * *

The Joint Immigration Committee, according to Miss Van Waggoner, wants to know if Life permitted us to reprint that quotation since it had been released to no other publication. It also wanted to know how in the hell we got hold of it to reprint. Miss von Waggoner explained that Life would be legally absolved of responsibility and immune from suit if it had proof that it had in no way sold or released it to us. I informed her we would be glad to give them any kind of evidence since that was true. As I understand the situation, the Committee has not and does not intend to go through with the suit. But Dorothy Kaltenbach is said to be as "sore as hell at you, Tanaka, and the Committee is going to lay now more than ever for the Rafu Shimpo."

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July 14, 1941: The Rafu Shimpō's Board of Editorial Counsellors met tonight in Parlor E, Alexandria Hotel, for a dinner and discussion of the newspaper's editorial policies. The following typewritten agenda was prepared for the meeting:

JULY MEETING

Board of Editorial Counsellors
The English Section
6:30 P.M.
Parlor E Alexandria Hotel

ATTENDING: Mr. H. T. Komai Mr. Joseph Shinoda
 Mr. Togo Tanaka Mr. Tsuyoshi Matsumoto
 Mr. Fred Tayama Mr. Akira Komai
 Mr. Eiji Tanabe Dr. T. G. Ishimaru
 Mr. Herbert Wada Mr. Elmer Yamamoto

BUSINESS DISCUSSION:

Editorial Policy: The previous decision of the Board, instructing the English Editors to carry out an editorial campaign of a single American political loyalty among the Nisei has been consistently followed and executed by the staff.

One of the tangible results of this policy has been recognition of The Rafu Shimpō English Section by federal as well as state and local government agencies as the clearing house for information on matters concerning resident Japanese.

Report to Board by Editor Tanaka:

On Tuesday, July 8, 1941, I called at the Federal Building room 1529, at the telephone request of Mr. James Stedman, investigator for the Dies Committee on Un-American Activities.

A one-hour interview of questions & answers took place. Net result: Mr. Stedman placed a formal request that we prepare for him and his committee a report on general activities of Japanese (presumably both issei & nisei) organizations in Southern California, with particular emphasis on:

- (1) Japanese language schools
- (2) Certain allegedly militaristic Japanese nationalist bodies
- (3) Organizations engaged in the dis-

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semination of 'Japanese propaganda',
cultural and otherwise.

- (a) Question before the Board:
- Evaluation of Dies Committee
 - Procedure to be followed by the English Section in fulfilling this official request.

Report on Newspaper Make-up

Since the last meeting of the Board, certain mechanical changes have taken place in the English Section news make-up. These were effected by the staff in the belief that wider news coverage could be accomplished in the limited space.

Board members' comments are requested.

REPORT ON NISEI BUSINESS BUREAU

The Board's previous decision ruling out sponsorship of the 'human relations & public speaking' course by the English Section has been observed.

The Bureau's activities, carried out by members of the English staff, have been confined to employment & job placements. Over 300 application forms of young men & women are now on file, and several scores of such applicants have been placed, or given contacts and leads.

Publicizing of new businesses has been stressed by the Bureau, wherever such publicity has been of value.

A survey of home-building, home-buying, home-rental areas open to Japanese is now being conducted by the Bureau. Race restrictions still hamper nisei & issei in finding a place to live in Los Angeles. The survey is a source of information of great potential value as a public service.

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REPORT ON THE POLICE BLOTTER

Since previous discussions on publication of crime

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news, the 'Police Blotter' has appeared as a regular feature.

Chief purpose: To discourage a rising juvenile delinquency problem among nisei. EDITORIALIZING has featured some of the reporting.

Chief difficulty: Proper exercise of discretion in drawing the line between what is legitimate news for publication, and what ought to be deleted as a matter of good taste.

BOARD MEMBERS ARE ASKED:

- (1) To judge results to date
- (2) Suggest any changes
- (3) Reach decision as to whether 'the Police Blotter' is to be continued or dropped at this time.

E D I T O R I A L 'CRUSADES'

English Section editorials and news space devoted to editorial crusades at the present moment are centered on the following:

- (1) Support the Citizens League as an Americanism organization
- (2) Buy United States Savings Defense Bonds
- (3) Support the United Service Organizations
- (4) Encourage expatriation from dual citizenship
- (5) Drive safely, cut down traffic accidents (This in cooperation with the Greater Los Angeles Safety Council)
- (6) Aid nisei organizations of a business nature: Retail Produce Workers Union; Junior Produce Club; Nisei Grocers Association, etc.

Board members are requested to criticize, evaluate these, make further suggestions.

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The discussion is lively this evening. H.T. is completely sober too; he's on the wagon for this one, unlike some of our previous gatherings. The agenda has caught the complete attention of each participant. The report that we had been summoned to the office of the chief investigator of the Dies Committee draws immediate talk.

Elmer Yamamoto, Hawaiian nisei, attorney of Little Tokio, starts off with: "The Dies Committee is on its last leg. With the United States and Soviet Russia drawing closer together, there doesn't seem to be any more reason for the red-hunt to continue. We don't have to take the Dies people too seriously." To this, there is instant comment from Joseph Shinoda, head of the San Lorenzo Nursery Company, one of the more successful nisei business men.

Shinoda says: "Just because there won't be as many Bolsheviks for those guys to go huntin' doesn't mean they won't find a new target in the local Japanese. I think we ought to give this thing some very serious thought."

Eiji Tanabe, who operates two class C hotels in run-down areas and who is active in the Citizens League, says: "I think we should cooperate with the F.B.I.; this should be our attitude. the Dies Committee isn't very important." He is seconded by Dr. T. G. Ishimaru, Little Tokio optometrist, chairman of the Southern California Japanese Children's Home board of directors, active in the Y.M.C.A. and something of a throw-between issei & nisei in his outlook and thinking.

Ishimaru says: "Refer the Dies guys to the F.B.I. and the Naval Intelligence. Tell'em they have all the news and information and the situation well in hand. The Dies Committee is just out to find some new victim to crucify."

Fred Tayama just adds: "Ignore it. Don't pay any attention to the Dies Committee."

Yamamoto, however, insists that we should "keep in contact with them. Don't just ignore them or refuse to cooperate completely. That wouldn't be wise."

The feeling of the Board is that the English editor should prepare a letter in which, at Shinoda's suggestion, "there should be enumerated all the good points in resident Japanese activity, especially those proving our American loyalty", and this letter should ask for specific questions from Stedman which we may assist in getting true answers on.

Tsuyoshi Matsumoto, who, with H.T. Komai, is the only other non-citizen member of the Board, replies directly to one of the questions raised by the Dies investigator. He says: "Shouldn't we be aware of the fact that there are such organizations as the Aikoku Chokin and the Junior Kenjinkai? These are certainly not fundamentally American in background or spirit. Perhaps the Dies Committee has these groups in mind when it asks what about potentially subversive or un-American organizations?"

Shinoda comments: "That's right. We ought to knock all these Jap organizations out into dissolving; but the trouble with those goddam Dies guys is they wouldn't give a hoot of credit to the 1400 Nisei who are in the Army, and they would probably ignore the good work in Red Cross, in the USO, in the subscribing to Defense Bonds and things like that. I still think, though, that Togo should be authorized to prepare a good letter which can be forwarded to the Committee as a documentation of these activities; give 'em a balanced picture."

Discussion of the next items on the agenda is brief. Unanimous approval of the new make-up of the English section is voted.

Ishimaru directs a question to H.T. Komai: "When are you going to place the English Section on the outside front page instead of inside the daily newspaper?" To which Komai replies: "As soon as the English section advertising income increases to the point we can insert the Japanese section inside." Shinoda asks: "When is the Sunday edition going to become all English?" The reply by Komai: "We're looking forward to that in the future."

The Big Question of the evening deals with what Board members term "increasing juvenile delinquency and hoodlumism" in Little Tokio. The discussion centers around the newspaper's publication of the "Police Blotter", a daily report of criminal offenses of resident Japanese, both nisei & issei, taken from the records of the Los Angeles Police Department.

Shinoda: "I've been reading the Police Blotter and think its writing can be improved. It gets me down to open up the paper at dinner time and read that Hiroshi so and so has been arrested in some red light house and caught in the act and hauled along with some prostitute to the jail and booked on the charge of disorderly conduct or resorting. For pete's sake, can't we keep such tripe out of a home newspaper?"

Herbert Wada, cashier at the H & F Wholesale produce market, doesn't agree.

Wada says: "But Joe, it's not that bad. I've followed the Police Blotter too; and they don't print that kind of stuff in that way. Furthermore, it's public information; the paper is public; and the public ought to know."

Shinoda: "But we ought to keep guys and people's names out of it, shouldn't we? Or at least cut down on that stuff; it's not news. And it doesn't have a hell of a lot to do with the juvenile delinquency problem with which were concerned."

"It's not always in good taste," Ishimaru observes, "I think the community is really too small to go in heavy for that kind of news. Christ, you ought to read Negro newspapers; that's the kind of stuff they print."

Shinoda: "I think the editors and the staff should be cautioned to use great discretion in their including in the Police Blotter the news that makes you sick if you open the paper at the dinner table. Great selectivity should be practised."

Tanaka: "What do you mean by great selectivity?"

Wada: "See, there you are. You're driving back again, Joe, at the old question of whether we should omit names of the offenders or put them in. At our last meeting we decided that the editors should go ahead and print the names. You can't make them assumed names or anonymous and print a newspaper. Now if you mean we ought to keep the names out for some and not for others, where are you going to draw the line?"

Ishimaru: "We're getting off the track. We should be discussing juvenile delinquency. It's getting worse. Why just recently at the Boardmeeting of the Shonien (Southern California Japanese Children's Home), we had a discussion about accepting another little baby born of a girl who was the mother of a baby a year or so ago that we accepted. This mother is a nisei. She's been delinquent for several years. She doesn't know who the father of this second child is any more than she knew the father of her first. Some of you guys may have heard about her case. It's pretty notorious as far as rumors go. She has been running wild and her family can't do anything. There are other girls in the same boat. The statistics on juvenile delinquency are discouraging. The Japanese are supposed to have had a pretty good record up to this point. Now the newspaper can do something about discouraging running wild if it adopts a sane editorial and news policy."

Shinoda: "Well, the point I think ought to be brought out here is that indiscriminate printing of names, say of first offenders, can do a lot of harm. Social ostracism can result where there should be another chance given a boy or girl. We ought to remember that."

Ishimaru: "I've attended some meetings of the Y.M.C.A. board, and there is concern about the misbehavior going on at the nisei dances. You know they have half a dozen of these dances in one week, all over town, at professional dance ballrooms, at the International Institute, all over. A lot of young guys out to raise hell for an evening go to these dances; there are almost always fights. Gangs have been forced. Clubs go out to beat each other up. A lot of drinking goes on; many girls go astray at these dances."

Shinoda: "Weren't you saying that one of the guys who goes to these dances regularly was talking about a girl that was laid four times in one night in one of the cars parked outside a dance hall? How are you gonna stop that kind of stuff?"

Ishimaru: "That's one of the headaches. Most parents don't have the faintest idea of what their young ones are up to. It's almost pathetic. We could improve the dance situation by having a better system of chaperones; we should encourage nisei to improve their dress and manners and make themselves socially more desirable. We can awake parents to their responsibility to see that their children are home from the dances at a reasonable hour. All this can be done through the newspaper as well as through other organizations."

Shinoda: "That sounds like pretty good sense. Some of the boys who work for me say that they don't like to go to nisei dances any more because there is a tendency lately for the sponsors, it seems to actually encourage hoodlumism. They don't do anything to curb gate crashers and rough house guys who come in swarms and take away a guy's date and threaten to beat him up if he says anything. As for the girls, maybe we can appeal to a sense of decency. But you've got to recognize that there is a certain type of girl who enjoys being fought over. She is sometimes the cheap kind, the kind who goes out to the autopark and lays with four guys in an evening and enjoys exhibitionism. But most of 'em aren't that way."

Ishimaru: "In printing news of some of these hoodlum offenders, I would suggest that we announce that the newspaper is engaged in a campaign to wipe out misbehavior at the dances and to curb juvenile delinquency. Then state at the end of six months you are going to print

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names of all people involved in these affairs. That should have some effect.

Shinoda: "The names ought to be printed under those circumstances."

Wada: "Yeah, that's right; but even then, individual judgment should be exercised by the editor."

Tanabe: "The news should get out, though, there shouldn't be any censoring."

Tanaka: "That all sounds very good. But I can remember a recent case when the police arrested a group of nisei shooting craps at the market. The whole bunch was carted off to Lincoln heights jail. Next morning when our police reporter brought in the blotter, lo and behold, some of the members of this board called me and asked that the names of relatives be withheld. Who knows, maybe one day your name, or mine, will appear. What are we going to do then?"

Tayama: "The nisei don't want to read only that kind of stuff in the newspaper any way. I think most nisei rather read about dances and sports."

Tanaka: "That really has nothing to do with the question at hand."

Tayama: "Won't the newspaper lose subscribers?"

Shinoda: "Komai can probably answer that, and my guess is that he will say yes. But there is a need for franker treatment of the news; it's largely a matter of degree. Now we know there are nisei girl prostitutes who cater only to Caucasians. They get hauled in every once in a while; do you print their names too?"

Wada: "So long as the newspaper is public, you're bound to have to."

Tayama: "You're not going to stop just at merely publishing it."

Shinoda: "Most of the time, the rest of the community is kept in ignorance of these things. If we're going to try to reduce juvenile delinquency, there has to be some airing of the dirty linen."

The discussion seemed to be getting nowhere, but there were a lot of opinions expressed.

Conclusions of the meeting: The Japanese section of The Rafu Shimpo will conduct an editorial campaign awakening parents to the activities of the younger generation and cautioning them against being complacent about the misbehavior of the nisei. It was also decided that news about the Junior Kenjin kai would be omitted as much as possible from the newspaper in an effort to encourage that group to disband. The English section should engage in an editorial campaign to dissolve the Kenjin organizations as un-American and detrimental by their very nature to nisei welfare.

I drove H. T. Komai back to the office after the meeting; we drove together down to his house on 35th Street. He was in a rather talkative mood and in good spirit. He said that "there's always a lot of talk at the Board meetings; they're good to get community sentiment, but when there is disagreement, the staff just better go ahead and use its common sense." H.T. thinks we should devote more time to developing the business end of the English Section. He thinks the Business Bureau has potentialities but he hasn't any definite thing in mind. We talked about everything in general. I asked him: "Do you think there will ever be a war between the United States and Japan?" He said: "Maybe, when you are about my age. But that will be long after I am dead. No, there won't be any war between Japan and the United States for another generation/" He is dead certain, and the discussion just ends there.