

Tanaka
Isawa

February 4, 1942 --. The following telegram arrived at the office today; it was from Governor Olson; in the mail came a mimeographed copy of a speech he is making over the radio tonight. The wire:

P O S T A L T E L E G R A P H

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TOGO TANAKA EDITOR
LOS ANGELES JAPANESE DAILY NEWS 104 NORTH
LOS ANGELES ST LOSANGELES CALIF

I DESIRE TO SEE YOU IN MY OFFICE STATE
CAPITOL SACRAMENTO FRIDAY MORNING 11 AM
REGARDING JAPANESE SITUATION

CULBERT L OLSON GOVERNOR OF CALIFORNIA
11 AM.

The telegram set in motion a series of debates in the office as to what it meant. Conjectures were numerous. It was finally decided, after a joint staff meeting, that Akira Komai, Joe Inouye, and I would make the trip to Sacramento. This is quite a day for surprises and things. A lengthy press release was issued by the Department of Justice today also, proscribing the entire coast line of California, from Oregon south to a point approximately 50 miles north of Los Angeles, to Issei.

Following is Governor Olson's radio address as of February 4, 1942:

"RADIO ADDRESS BY GOVERNOR CULBERT L. OLSON
CALIFORNIA RADIO SYSTEM
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA
FEBRUARY 4, 1942

"MY FELLOW CITIZENS:

"With the registration and identification of alien enemies in California, which is now being accomplished and will be completed by the latter part of this month, plans are being considered for the disposition of all alien enemies in a manner that will assure protection against possible sabotage or fifth column activities, and at the same time protect all within that classification and all who are racially related to them from injury or unjust treatment. The classification of alien enemies necessarily includes all Japanese who are not now and who cannot become American citizens, and all Italian and German residents who are not American citizens. These classifi-

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cation of alien enemies necessarily includes all Japanese who are not now and who cannot become American citizens, and all Italian and German residents who are not American citizens. These classifications necessarily include people who are entirely loyal to the United States, many of them being refugees who have escaped to this land of liberty from the tyranny, barbarisms and cruelties of Axis rule in their native lands, and are ready to fight to their death against the Axis powers. With the registration and identification of all who come within the classification of alien enemies, it is believed that those who are of Italian or German extraction can be also identified as to their loyalty or dis-loyalty much easier than such identification as to loyalty or dis-loyalty can be determined among the Japanese aliens and their relatives who are born American citizens. All Japanese people, I believe, will recognize this fact. And all Japanese aliens and citizens must realize that plans are absolutely necessary for protection against all possible enemies from within our borders. All loyal people within that classification should cooperate in the execution of such plans, and thus manifest their absolute loyalty regardless of incidental hardships or inconveniences.

"The fact that our immediate conflict of arms is with Japan; the fact that the largest proportion of the Japanese population in the United States resides in California, and the difficulty which Japanese themselves recognize of determining, among Japanese aliens and citizens, where loyalties and disloyalties to this country exist, present a special defense problem in planning for the proper disposition of alien Japanese and their relatives who are American citizens.

"Immediately after the treacherous Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, which many Japanese citizens loudly condemned, I made the following announcement to all loyal American citizens of Japanese ancestry:

"The war against Japan places you in a most difficult situation. On the one hand you can so easily, and through no fault of your own, be made the objects of unfair discrimination or even of bodily harm by other over-zealous citizens who, because of their hatred of the Japanese government and their distrust of Japanese in this situation, feel compelled to vent that hatred and distrust upon any Japanese racials with whom they come in contact.

"On the other hand, as loyal Americans, you are anxious to give every support to our government in the war against Japan. And very naturally and very properly, you want your loyalty and your services to be recognized and accepted for their true values.

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"As I view it, you are in position to render extraordinary and unique services which could not possibly be rendered by those of other races. You can render unique services to our military and naval intelligence departments, as well as the Federal Bureau of Investigation. You can help public officials in dealing with non-citizen Japanese racials. And you can help solve the general problem of production by working hard at your usual daily tasks.

"As for those of the Japanese race who are or may be disloyal to our country, and who may engage in sabotage or fifth column activities, I am reminding the citizens of California that although their help is wanted in apprehending such persons, their arrest, restraint and punishment are the business of the FBI and military, naval and civil authorities, and not the business of lay citizens." End quote.

"And I called upon all citizens of California to exercise the virtues of fairness, restraint and forbearance in their contacts and dealings with the Japanese. But it is known that there are Japanese residents of California who have sought to aid our Japanese enemy by way of communicating information, or who have shown indications of preparation for fifth column activities. How far-reaching that may be, it is not known, and it is possible, in the very nature of things, to determine. Therefore, it becomes absolutely necessary that comprehensive and effective measures be taken for security against possible sabotage and other fifth column activities by the Japanese in California. I am sure that all loyal Japanese will understand this and will be willing to manifest and prove their loyalty by cooperating in the perfection and execution of plans that will assure this protection to our State and nation, as well as for their own safety from unfair and abusive treatment which might be difficult to restrain if such measures of protection were not adopted. I have received assurances from many leading Japanese residents of their desire to thus manifest their loyalty.

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"On Monday of this week, in the Governor's Office at Sacramento, I met with General DeWitt of the Western Army Command; Thomas B. Clark, representing the Attorney General of the United States and the FBI; J.M. Thompson, representing the Department of Agriculture of the United States; W.J. Cecil, Director of the Department of Agriculture of California; and Adjutant General J.O. Donovan of the California State Guard, for the purpose of discussing particularly this problem of the Japanese population and developing plans for protection against any menace to defense and civilian safety from the large population of Japanese within our borders. I want all loyal Japanese citizens to know that this problem and the development of plans for its solution were approached by all of us with the considerations for their loyalty, in-

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licated in my announcements above-mentioned, and that they will be called upon to manifest their loyalties in a real and most convincing manner by cooperating and aiding in carrying out such plans as may be adopted, and by making real sacrifices to that end. Many of the Japanese race are serving in the United States Army and may even now be on the front line of combat against the Japanese government forces. Surely those loyal Japanese citizens who are not in the combat forces should be willing to adjust their lives to meet any requirements considered necessary for their own protection, for civilian protection generally, for national defense, and for the winning of the war.

"It so happens that about three-fourths of the distributors of agricultural foodstuffs in California, heretofore licensed by the Department of Agriculture of this State, are Japanese, and a large part, if not most of them, are alien Japanese. Such licensees have had access to military and naval base areas and vital defense production plants. It has been deemed necessary to revoke such licenses and deny the issuance of new licenses to any such alien enemies, and to investigate and use discretion in issuing licenses to any of the Japanese produce distributors. It so happens, also, that agricultural production, and particularly of foodstuffs so important to maintain and to increase as a part of the program of production of food for victory of the Department of Agriculture, is very efficiently carried on and performed by Japanese. To lose the benefit of this Japanese labor in agricultural production would be a serious loss to our war economy. That fact is taken into consideration in plans for regulating the activities of the Japanese. The fact that most of such agricultural production is within what is defined as the combat zone of California; that is to say, a strip extending inland for a hundred miles from the seashore, makes this phase of the problem most difficult. The Army high command has determined, as a necessary measure of safety, that all alien enemies must be removed from the greater part, if not all, of this combat zone, and the Attorney General of the United States is now designating specific areas within the combat zone from which removals are now taking place. But obviously this is not considered sufficient protection, either by the high command of the Army or by me and other State government officials, or by the Department of Justice of the United States. And California citizens generally are naturally aroused and alarmed as to the possibility of sabotage and organized fifth column Japanese activities in any area where large numbers of Japanese reside. Hundreds of letters have been received by me from citizens, manifesting this alarm, but without hysteria; showing only constructive concern that proper steps shall be taken to prevent trouble and injury from and to this racial group. Therefore the necessity of comprehensive plans with reference to the Japanese population for the duration of the war.

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"At our conference on Monday, general plans were agreed upon for the movement and placement of the entire adult Japanese population in California at productive and useful employment, within the borders of our State, and under such surveillance and protection for themselves and the State and nation as shall be deemed necessary. A survey and census, started over a month ago by our State Department of Agriculture, will soon be completed, which will show the precise status, (as to citizenship, relationship, location, occupation, and other pertinent information) of every adult Japanese occupant of farm lands. This information, together with the registrations required by the Federal Government, will enable us to know our Japanese population and where they are; what they are doing, and how their services can be utilized to help win the war. A survey is also being made by our State Department of Agriculture of the localities in which agricultural production can be carried on with Japanese labor without encroachment upon the restricted areas within the combat zone. All of this information will be speedily prepared for a further conference, soon to be held, by the same representatives of the Army, the Department of Justice, the United States Department of Agriculture, our State Director of Agriculture, the Adjutant-General and myself, to definitely determine upon specific plans for comprehensively locating and regulating the activities of our adult Japanese population for the duration of the war. Such plans, we believe, are the most feasible for meeting this problem, both from the standpoint of State and national defense and from the standpoint of fairness to the Japanese people themselves. We believe that such plans as finally worked out and put into effect will prevent the necessity of considering the drastic alternative of responding to the demand, which is quite general in the State as well as throughout the nation, that the entire adult Japanese population be removed and concentrated in the interior of the United States.

"It is obvious, therefore, that all loyal Japanese citizens must, when called upon, show their loyalty in cooperating in the execution of such plans when they are finally determined upon and put into operation.

"I expect in another broadcast, at an early date, to be able to be more specific in reporting the progress of this undertaking.

"I thank you and bid you good night."

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The following telegram arrived today from H. T. Komai at Fort Missoula, Montana:

WESTERN UNION

1942 FEB 4 PM 9 58

KHA549 29 NT-FORTMISSOULA MONT 4

TOGO TANAKA-

104 NORTH LOSANGELES ST LOSA-

INTERNEES TELEGRAM. MAIL ME IMMEDIATELY AIR
MAIL SPECIAL 2 COPIES PAMPHLET AMERICANISM
PUBLISHED CENTRAL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
NOT WRITE ANYTHING IN LETTER MARKED IMPORTANT
DOCUMENT AT HEARING ON ENVELOPE-

H T KOMAI

2.

The following news release was received from the Department of Justice in Washington today too. The Japanese section refuses to get excited about these things now. The dispatch follows:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, February 4, 1942

"DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE"

"Attorney General Francis Biddle announced today that the entire coastline of California from the Oregon border south to a point approximately 50 miles north of Los Angeles, and extending inland for distances varying from 30 to 150 miles, has been declared a "restricted area" for all alien enemies.

"In addition, eleven other areas immediately surrounding certain hydro-electric generating plants throughout the State have also been placed in this category. Other restricted areas will be announced later as they are recommended by the War Department. The Attorney General has as yet received no recommendation from the War Department with respect to restricted areas for Southern California.

"The new regulation becomes effective on February 24, 1942. It provides as follows for all Japanese, German and Italian aliens living in the restricted areas:

1. Between the hours of 9 P.M. and 6 A.M. all alien enemies shall be within the place of residence indicated on their Certificates of Identification.

2. At all other times during the day they must be found only at the place of residence or employment indicated in their Certificates of Identification, or going between those two places, or within a distance or not more than 5 miles from the place of residence.

3. Any alien enemy who is found during the hours of curfew at any place other than his place of residence or who is found during any other hour except at a place expressly specified as above, is subject to immediate apprehension and internment.

4. The United States Attorneys will be authorized to grant exceptions to these exceptions only in cases where a compelling reason exists and after completion of a suitable investigation. While such an application is pending an alien enemy must comply with all of the restrictions. When exception is made to the restrictions, United States Attorneys will endorse the exception in the Certificate of Identification so that the right of any alien enemy to be found in a restricted area may be immediately checked by examining his Certificate, which he must have with him at all times.

"The coastline region has been designated as

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Restricted Area No.1. Its eastern boundary forms a line beginning at a point in Siskiyou County where U.S. Highway No. 99 crosses into Oregon, follows west and south generally along the lines of Klamath and Trinity Rivers and on to approximately the town of Redwood Valley, in Mendocino County. At this point the boundary swings eastward just north of Clear Lake to Marysville, and then turns south to pass Sacramento and Stockton on the east and on to a point just south of Maricopa. The southern boundary of the area follows the line demarcating the Northern and Southern California Military Sectors, which runs eastward from a point on the coast near the boundary between San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties.

"It is pointed out that regulations concerning "restricted" areas differ from those for "prohibited" areas, 86 of which have previously been designated by the Attorney General. Alien enemies are completely barred from prohibited areas. They may remain in the restricted areas but must observe the curfew and such other special regulations as may be announced. The fact that a prohibited area falls within the boundaries of a restricted area does not alter the rule that alien enemies are barred from prohibited areas.

"However, particular alien enemies may be excluded entirely from these restricted areas whenever the Department of Justice deems such action necessary. Local police or other persons having information concerning particular alien enemies, indicating their presence within a restricted area might endanger the national security, should turn this information over to the FBI. Prompt investigation will be made of every such complaint and the necessary action taken by the Attorney General.

"The official descriptions of the restricted areas as furnished by the War Department are as follows:

Restricted Area No. 1 The area comprised within the boundaries of the Oregon-California State Line on the north, the Pacific Ocean on the west, the boundary between the Northern California Sector and the Southern California Sector on the south and on the east by a line running north and south beginning at a point where the easterly boundary line of the right-of-way of U.S. Highway No.99 crosses the Oregon-California State Line in Siskiyou County northeast of Hilt and ending at a point on Route No. 99 above Wheeler Ridge, Kern County. There is excluded from this area, Prohibited Areas Nos. 1 to 32, inclusive, which have been designated as Prohibited Areas. The north and south line representing the eastern boundary follows an irregular course and is described as follows: Commencing at the Oregon-California State Line and following the easterly boundary line of the right-of-way of U.S. Highway No.99 in a southerly direction to the point where the said easterly boundary line intersects the southerly boundary line of the right-

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of-way of the California State Highway No. 96, projected. The line then runs in a westerly and southerly direction along the easterly boundary line of California State Highway No. 96 to the point where that Highway intersects the northerly boundary of the right-of-way of U.S. Highway No. 299; it then follows in a southeasterly direction along U.S. Highway No. 299 to the point where the northerly boundary line of the right-of-way of U.S. Highway 299 intersects the eastern boundary line of Humboldt County to the north boundary line of Mendocino County, California, then west along the north boundary of Mendocino County to the easterly boundary line of the right-of-way of U.S. Highway No. 101. The line follows then in a southerly direction along the eastern boundary of U.S. Highway No. 101 to the point where it intersects the northerly boundary line of California Highway No. 20 and then in a easterly direction along the California Highway No. 20 northerly boundary line to the point where it intersects the easterly boundary line of the right-of-way of U.S. Highway No. 99 East at or near Marysville, California. The line then follows in a southerly direction along easterly boundary line of the right-of-way of U.S. Highway No. 99 East to the point where it intersects the easterly boundary line of the right-of-way of U.S. Highway No. 99 in or near the city of Sacramento, California, and then in a southerly direction along the easterly boundary line of the right-of-way of U.S. Highway No. 99 to the point where it intersects the southerly boundary line of California State Highway No. 120 in or near the town of Mantega, California. It follows then in a westerly direction along the southerly boundary line of the right-of-way of California State Highway No. 120 to the point where the same intersects the southerly boundary line of the right-of-way of U.S. Highway No. 50. It follows then in a westerly direction along the southerly boundary line of the right-of-way of U.S. Highway No. 50 to the point where the same intersects the easterly boundary line of the right-of-way of California State Highway No. 33, near Tracy, California. It follows then in a southerly direction along the easterly boundary line of the right-of-way of California State Highway No. 33, near Tracy, California. It follows then in a southerly direction along the easterly boundary line of the right-of-way of California State Highway No. 33 to the point where it, if projected, intersects the southerly boundary line of the right-of-way of California State Highway No. 152, in or near the town of Los Banos, California. It follows then in a westerly direction along the southerly boundary line of the right-of-way of California State Highway No. 152 to the point where the same intersects the easterly boundary line of the right-of-way of California State Highway No. 156. It follows then in a southerly direction along the easterly boundary line of the right-of-way of California State Highway No. 156 to the point where the same intersects the easterly boundary line of the right-of-way of California State Highway No. 25 in or near the town of Hollister, California. It follows then in a southerly direction along the easterly boundary line of the right-of-

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way of California State Highway No. 25 to the point where it intersects the northerly boundary line of the right-of way of California State Highway No. 198 at or near the town of Priest Valley, California. It follows then in an easterly direction along the northerly boundary line of ~~the~~ right-of-way of California State Highway No. 198 to the point where it intersects the easterly boundary line of the right-of-way of California State Highway No. 33, projected in or near the town of Coalinga, California. It follows then in a southerly direction along the easterly boundary line of the right-of-way of California State Highway No. 33 to the point where it intersects the northerly boundary line of the right-of-way of California State Highway No. 166 in or near the town of Maricopa, California. It follows then in an easterly direction along the northerly boundary line of the right-of-way of California State Highway No. 166 to the point where it, projected, intersects the easterly boundary line of the right-of-way of U.S. Highway No. 99. It follows then in a southerly direction along the easterly boundary line of the right-of-way of U.S. Highway No. 99 to the point where the same intersects the boundary between ~~the~~ the Northern California Sector and the Southern California Sector of the Western Defense Command. The boundary between the Northern California Sector and the Southern California Sector of the Western Defense Command commences at a point on the coast line slightly below Point Sal and follows in an east, northeast direction through Schuman, just below Lake Miew, just above Gates, just below Pattiway and ends at a point on U.S. Highway No. 99 slightly below California State Highway 166. The southern boundary of Restricted Area No. 1 commences at a point below 35 degrees latitude and extends west, northwest so as to cross the line of 35 degrees latitude and ends at a point above 35 degrees latitude.

Restricted Area No. 2 Shasta County. The area within a distance of 500 ft. in any direction from the Hat Creek No.1 Hydro Electric Generating Plant of the Pacific Gas and Electric Company. Postoffice address, Cassel, California.

Restricted Area No. 3 Shasta County. The area within a distance of 500 ft. in any direction from the Hat Creek No. 2 Hydro Electric Generating Plant of the Pacific Gas and Electric Company. P.O. Address, Cassel, California.

Restricted Area No. 4 Shasta County. The area within a distance of 500 ft. in any direction from the Coleman Hydro Electric Generating Plant of the Pacific Gas and Electric Company. P.O. Address, Cottonwood, California.

Restricted Area No. 5 Butte County. The area within a distance of 500 ft. in any direction from the De Salba Hydro Electric Generating Plant of the Pacific Gas and Electric Company. P.O. Address, De Salba, California.

Restricted Area No. 6 Yuba County. The area within a distance of 500 ft. in any direction from the Colgate Hydro Electric Generating Plant of the Pacific Gas and Electric Company. P.O. Address, Dobbins, California.

Restricted Area No. 7 Nevada and Placer Counties. The area within a distance of 300 ft. in any direction from the Spaulding No. 1 Hydro Electric Generating Plant of the Pacific Gas and Electric Company. P.O. Address, Emigrant Gap, California.

Restricted Area No. 8 Nevada and Placer Counties. The area within a distance of 300 ft. in any direction from the Spaulding No. 2 Hydro Electric Generating Plant of the Pacific Gas and Electric Company. P.O. Address, Emigrant Gap, California.

Restricted Area No. 9 Nevada and Placer Counties. The area within a distance of 300 ft. in any direction from the Spaulding No. 3 Hydro Electric Generating Plant of the Pacific Gas and Electric Company. P.O. Address, Emigrant Gap, California.

Restricted Area No. 10 Placer County. The area within a distance of 500 ft. in any direction from the Halsey Hydro Electric Generating Plant of the Pacific Gas and Electric Company. P.O. Address, Auburn, California.

Restricted Area No. 11 Placer County. The area within a distance of 500 ft. in any direction from the Wise Hydro Electric Generating Plant of the Pacific Gas and Electric Company. P.O. Address, Auburn, California.

Restricted Area No. 12 Mono County. The area within a distance of 500 ft. in any direction from the Big Creek Hydro Electric Generating Plant of the California Electric Pacific Company located 7 miles north of Bishop, California.

February 6, 1942 -- At the written invitation of Governor Culbert Olson, three of us representing the Los Angeles Japanese Daily News (The Rafu Shimpo) attended the meeting of "resident Japanese leaders" in the office of Olson at the State Capitol in Sacramento. Akira Komai, acting publisher, Joe Inouye, managing editor, and myself made the trip; we arrived at the Capitol at 11:30 a.m. today to find the following others also summoned by the Governor: Saburo Kido, President of the National J.A.C.L.; Mike Masaoka, National Secretary and Field Executive of the J.A.C.L.; Ken Matsumoto, Vice President of the National J.A.C.L.; Shuji Fujii, editor of "Doho"; Dr. Kohi Kumamoto, Sacramento; Dr. George Takahashi, 1308 Fourth Street, Sacramento; Henry Taketa, 1205 Fourth street, Sacramento; Walter Tsukamoto, past President of the National J.A.C.L.; Dr. George Iki; Kikuye Takata and Yoshiye Takata, 143 Main Street, Watsonville; James Sugioka, Hollister; Toku Kawashima, Woodland; Frank Sakata; Taira Fujimoto, farmer of Watsonville; Dr. George G. Muramoto, 1210 Fourth street, Sacramento. There may have been one or two others whom I missed.

No one seemed to know exactly what the nature of the meeting called by the Governor was. It turned out that those who attended merely provided an audience for the Governor to make a speech; this was no conference as was intimated in the letter of invitation. A stenographer from the Governor's office took verbatim records of the entire meeting. I took the following notes:

OLSON: "I am glad to see you ladies and gentlemen present here at my request. We have an important matter to consider here, a vital matter... It is difficult to determine who of the adult population among the Japanese might have sympathies for Japan or might have mental reservations and dual allegiances. That situation makes it embarrassing for loyal American Japanese and it might have more tragedy if there is indiscriminate treatment of all persons. I have made it clear that we approach the solution of problems with a sense of justice and fair play. We want no mistakes. This situation presents the opportunity for every loyal Japanese in California to demonstrate his loyalty. That they are ready to make any sacrifices necessary, not only for the defense but for the successful prosecution of the war, and for the defeat of the government of Japan. There isn't any middle ground for Japanese Americans in this war. There can be no equivocation. They must subject themselves to inconveniences; they must be a part of these activities. Those of you who do feel that way, we want your aid as leaders. I have recently been in conference with representatives of the Attorney General of the United States, with General De Witt, representatives of the Department of Interior, office of the Adjutant General, and the Director of the State Department of Agriculture. We have started working out plans, not only with reference to those who are classi-

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as alien enemies, but with reference also to all adult Japanese in this state. We know there are Japanese in California who have prepared to engage in sabotage and fifth column activities. We know there are Japanese in California who have not turned in their short wave sets and are communicating with Japan. It is mighty difficult to know how far and how extensive this is. There will be and continue to be, as our conflict goes on, and a long war goes on, a spirit of suspicion of the Japanese, because you are Japanese; without the leadership of the Japanese manifesting a loyalty that means making sacrifices. Now that is what I am expecting of you all, you California citizens. You've got to go all the way. If you can't go that far, you ought to be concentrated. Now I want you to prepare yourselves for a movement to places where these people can be employed in producing goods and in activities outside the combat areas. Be ready to move and do that when requested. I do not believe it possible for any Japanese, whether citizen or not, to remain in any areas near army, navy and military base installations, even though you and I might be sure there wouldn't be one Japanese in that area who would be disloyal, there would still be suspicion in the minds of people in the area. Demands are now being made by persons and organizations, not only in the state, but throughout the nation. **BE READY TO MOVE AT ANY TIME.** If it is not wholeheartedly complied with, there will be suspicion, doubts will increase. We in California have always found the Japanese are law-abiding for the most part. The proportion of those who are not is small. They are industrious; the children are exceptional in our public schools. As a service to America, there will be inconveniences, yes! Sacrifices? yes! The extent to which that readiness is shown hastens the time when the war will be done. Now I would like to hear from you present here your attitudes and have you express your willingness to cooperate with your government in this very grave crisis."

Ken Matsumoto: "I think you should know that we here today are loyal American citizens; most of us are members of the Japanese American Citizens League, of which I am national Vice President. I do not think you should treat us who are loyal citizens any different from other Americans. There are subversive influences among the Japanese, and we must get at them, but not at us."

OLSON: "I am not satisfied with your reluctance at all."

Saburo Kido: "Without knowing the exact details of the program, I would like to say, if we are going to be singled out simply because we are of Japanese extraction, then I don't feel we would be able to face

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our children and say we stood by our citizenship rights. If it weren't respecting the rights of Japanese Americans, I don't see how we as an organization of the Japanese American Citizens League could wholeheartedly agree to such an abridgment of our basic rights as American citizens. We who were born in America, who were educated here and who are birthright American citizens recognize we owe our first loyalty to our country the United States of America."

OLSON: "We are respecting rights of Japanese Americans. If we weren't respecting the rights of Japanese American citizens, there wouldn't be this conference. I should like to point out for you, there isn't any such thing as first loyalty, it's absolute loyalty, or not at all. And remember this too, no Japanese alien enemy will ever suffer over here; they'll all be treated as human beings regardless of how they treat our people in Japan."

Walter Tsukamoto: "I am an American citizen of Japanese ancestry. I am a reserve officer in the United States Army. For the past 13 years I have been a practicing attorney here in Sacramento, and I have been moderately successful; I have been enabled to own my home, to support my wife and five children. I want your excellency to know that, as a typical American of Japanese descent, I not only am grateful for what my country has permitted me as a citizen to do, but also, as a loyal citizen, I am ready to do my share in aiding my country in this hour of crisis. I am prepared as a soldier to do whatever my commander in chief orders. But I am also as deeply concerned to see that whatever is to be done will be done in the American tradition with the fine sense of justice which is our historic ideal. I feel that you will agree with me the importance of our recognizing the intrinsic value of citizenship, and in the treatment of the American Japanese in this emergency will be a test of that value."

OLSON: "I see that you realize the vital importance of this matter, and that's the spirit of cooperation which we want."

Mike Masaoka: "As National Secretary and Field Executive for the National Japanese American Citizens League, I think I owe it to you to let you know that we represent some 20,000 members along the entire west coast. To be a member of our organization requires an oath of allegiance to the United States of America. Our activities may be summarized in the ending phrase of the Japanese American Creed; our objective is to become 'Better Americans in a Greater America.' Now in these plans which you mention, I think always there should be made a distinction between American citizens and enemy aliens. And any movement out of the combat zones must be voluntarily supported. As citizens, these people have Constitutional rights. We should seek their active cooperation in this matter."

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Olson went right down across the room, calling each of his listeners to stand and speak his piece if he had any. After Masaoka spoke, the rest were re-phrased repetitions of the first four. Assent with Olson's "request" for "cooperation" was pretty general. Shuji Fujii made a speech about the need of loyal Japanese doing effective counter-propaganda work against Japan and said his newspaper facilities were ready for that. He deplored the pro-fascist elements among the alien Japanese and told the Governor that there were anti-militarist elements among the resident Japanese fighting militarism and fascism long before the war broke out.

Following the meeting which took place in the Governor's office in the Capitol, the J.A.C.L. leadership in the group met at a chop suey cafe in the "Japanese section" of Sacramento (Fourth Street). Akira, Joe, and I arrived a little late, but the atmosphere upon which we descended was one of gloom and bitter disappointment. There was an unmistakeable feeling that the Governor of the great state of California had let them down; the man who had said there would be 'fair treatment' of citizens as well as aliens was now telling them that they had better get out. Dr. George Takahashi, prominent in Sacramento J.A.C.L. activities, an optometrist, said: (in calling to Frank Sakata, a farmer), "How much do you think you can get for your farm equipment, Frank? You'd better start unloading the stuff now." And Tsukamoto said across the table: "You'd better quit worrying about Frank and start packing your optometry equipment." Conversation across the table indicated, however, that the J.A.C.L.-ers, with their inside track contacts with other authorities, did not take Olson too seriously. "After all, he's just a state official." Beneath it all, however, there was increasing and obvious concern, and a fear that maybe Olson is right everyone "every Japanese adult" would have to move from some area. Tsukamoto, whose home is in Sacramento, along with other Sacramento residents present, were unanimous, however, in the belief that they would survive the evacuation order as outlined by Olson, which was a rather vague outline anyway.

As we headed for home on the train tonight, buying the day's newspapers, we read Associated Press and United Press dispatches, with headlines: "Olson Pledges Jap Leaders to Support Plans".

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My, such sympathy:

"714 So. Parton St.
Santa Ana, Calif.
Feb. 1st, 1942

"Los Angeles Japanese
Daily News

"Editor, Togo Tanaka

"Dear Sir:

"Believing as I do in the loyalty of the american born Japanese, and feeling as I do that to deprive them of their business and residence rights is not in accord with the constitution of the united states or the bill of rights, I am making an offer to do what little I can, and am asking your help for myself and for who else I may assist.

"I want to give honorable marriage to a Japanese girl or lady, one who wants by marriage to protect herself from molestation or internment through the war period, and should she be in business, by this be able to continue her business, or should she have a little money be able to enter business,

"I would like to meet a nice looking small girl or lady who would consider this, I am a white american, a painter and a mechanic, 50 healthy and active, make good money when I work.

"I know these are trying times for all, but some one may be interested.

"Thanking you I am,

Very resp. yours,
(signed)
Geo Henry"

February 7, 1942: Trouble of some nature apparently brewing down in Imperial Valley. Long distance telephone call from Yutaka Nakashima of the El Centro Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League. Valley gossip, especially among some Issei and Kibei circles, according to Nakashima, is stigmatizing J.A.C.L. leaders with label "inu". Arrest of some Valley issei by the F.B.I. being blamed on J.A.C.L. Concern is being expressed that the Japanese sections of the newspapers (Rafu Shimpo, Kashu Mainichi or Sangyo Nippo) might repeat the rumors in some form or another. Nakashima informs us that the J.A.C.L. is issuing a notarized statement as follows:

"El Centro Chapter

Japanese American Citizens League
432 Broadway
El Centro, California
February 7, 1942

"Rafu Shimpo
104 N. Los Angeles Street
Los Angeles, California

Attention: Editor

"Gentlemen:

"Recently there appeared in the Japanese section of one of the newspapers, an article concerning the activities of the El Centro Chapter of the Japanese-American Citizens League; an article that was not based on facts, but evidently upon an entirely personal opinion of some individual.

"These are very critical times, when every little item, however insignificant it may appear, may cause grave misunderstandings and serious damages or injustices to the Chapter or the individuals concerned. In order to prevent any such misunderstandings or misrepresentations of facts, we ask for your closest cooperation, and shall appreciate your strict adherence to the following instructions as regards news concerning the activities or policies of the El Centro Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League:

- "1. Please do not publish, either in the English or Japanese section, any news unless its source is official- that is, through the Publicity Chairman, Mrs. Yaeko Nakashima.
- "2. Please instruct your correspondents to contact Publicity Chairman Mrs. Yaeko Nakashima, 432 Broadway, El Centro; for any news concerning the El Centro Chapter activities.

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"3. Please request the authorization and signature of the Publicity Chairman, Mrs. Yaeko Nakashima, on all news items forwarded to you.

"We thank you for your immediate attention and cooperation on this matter.

Yours very truly,

Harvey Tanaka, President
(signed)

Mrs. Yaeko Nakashima (signed)
Mrs. Yaeko Nakashima
Publicity Chairman"

Subscribed and sworn to before me this
7 t h day of F e b....., 1942
Yutaka Nakashima, Notary Public in and
for the County of Imperial, State of Calif.

February 19, 1942 -- Under auspices of The Rafu Shimpō English Section, we called a meeting tonight at the Maryknoll Catholic Mission auditorium, 222 South Hewitt Street. For want of a better name, we called it a meeting of the "United Citizens Federation". It was planned at a meeting of the "Anti-Axis Committee", held at the Japanese Y.M.C.A. office, at which I shook hands and "made up" with Tokio Slocum. As expected, Slocum credited himself for calling the meeting. The turnout of people exceeded all our expectations. Some estimates said 1500 people; the auditorium seats about 800. Loudspeaker systems were set up, carrying the speakers' messages outdoors. We had verbatim transcripts of the entire program made. I think there must have been F.B.I. and possibly Naval Intelligence men in the audience. I was supposed to function as chairman. My opening remarks, recorded by the secretary who transcribed notes on the meeting:

"This is an open public meeting. There are no secrets that cannot be carried out beyond these four walls and we thank God that we can still meet thus as Americans seeking to work out their problems in the American way. This is not a meeting of the Japanese American citizens League; this is not a meeting of any church; this is not a meeting of any one of the twelve clubs that are represented here; but it is a joint meeting of all of them, and if there has been an omission of any single organization in the County of Los Angeles, we hope that it will be good enough to invite itself in.

"Our primary objective here tonight is to get together and see if it is now possible, out of the numerous organizations which are represented here tonight to coordinate into a body. We all recognize the need of having some organization that can speak for us with weight and with authority. I would like to stress at this time that if there has been any omission of a club which ought to be represented here tonight, please bring it to our attention.

"This is inasense a town meeting of Americans of Japanese ancestry. This town meeting was not called for any newspaper publicity, and we hope that the newspaper men who are present will not distort the purpose of this meeting by announcing in the headlines tomorrow that a 'Jap meeting' was held in Los Angeles last night. This is not a Jap meeting. This is an American meeting called by persons who fully realize that we have a stand to make and who come here tonight to formulate a program by which anyone in our community can get together.

"Sounding off the keynote so that we will know more fully what has been done on our part individually and collectively to participate in the effort in which the entire nation is engaging, will be a man who has been

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active as the Chairman of the Anti-Axis Committee of the Los Angeles Japanese American Citizens League, the Chairman of the Naturalization and Americanization Committee of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of California, a man who is also active in the Van Nuys Post of the American Legion, Mr. Tokutaro Slocum."

"What We are Doing to Smash the Axis--
Tokutaro N. Slocum ✓

"I do not think I need to use a microphone to tell you how we gathered here tonight because it is momentous. I asked Togo Tanaka to call this meeting, and I am mighty thankful that you all are here. There are more assembled than we had expected, and your very presence shows that you take this situation seriously and sincerely want to bring about effective solution.

"Let me tell you something, Folks. We are facing a problem here today like we Americans of Japanese ancestry have never faced before. I tell you that your presence here proves it. We have in our midst one of the greatest friends and an American gentleman and officer that you may never have known before but you know now, Lieutenant Commander Ringle of the United States Naval Intelligence. He has been more than what Commodore Perry has been to us. He has been more than that great American President and Statesman has been to us in the past. He has been tolerant, and he has been understanding. Above all he is an officer and a gentleman of the United States Naval Intelligence here. Due to his inspiration and his encouragement this sort of meeting is possible here in California, where they want to kick all the Japs out because we are yellow, our hair black, our eyes slanted; but let me tell you, Federal authorities have been more than tolerant, more than fair, more than just. That is why I ask you Americans of Japanese ancestry to be honest, fair, and decent to our land, the United States of America. ✓

"What have we done, folks, to deserve the right to be called Americans here in America. It is true that every minority racial group, as well as every intolerant group in California, has been trying to kick us out. It is so, but we, have we Americans of Japanese ancestry earned some rights to be called Americans? Yes, we have. The kind of work we have been doing as Americans of Japanese ancestry is the kind of work we cannot publicize. We have been cooperating with security agencies of the United States. We are not spies! We are not stoolpigeons! No, we are just Americans who dare to be fair to the land that protects us and gives us our livelihood. It is true that Japanese and Americans both may have called us various vicious names. It has been alleged that in Japanese circles those who dare

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to be fair and honest to America are selling Japanese names for \$25.00--and when they land in Missoula, Montana, we get \$50.00. What is that? We have been selling nobody. We have been just and fair and honest as Americans to America. And I know that we hope to die as such. That is what we have been doing. That is the kind of thing most newspapers have failed to publicize. You know that as well as I do. What is this? This is a war we are fighting, a war we are fighting--morally and spiritually. That is the kind of work we of the Anti-Axis Committee are doing and what we intend to fight for until the end. That is the way we have served and the way we have earned our place to be considered as Americans. It is not only today that we have fought. We have been fighting ever since the World War. That is why we have just rights to demand that we be considered as Americans now and forever. We are fighting a war to see whether we can be considered as Americans, today, tomorrow; your sons and my sons shall be considered as Americans, now and forever.

"This is our Constitutional Conviction. It was such a that I, as Chairman of the Anti-Axis Committee, called this meeting. Your very presence is a compliment to me and to Mr. Togo Tanaka and to America because it shows that you are able and that you are fighting with me to the end-- and God bless you."

"What We Face as Citizens in the Present Crisis

Fred Tayama

Chairman of the Southern District JACL

"Mr. Chairman, distinguished guests, and friends, things look bad for us tonight. Many of our Issei fathers have been interned. I believe there are very few people here tonight who can say none of my relatives or friends have been taken in. Many Japanese families have lost everything they worked for during their lifetime. So far the authorities have arrested only Issei and mostly men. But now we are beginning to feel the pinch. The net seems to be getting closer to us. We don't seem to know just where we stand. Most Nisei are saying we want to do something for our country. All Nisei city employees were told either to sign for leave of absence or be discharged. These facts make us feel, 'What's the use?'

"But let us not look only at the bad side of the ledger. Some say there is no good side. I believe and I know that there is a good side tonit. It is indeed unfortunate that those who make the loudest ~~new~~ noise receive the most publicity. This year happens to be an election year, and many ambitious men are looking for front page news. I sincerely feel sorry for those poli-

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ticians who cannot help themselves. We have many loyal American friends - more than we realize - friends who are jeopardizing their own position to see that we get a square deal. These people hold responsible positions on our community and in the affairs of the Nation. I am sure you will agree with me that our greatest friend is a man who is probably the greatest living man, Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

"Many of you would like to know what you as individuals can do to help us. There is entirely too much bickering among local Nisei clubs. We want to do something but no one seems to know what we can do. What you can do is that every time you see a good article about the Nisei in the paper, you can write to the paper or to the author himself thanking him for expressing his good opinion. Better still, each and every one of us can write to the United States Attorney, our Congressmen, to the President, or any other person who is making a stand on our behalf. It is our wish to obtain the exact status of the Japanese families, particularly those who must have help. There are very, very many Japanese families in need and yet they do not go to the proper agencies for help.

"We are all worried because we may have to move away. Some of us are getting bitter, but let us not forget our boys who are fighting in the front lines. We will go home tonight feeling perfectly safe. While we are working or resting our boys are shedding their blood so that we at home may live safely. I have been accused of being ready to move inland without a protest. I want you to know that I value my American citizenship and I want my citizenship rights respected. I will be the last man for that privilege and right. But we have greater things to do other than spout. Let us have more faith in our country, faith in our Government, and faith in our men who are fighting for us. Let us be united in our thoughts and let us have more faith among ourselves. Thank you."

"What We Face as Citizens in the Present Crisis--

Larry Tajiri
Newspaperman

"We need action and we need it now. Your Chairman has asked me to speak on my views of what is taking place in Washington.

"I think the Federal authorities have been fair and just in handling the whole problem. I think the authorities on the West Coast are doing everything possible to see that our rights as Americans will be respected. As a minority group in America, we can thank God that we have an administration in Washington which believes in the same freedom for all people.

"We who stay at home are good Americans. Probably every one of us has a brother or a relative in the

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armed forces. As Americans who are vitally interested in the war effort, we have an important role to play, and we have a right to question the demands of the local politicians and newspapers and some misguided men and women.

"We have a tremendous job here. It is a job that is to be started now, tonight. United America will win the war and United Nisei can play a vital part in that victory. Thank you."

"What We Face as Citizens in the Present Crisis--

Joseph Shinoda

Business Man

"Ladies and gentlemen, tonight this meeting was called to consider our position. What do we face as American citizens? We face a situation that today we here, tomorrow or within a short time will be evacuated. The argument is, but consider the boys in the Philippine Islands who are giving their lives. The least you can do is evacuate.

"But in that light the question is difficult to answer and it is not fair. We have done all that we could do as Slocum has said before me. He has given you just a slight hint of what has been done. Many of you who have fathers, uncles, maybe brothers, and relatives in Fort Missoula may feel that some of the Nisei have turned informers. They are not informers. If there has been that sort of thing done, it is our patriotic duty to report any subversive activities which may be going on.

"We have done a lot of things. We have subscribed to the Red Cross to the limit of our ability when tomorrow we are faced with evacuation. We have subscribed to war bonds and stamps. We have done everything we could, not only on the surface, not only those acts which are considered patriotic today but I know from truth that many of you, citizens and aliens alike, are intensely loyal; and yet there is no consideration of that. We have gone along now under the presumption that if we were loyal citizens, if we acted the part of loyal citizens, America would be fair, being the best country in the world in which to live. We assume that America would be ready to recognize that effort and make us a place the privilege of working or striving in this defense effort, but apparently this policy of being patriotic, of good citizenship, and hoping for recognition has not worked. I have looked personally for more positive action. I think we as individuals must, of course, continue with all we have done and we are doing to help the American war effort. But our recognition will not come simply by that. We must go beyond that and do something to prove the fact that we are not subversive.

"I have heard men on the radio who presume that

we are all "Japs" in the ordinary sense of the word. They say once a Jap always a Jap - for 15 generation. We have to call attention to the fact that we are citizens. We have certain rights, and I believe that with this meeting tonight we should get an organization that will do something. We have organizations, but what have they done for us? They have done these things I mentioned but they in so doing have lost sight of the fact that we may not be here much longer to do anything. We have earned our place but recognition is not coming by simply working and doing our part. We must assert ourselves and I say tonight that we should have more cooperation out of this and act with decision and so do something. I don't say that the organizations were not well intentioned because I think they were, but the fact remains that they simply have not gotten any recognition for us as American citizens.

"There are several things that I think we can do. We suffer first and foremost from our public attitude in the County of Los Angeles and the city in particular. In this County the Japanese, both alien and citizen, occupy a very large place in the vegetable industry and in various other industries they are quite active. So we have competitors who look upon this war as an opportune time to take over these Japanese industries. We are faced with people who want to see us all out of business, want to run us out of business, and I think we have a real public relations job to do in this city and county first. We ought to raise some money and make a coordinated effort to get a better press in this city; and it can be done.

"I talked to a man at the Herald Express who has been very kind in listening to our side of the situation who said, 'After all, the newspapers are made and operated for the purpose of having news stories. We want news. That is our business. We got the news from the county, we got news from the city, but what do we get from you?' If he gets no news from us he prints the other side of it and it is only natural that we do get a very unfavorable press. If we had the money we could get a better press and if this county and city accorded us at least a partial press, we would have a much healthier situation today.

"Then there is this matter of franchise. As citizens we have the right to vote, but as Nisei citizens, this matter of franchise is new to us. Under the franchise, voting is not a matter of once a year or once in four years. The only way that the public can react to public will is by what the individual writes and says and I think that we should exercise this right of franchise by work and much more correspondence. Write letters and more letters. The other day when the County Council took a very unfavorable and unfair attitude of the Citizen Japanese in this county, they received five letters. Two from Caucasian Americans in favor of their attitude and three from others. Not one from

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any Japanese, alien or citizen. We have this right of franchise and we should take full advantage of it and not wait but make the way of your opinion felt at every and any opportunity.

"There are many other things we can do. We have out here the Tolan Committee for the investigation of this situation, and I think that if this Tolan Committee gives us a fair hearing and reports back the actual findings, we can at least hope for fair treatment. I think if we can get fair treatment we should raise some money to send to Washington several men - or whatever we have to do, but I say, let's get up and do something!"

Togo Tanaka:

"We do not represent any one organization, we do not have the coordinating council organized as yet and the opinions here expressed are thoughts of the individuals. That is why this meeting has been called - to get a cross section of opinions among friends of the American-Japanese to see what we could do by setting up one recognized club that will represent the existing major organizations in co-operating with the Federal Government to solve these problems.

"As most of us know, this is Brotherhood Week and we have placed on our program this evening three members of the University Religious Conference so that we might get a more brotherly atmosphere in the hall. They will give us a message that will be applied to Brotherhood Week, about which all of the County, State, and City officials have issued proclamations."

"What Catholics, Protestants and Jews Think of the Nisei at This Time --

George Hill, Bill Burke, Stanley Mark
University Religious Conference

George Hill representing the Catholics:

"I believe in the first instance, that the three of us are in complete agreement that we first of all are made to serve God, a God who creates and because He made us we are deeply important. We have rights, we have privileges. More than that, we have made all we are brothers."

Stanley Mark representing the Jews:

"As a Jew, I ask myself, what is your problem? How is your problem affecting me as a Jew? What is my attitude as a Jew? I can state that although I have never met with your

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group before, I can't help but feel the certain keenness of spirit, a certain community of relationship with your people. That is simply because I happen to be a Jew and a member of a group of people which has met problems very similar to the problems which you are facing today. Of course, I have nothing but compassion and sympathy and understanding for the things you are doing. Being a Jew, I believe in the brotherhood of man. I think that covers my attitude in general."

Bill Burke representing the Protestants:

"I would like to speak now as an individual not representing any particular group that there is nothing in the religious convictions that I or any other Protestant want that leads me to feel I should exercise an attitude of intolerance toward any man. As I am a good Protestant looking up to the people and I know my greatest obligation is to love and attempt to show them respect and to show an attitude of helpfulness to all other people. That is the sort of thing I believe in. I think that is terribly important.

"We spoke before many different kinds of cultural religious racial groups and we found a tendency to misunderstand when they are on the outside. We are all Americans. Not one of us, either you or I, has a corner on citizenship. We are all in the same boat. We are all confronted with the same problem and we are seeking an intelligent solution to that problem and we are trying to work together and toward that particular goal."

George Hill:

"Down south the Catholics are few and far between and those who are down there are not particularly liked. To show you the general attitude down there, one day I got to talking with a lady and I asked her, 'Are you a Catholic?' 'Lawdy no,' she said, 'It's bad enough being a colored woman down here.'"

Stanley Mark:

"One thing that I might add which Bob has already stated is that you are not alone. You are not alone from two points of view. There are other people who are oppressed. That is the first point of view. The second is that you are not alone in that you have not been forsaken. There are still plenty of people in the United States who are democratic, who believe in civil liberties, and you may be assured that while these people are still functioning Democracy won't go down!

"The point I always like to make - and after all our country is based on certain principles - is that men are all created equal and that all men should be equal before

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the law. We hold it a sacred principle that there is no such thing as an inferior race. We hold it a sacred principle that there is no such thing as a Japanese race, an Irish race, a Jewish race. There is only one human race, always remember that."

Bill Burke:

"Beyond the limitation of race, of color, of religion, is something brave, something important that binds us together in the American tradition. That is what you and I accept as a common cultural political heritage. We are all together in this land of freedom. We want our activities to be measured in terms of freedom. We cherish that freedom. We believe in it very strongly. We have come to look upon America as the land of freedom in religion and in culture. Those men and women who move out of different countries and move into our country contribute to the American scene, not forgetting to accept something new in the American way of life. That is the thing to believe in. Let us not forget that we are all united in brotherhood in these difficult days through which we are passing."

"Social Assistance to Evacuees--

Winifred Ryder

Social Security Board Representative

"I am certainly very satisfied tonight to see this large group crowded together united as one so that there might be channels through which **any** information that we as representatives of the Social Security Board may want to give may reach the people who are in need of that information.

"One thing I have been most concerned about during recent weeks has been that though we have the facilities to help any of those involved in the recent evacuation, very few have applied for assistance. This was probably due to the fact that there **have** been so very few channels through which we could make known to those people the services that were available to them. Frankly, during the last ten days I have talked to many different groups and found them very helpful. They are getting together in one organization and you know as well as I do that we can all do a better job with unity.

"I would like to outline to you briefly what service is available and where that service can be reached. On February 9, the Social Assistance Division Office in Los Angeles County was set up. Several of us were chosen to assist those people who were forced to leave prohibitive areas, who were unable to do so under their own resources. During the days that followed about 600 different persons of different nationalities have come to our office and asked for assistance and for information. No great number from the Japanese community

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has come asking for assistance. It may be that many people do not know there are offices which can give them assistance in making their change of residence and in helping to adjust themselves in their forced evacuation.

"Most of the questions asked have been about travel permitted and not about actual assistance. Now, I think you people as a unified agency can help us most by giving us a complete picture of what the needs of the people are, what service will be needed now and what service will be needed in the future. Very frankly, we have worked pretty much in the dark because we have had very little complete information. We don't know actually how many families are affected in the areas, how many have lost their jobs, and how many have moved. It seems to me that your Research Committee can do much to give us the information we really need to function properly. I have heard so much tonight about your desire to help in the war effort. Part of the thing you can do is to pass on to all the Japanese people that there is help available to them if they need it.

"At this time I would like to give you some places to which you can send persons who must be evacuated by February 24. In Los Angeles at 623 East Eighth Street. In Inglewood, Santa Monica, San Pedro and Long Beach at the office of the United States Employment Service there is a Social Assistance worker.

"Will you let the people know? Will you let us know something of the picture of what the needs of those communities are? Of course, if there are any additional things you want to know, we stand ready to offer you any information that we may have. Thank you so much."

Carey McWilliams

"Mr. Chairman, and friends. I am not here this evening to make a speech but merely to pass on to you information which I think might be of possible assistance to you and also some general assistance to public authorities -- both city and county, State and Federal in this area in co-operation to this problem.

"As most of us know, a Congressional Committee, the so-called Tolan Committee, has arrived in California for the purpose of holding a series of public hearings devoted pretty largely to this question you are considering this evening. The Tolan Committee started out in 1940 as the committee to investigate the inter-state migration of destitute citizens. It was changed about a year later and given a new appropriation by Congress and at that time it became a committee to investigate the migration that had been occasioned by the national defense program. This matter of the possible evacuation

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of the Japanese does fall within the scope of the Committee's job and function because the matter possibly entails migration to areas outside of the state of California, evacuation which in turn might stimulate still further migration into California. That is why the Committee is in California at this time.

"My information as to the Committee's plan of action is as follows: They are opening hearings in San Francisco Saturday of this week. From San Francisco they are going to Portland, Oregon and then to Los Angeles and will possibly hold public hearings in this community for perhaps a week and then return to San Francisco for final hearings.

"As a public official of the State Government I feel that it is very fortunate that this Committee has undertaken this investigation. I am convinced that there is much information that bears upon the issue that have not been fully developed. The appointment of that Committee for the purpose of holding investigations of this kind seems to me to be in definite accord with the American tradition and our Democratic way of dealing with all social problems, to get the facts and to get them thoroughly and to give all those vitally interested a hearing. That is what the Tolan Committee will do. I can personally vouch to you the fairness of the members of that Committee and for the excellent staff that the Committee has had and for the well-deserved national reputation it has acquired in the last two years in the fairness and impartiality of it in all of the investigations it has made. The Chairman of the Committee is John Tolan, the distinguished California Congressman who represents the Alameda district.

"I would like to suggest to you that if you set up an agency tonight for the purpose of coordinating your activities as many speakers here have suggested, one thing that should be done immediately is to appoint a representative committee for the purpose of representing the organizations here tonight assembled in getting together information which you want presented to the Tolan Committee. Their hearings will be nationwide news. Their hearings will be carefully covered by the major news services and by the local press. You will have an opportunity to state publicly and in an efficient manner things that you think are pertinent to this issue. The report of the Committee, of course, will be given to the Congress of the United States. It will be laid on the desk of every member of Congress. I feel that this is a most fortunate development for us at this time and I will certainly like to suggest that you give very serious consideration to the appointment of such a committee because a great deal of work must be done and in a relatively short time in order to present all sides of this issue fairly and accurately to the Tolan Committee.

"I have stated to Mr. Tanaka and I want to state to you who are here this evening that I would be most happy to work with such a committee in assembling information

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pertinent to this investigation. I feel that the Tolan Committee is to be highly commended -very highly commended - for coming to California to undertake this investigation. It should be given every encouragement from you, therefore, and it should receive every possible assistance and cooperation, particularly from you here this evening. Thank you very much."

Mr. Slocum makes an appeal for funds.

Togo Tanaka:

"The problem of "What We Face as Citizens in the Present Crisis" will now be discussed in symposium at this time. But before we start I would like to list for this audience the organizations which are represented here tonight and the representatives of those groups.

Perry Post of the American Legion - Dr. George Takeyama
Nanka Merchants Association - T. Takekoshi, George Murakami
Junior Produce Club - Robbin Kaneko, Sam Minami
Fruit and Vegetable Workers Union, Local No. 1510 - A.F.L. -
Jack Nakagawa, Si Ishimaru
Young Men's Christian Association - Masao Satow
Young Women's Christian Association - Maki Ichiyasu
Volunteer Research Unit - Chiye Mori
National Japanese-American Citizens' League - Ken Matsumoto
Southern District Council of the Japanese-American Citizens'
League - Fred Tayama
Los Angeles Young Buddhist League - Carl Sato, Noboru Ishitani
Los Angeles Japanese-American Citizens' League - Shigemi Aratani

Dr. Yoshiye Togasaki:

Former Resident Physician and Surgeon, Los Angeles General Hospital

"Friends and fellow citizens, the need for organization you have already heard and the seriousness of the situation you know. I think there is very little I myself can add at a time like this except to say that as you organize, each of you, every part of your effort should be very sincere. In your cooperation, see that whatever work is carried on is entirely for the preservation of our country, America. Thank you."

Kiyoshi Okura:

Former Personnel Technician, Los Angeles City Civil Service

"Mr. Chairman, friends and fellow citizens, I

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have been asked to relay to you information which is, what happened to the employees in the city and state civil service of Japanese descent. As you know, we have to be citizens to hold these positions so these people have all signed pledges stating that they were citizens and have pledged their help to the United States of America. In the city, 39 were investigated by the Los Angeles Police Department. They were questioned and they were looked up in their files or the information was picked up from other sources, then they were given one-hour hearings.

"Technically, we are still employed with the various offices because we merely signed leaves of absences. Some signed on the basis of "under duress"; others signed willingly, but the majority were more or less forced to sign leaves of absences. I just want to tell just what happened. After these investigations, each head of a department was asked to get rid of their Nisei. We have civil rights and the way we are registered is that we were voluntary leaves of absences. After the investigations there was only one case where there was an actual discharge - which was made on a very technical matter. But they had nothing on the other 38 so they were asked to sign leaves of absences.

"On January 19 various heads of departments called in their Nisei employees and explained the war situation, how it was affecting civil service, how the public was clamoring to have all Nisei ousted because there was the constant threat of fifth column activities and therefore suggested that they take leave of absence. Several employees of the Water and Power Bureau called me for advice. I advised them not to sign leave of absence but to be discharged and fight the case. The result at the end was that we all signed leaves of absences. Everyone in the city civil service who is a Nisei is out of a job. Every county employee who is a Nisei is out of a job - 47 here. One department is keeping a Nisei, an engineer who has 19 years' seniority but this department head is being threatened every day by pressure being brought to bear to get rid of this one employee. But you see what the trend is. Those of us who have tried to prove ourselves of good citizenship are out of a job. "

Carl Sato:
President of the C.Y.B.L.

"The California Young Buddhist's League, popularly known as the C.Y.B.L., has over 100 chapters in California. We have about eight thousand active paid up members. Here in Los Angeles under the jurisdiction of the Los Angeles Betsuin the Young Buddhists Association has twenty-one sub-chapters consisting of about 550 members. The Nishi Hongwanji

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Temple has nine ministers and about 800 pupils in the Sunday Schools. In all, there are about 1500 families connected with this church.

"As such an organization we are a definite part of the activities of the Nisei. Our main work in this crisis is to divide into two distinct groups, religious and social welfare. At the present time we are suggesting that the Reverends master the English language and use it whenever they can. We are undertaking the system of education so that English will be used. We are endeavoring to give counsel to our parents and to try to maintain the unity of the congregation.

"In the social welfare work, about 20 families have been aided. At present there are seven or eight who are living at the Temple. They are being cared for by contributions from the people of the twenty-one organizations in the Los Angeles Betsuin. On a long-range program the social welfare service is being maintained as a vocational guide and employment agency.

"The year 1942 is momentous. We as Buddhists are trying to alleviate any calamity, any hardships that may arise, and I am sure that those of us who are connected with our organization will do everything within their power to maintain our stand of true Americans. Thank you."

Jack Nakagawa:

Recording Secretary, Fruit and Vegetable Workers Union, Local No. 1510

"Tonight I am pinchhitting for Mr. Bob Sato and Cecil Nolley. At the present time they are at a meeting of the American Federation of Labor, retail division, which is having a Convention this week at Fresno. They have entrusted me to bring this message to the meeting tonight.

"Many of my brother unionists are here tonight. We called them out and we hope that a good many of them showed up - about 500 of them are here, I think. Our organization came into existence just about a year ago. It was a long fight to bring the standards of the Nisei who are working in the fruit and vegetable industry up to the standards enjoyed by the American workers. It has been a long and hard proposition because the American people have always looked upon the Japanese as people who were always taking a job away from them because they would work under conditions which weren't up to the standards as they should be.

"About a year ago the American Federation of Labor granted a charter to the Nisei here in Southern California. Our boundaries are north to Santa Barbara, east to Bakersfield,

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south to the Mexican border. So the Nisei were thus organized and were brought up to the standard of working conditions enjoyed by the American workers.

"Just the other day a woman came up to me and asked, 'Say, by the way, do you know how to raise soy beans?' I answered, 'Soy beans? No, what about it?' 'Well,' she said, 'Haven't you been reading the newspapers? Mayor Bowron made a statement to the effect that you were going to raise soy beans out in another state.' I don't agree with the lady or with the Honorable Mayor. American defense starts with food. It has always been printed in the papers that what a man really needs for a full day's work is a good breakfast, a good lunch, and something hot to eat at dinner. As you all know, this business of polishing apples cannot be learned in a day, a week or a month. Believe me, it takes years. You have to have just the right angle and the right stroke. In our Union there are 1100 members. If you take these people out of the fruit stands of Los Angeles and change them over to where they raise soy beans, it is going to be a serious matter. The Americans are not going to be able to step in and just take over. It is not that easy. The damage that it would cause is just as great if you just figure the amount of waste that would be caused by inexperienced men handling the produce. Food is really a vital defense industry in these times. Nisei cannot work in airplane factories, they cannot work in other defense industries because of the suspicion placed upon them, and we certainly do not blame them because those places should be guarded. But here is a job we are well acquainted with and we can see no reason why we can't keep these jobs which are so vital to the defense of America. We know that President Roosevelt is a very fine man, but his mind is toward other things. We should set up an organization which will speak for us all. Then we could tell the other people in our Government who are entrusted with carrying out the program and convince them that we could help national defense in this manner.

"We fully believe that our place is in the County of Los Angeles. There may be some people who still believe that they should bow three times each morning toward the Land of the Rising Sun, but as far as we're concerned they can be shipped back on the next boat, if they really feel that that is the land for them. But I believe this is the land for me and I believe the other members believe also that the United States of America is really their country. Our country today is the hope of the world. The world really depends upon the United States of America.

"Our Union pledges itself to fight for America and through this pledge to fight with those in America in the defense and offensive of America. Thank you."

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Leo Gallagher:
Speaking for Shuji Fujii

"It appears to me that perhaps you might be interested in knowing other persons are ready to help you in this very difficult problem which is facing all of us today. I would like very much to read this statement to you submitted by the American Civil Rights Committee. I might say that this statement was issued to all newspapers and up to the present time, I don't know of any newspaper that has carried it. Statement read, signed by the American Civil Liberty Union.

"I know I have taken more than my share of the time but I want you to know that we live in a constitutional democracy. We are fighting dictatorship and therefore, we must, above all things, not surrender to the principles of dictatorship in attempting to maintain our democracy. The end does not justify the means. There are, of course, a few who are disloyal, but let the Government take care of the few and don't let them classify them with who are loyal American citizens merely because they are of the same race. Thank you."

Kay Sugahara:
Secretary, Anti-Axis Committee

"Mr. Chairman, I am a fruit and vegetable merchant now and I wake up about 5:30 A.M. and go down to the market so I don't get down here very often. As a result, I have to depend on the sentiment of talk in the Los Angeles Times. If you read that paper, you get the idea that you are already on your way to Texas. From all that I have read, it seems that all of the big people that "beat the drum" are of the opinion that we are a dangerous bunch. You get also the opinion that the Nisei are ready to leave, but I went around to the different farmers telling them to keep on with their work. They said, 'Did you read the Times? By that talk, we are practically in Texas with the rest of the boys.' I really got a gloomy picture because these fellows just sit on a bag of seeds, shake their heads and say, 'No chance.' I asked them, 'What **are** you doing about it?' To which they answer, 'We haven't done anything, but what are the boys in the city doing?' I came back to town and asked the city boys, 'What are you boys doing about this situation?' They answer, 'Not much, but what are the fellows in the country doing?' It all comes out that nobody is doing anything.

"Everything that people read in the papers creates public opinion. The city officials are in the news because they seem to have something to say all the time. Someone here tonight said that in a Democracy, everyone gets a chance to be heard, and one thing about every person who is

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an American I believe is this: Americans have intestinal fortitude. You fellows have got to have guts in this situation if someone tells you to get out just to be telling you. You must never take it lying down, that is, if it is not against the national war effort. That is the only thing. If the Army and Navy finally decide that we are a menace and that we are dangerous, they will put us out. A local politician thinks he wants to be governor next year and picks on us because there is nobody to defend us. There are a few Americans who have intestinal fortitude. They have gone about the city telling the public the truth about the Nisei. I think one of the finest friends we have in official circles is Lieutenant Commander Ringle who says, 'I stake my professional reputation upon the loyalty of the Nisei.' I do not think any higher tribute could be made and when that man says that and we act nonchalant about it, I don't think that is the type of people he is talking about. As the law says, the American-born Nisei are Americans. What is the matter here? Something is wrong. The man that knows everything we know about ourselves says we are all right. One fellow in Washington says, 'They are a bad bunch, they are a dangerous bunch. They are yellow-skinned, slant-eyed, and their hair black,' and he doesn't even have a Nisei friend. I am an American and I believe America is a just country and the man who makes statements and tries to put his personal fortunes over the rights of others will meet with his Maker someday and that fellow will put him in his place. He is going to meet his Creator and he has that statement to face.

"I think we have heard enough about what is wrong. We know something is wrong. We ought to get together. How about it? I think the best way to do it is this, I don't want to get out of California. I have spent 29 years of my life here as I was born in Seattle and came down here when just a young boy. I have gone to school here in Los Angeles, made all my friends here. I don't want to be ousted. I don't want to be kicked around. We talk about what we would do to Hitler if he were here. Well, you would think that is what we were around here in the United States.

"Food will win the war and write the peace. 75% of us are engaged in agriculture in the distribution of agricultural commodities and if food is going to win the war, we are going to help win it right here in California!

"Some people say, suppose they rain bombs? As an American I will fight them right here. If the American people are willing to take the chance here, I want to be here, too. I have been raised in California. Most you have. Our friends are here, our interests. If our friends can't understand us, how are the people in Texas, Oklahoma, in Wyoming going to understand us? If your friends don't understand you, nobody is going to. There are several things we should do. We

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should send three of our people who are most coherent and know the facts of the situation to Washington. America is essentially a fair country, I am convinced of that. There are a lot of people who haven't raised their voices yet. If we let them know the facts, they are going to be aroused, and if we are not a menace to the national war effort, we will be permitted to stay here; but how are we going to be permitted to stay here if we don't tell them about it?

"How many of you have written to Washington? We just talk among ourselves. That is the trouble with us. If there is something wrong in a situation, we should bring it to the attention of the American public. We need a good public relations man like Commander Ringle to keep this contact up and let them know what we are doing. We should have a representative who is able to speak for all Nisei and tell them the real truth on the situation. We should also have some men in Washington. Mike Masaoka, Togo Tanaka, Joe Shinoda, those are the men I have heard that I feel have a grasp of the situation. I feel they are qualified to go to Washington. But one thing, we have got to get organized among ourselves. We absolutely have to fight our own fight. If you really are Americans, you have the intestinal fortitude, and you are going to make a fight for your own way of living, and for a chance to live in a decent American way of life in California. Are you behind me?"

Togo Tanaka:

"It is very heartening to see that all the Nisei have gathered here and are not letting the other fellow do the work. In the past years, the biggest thing that we have tried to fight is that passive attitude of letting the other fellow do the work. If this Council is going to be active and representative of the organizations, I can see the best results coming forth from the Nisei.

Representatives speaking on behalf of their various clubs:

G. Y. Takeyama:

"The Perry Post of the American Legion is all for the Coordinating Council."

Sam Minami:

"I think the Coordinating Council is one of the methods by which we can bring the situation before the proper authorities and the Junior Produce Club is entirely back of them."

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T. T. Takekoshi:

"The Nanka Merchants are wholeheartedly back of this organization."

Masao Satow:

"Speaking on behalf of the Y.M.C.A., I assure you that, as always in the past, we are willing to do that which is in the best interests of the community. We are ready to stand 100 per cent behind the United Citizens Federation."

Maki Ichiyasu:

"I think the Women have just as much and even more at stake as the men so you have our wholehearted support."

George Kurata:

"I would like to say on behalf of the Volunteer Research Unit that we are fully behind this organization and whatever facilities we have will be spent in this all-out effort."

Fred Tayama:

"The Southern District Council pledges its entire support of this organization."

Ken Matsumoto:

"I would like to say, speaking as an individual, that I am very grateful and happy to see the formation of this Federation as a representative organization in this respective area. We are behind it, and now, let us go to work."

Carl Sato:

"The Bussei are all for it."

Fred Ito:

"The Boy Scouts stand behind this organization 100 per cent."

Representative of Southern California Young People's Christian Federation:

"Though not speaking officially, I am sure you can put them down."

Japanese Athletic Union Representative:

"We stand ready to cooperate in every way."

James Yoshinobu:

"The Farmers Cooperative Association is all for it."

Representative of the Maryknoll Alumni:

"We wish to be counted in as being behind this organization."

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George Kubo:

"The Nisei students of the Frank Wiggins Trade School are for the organization."

Representative of the Hokubei Okinawa Prefectural Society:

"We are behind this organization."

FROM THE FLOOR---

"I wonder what the policy of this committee is, whether it is in favor of evacuation, or whether it is against it?"

C h a i r m a n --

"The gentleman wishes to know what the policy of this Coordinating Council is. I would like to repeat that this meeting has one primary objective. Before we can set any policy, we have to get organized. We can't very well decide among ourselves, individually, what our policies are going to be until we get organized, and we can only take up one thing at a time. We have met here to organize, and the matter of policy will be taken up by representatives of each of the groups that have been mentioned at this time."

FROM THE FLOOR---

"There seems to me only one policy, the fair rights of the citizens."

C h a i r m a n --

"The point is well brought out that there is only one policy that can be taken. We are being organized now and the federal authorities have pointed out that, 'we don't know you Nisei because we don't have representative groups to speak for you.' There has been too much duplication up to now, and we have paid a severe penalty for it, because there was no one who could speak with any authority about the sentiments of the majority of the resident Japanese. If the proper representatives are chosen, then they, and the proper authorities can get together. But first, we must choose the proper representatives, and then we will decide what the policy will be--the policy that will reflect the majority opinion here."

Joseph Shinoda:

"I would like to ask this group, what do you think of organizing this group into a different one instead of going back to the same groups which have performed nothing up to now?"

FROM THE FLOOR---

"Mr. Chairman, I think that Mr. Joe Shinoda's

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point is very well taken up. I think every one of us should trust three or five leaders here tonight, instead of going back to eight or twelve representatives of various organizations. In fact, they would be in the membership of this organization. I would like to see this idea taken up and let us see if we can't make this group here tonight an organization, a coordinating office, where if we want information we can come to. I know that during the recent freezing act, there was no one to ask for advice. We had to go for advice individually. Let's get three or five leaders here that we can trust and have them as a committee rather than have each individual go back to the organizations they represent and then check back to the Coordinating Council."

C h a i r m a n :

"Because of the pressure of time, that suggestion will be taken up in the future. As long as we have proceeded along this channel of getting together, I think we should be assured that the Coordinating Council will act quickly with the groups that have been represented here tonight, and that further mass meetings will be called."

Jack Nakagawa:

"Tonight we have come here and have spoken back and forth and I believe we are beginning to feel the sentiment and wishes of the crowd. Every one has spoken for a new federation of organization. At this time, I make the motion that Mr. Togo Tanaka be appointed as chairman of the new United Citizens Federation." *

FROM THE FLOOR---

"I second the motion."

C h a i r m a n :

"Is there any further discussion?"

FROM THE FLOOR---

"If we are to organize here tonight, I think the first thing in order is to call for a vote to definitely decide whether we are going to organize this Federation under the set-up presented to this body, and if the rest of the evening is open for nominations, I move that we appoint a pro-tem chairman to properly handle it."

"I think this body is too unwilling to back up appropriate officials and Mr. Tanaka has a plan of calling a meeting. I think the officials should be taken from that group."

Joe Masaoka:

"Mr. Chairman, give me five minutes, and then

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if I don't strike, I will quit boring. What is the idea of the petition? Is that to be sent to Washington? The President receives hundreds of petitions every day. Why, that petition will be merely another to be thrown into the waste basket. What we should do is send a man to Washington--one man or several, as many as we need. Mr. Chairman, I have a check here from Mr. Goka for a hundred dollars with which to send a man to Washington and lay our case before the proper authorities.

"From time to time, I have been talking to several American friends, and they say, you can't tell me that the Nisei are loyal. Blood is thicker than water. Once a Jap, always a Jap. Last night I boarded a bus. The only other occupant was an elderly lady who asked, 'are you a citizen, or are you a Jap?' 'I am an American,' I naturally replied. 'Then you must have American citizenship.' 'Yes,' I replied. The elderly lady then said, 'Well, the trouble with America is that they gave you citizenship when you never earned it.'

"We want that sentiment stopped. And the only way we can do that is to go to Washington to appeal to those men who are elected on the principles of democracy. And we want them to judge us by those same principles. That is the reason why this hundred dollar check to send a man to Washington is timely."

C h a i r m a n :

"We have a list of the organizations getting together in the United Citizens Federation. We have had public declarations of groups that will call a meeting tomorrow about which each of the organizations represented here tonight will be notified in the morning. We will get to work to outline an organization to select a personnel and start to work."

Joseph Shinoda:

"Mr. Chairman, I move to amend that first motion to elect you as chairman pro-tem to call that meeting."

Jack Nakagawa:

"As maker of the first motion, I agree to the amendment."

FROM THE FLOOR---

"I gladly second that amendment."

C h a i r m a n :

"The motion has been amended and seconded to make your chairman, yours truly, to be invested with the power to

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call the meeting. The meeting is adjourned."

February 21, 1942: A retired Los Angeles attorney waxes enthusiastic about the formation of the United Citizens Federation and writes to tell us about it. But his letter speaks better:

"PATRICK F. KIRBY
Lawyer (Retired)
~~515xStockxExchangexBldg.~~
~~852xSouthxSpringxStx~~
Los Angeles, Calif.
~~MMmmx3727~~

974 South Gramercy Drive
Los Angeles, California
Phone Parkway 6944

February 20, 1942

"Mr. Togo Tanaka
Editor of Rafu Shimpō
104 North Los Angeles St.,
Los Angeles, California.

"Dear Sir:

"Congratulations of your formation of the United Citizen's League, as reported in this morning's Times.

"I regard Mayor Bowron and all others who are trying to make war on American citizens as making war on the United States itself, and have this morning written the mayor that he demonstrate his patriotism by voluntarily interning himself for the duration of the present war. I hardly expect him to do so. Probably he is not that patriotic. He seems to be willing to sell out his country in the hopes that he will profit by purchasing the assets of Americans of Japanese descent at a fraction of their worth.

"I would appreciate an opportunity to attend any further meetings such as that at the Maryknoll auditorium last night, or any others directed to the same purpose. Ill-health has caused my involuntary retirement from practice for the last two years, but I am about in shape again, although the strain on my finances has been enormous, and I am unable to give financial help. I shall be glad to donate my services to help the cause of the Nisei or any other Americans subject to attack on account of race or descent.

"I was for many years Vice President and attorney for the Western Surety Company, that through Weede and Co., located at 205 North Broadway, wrote many immigration bonds for the Japanese people, and met many of the leaders of your community through Mr. Weede.

"I think I can still make a pretty good speech

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when I get warmed up on this subject. However I shall be glad to attend any meeting in the capacity of listener and to give my moral support to the cause of preserving American liberties for all citizens of the United States, and of such aliens as through no fault of their own and against their will find themselves 'alien enemies' of the country of their choice, but refrain from all activities that may be considered inimical to America.

Yours very truly,

(signed)
Patrick F. Kirby"

And here is another letter, apparently from a Nisei, although there is no return address and only the initials F.B.J. signed; it is typewritten and addressed--

"To the Editors of Rafu Shimpo:

"Bickering Nisei have at last come to terms with each other and formed an United Citizens Federation.

"Now, what shall we do? Telling American public about how we feel about the war and other things isn't enough. This should have been done long before Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. And it was done to some extent. The public knows all about what we would say we feel, and we have got to realize that some of our Caucasian friends are demanding to oust us out of here despite their knowledge about our stand.

"Then what is the first best thing we can do?

"Tell the public that our fathers are O.K. Tell them that they are aliens only in legal terms. Declare that our fathers are Americans in hearts despite their physical characteristics and linguistic shortcomings. Try and try hard to erase the suspicion heaped upon our fathers in the mind of some of our local officials and public at large.

"Haven't we been living with our fathers long enough to know that they haven't got a heart to do anything injurious to the United States in spite of their longing to their homeland, not to

the present militarist government which shattered all their hopes for lasting peace between the country they adopted and the land of their birth? If there weren't the cursed Immigration Law which barred Orientals from being naturalized, we wouldn't have had so many enemy aliens as our fathers.

"If you have faith in your fathers, why don't you say so and try to make the government men see your viewpoints? Why can't we say that we guarantee the harmlessness and obedience of these fathers who are now confined in the inland camps? Can't we ask the government to let us take the responsibility of keeping an eye on our fathers so that they can stay with us and still be harmless? Unity begins at home, and we can't ask the American public to trust us so long as we can't or don't regard our fathers as good residents instead of dangerous aliens.

"After all, it is our fathers that have made this California green and inherited to us this productive farmland, don't you remember? Year in and year out our fathers had contributed to welfare of this country in the way of maintaining farm production in good shape and offering liberally to the Community Chest and so on. But have they wilfully done anything to injure the safety of this nation at any time of their long residence in this country? If we can't stand up for our fathers at this time of their greatest crisis, how can we say and make others believe that we are loyal to America. Let us offer ourselves in the government custody instead of our fathers, if it satisfies the public. Our fathers should not be left in the cold Montana camps forever. They are old, and some of them are suffering from illness. Let us appeal to the government to set them free and to allow them to cooperate with us in doing some thing usefull for this country, for if our word of honors as to our fathers' loyalty can not be taken its face value, what the use of trying to convince fellow Americans of our own loyalty to our country?

"As Unity should begin at home, so should loyalty at home. If we can't trust our fathers and can't make them as loyal to the cause of Democracy, how can we, who are regarded as a part of 'untrustworthy bunch of Japs' by the public, ask the public to trust us? I hear that the government men are complaining that some of Nisei boys just don't seem to be willing to turn in 'bad eggs' among Japanese, whereas they, the G men, are certain there is some fifth columnist going on in the Japanese colony here. Couldn't all of us Nisei get together and declare to the entire nation that it is no use looking for any spy among our fathers or ourselves because we just aren't made that way?

"It seems to me, That is the best way and a short

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cut to regain and win back confidence of our fellow Americans for us all. Those who cast away their own fathers at the time of grave danger will never be forgiven in the eyes of God if not of the public.

Yours truly,

F.B.J."

Another letter, apparently written on the same typewriter and by the same person, was addressed to our Japanese section and in the same vein:

"To the Editor of Rafu Shimpo:

"The formation of United Citizens Federation was indeed the first good thing our Nisei leaders have done since Pearl Harbor. At least it is a constructive step instead of a destructive one which some of our leaders appeared to be taking when they over emphasized the necessity of weeding out subversive elements among us thereby inviting the age of terror and witch-hunting within our community. But the formation of the Federation is not enough, and I personally think it should be enlarged so as to invite all other minority groups to join the movement in order to better serve our country in this crisis.

"How can we claim that we are loyal to the country when we are not even sure about the character and integrity of our issei fathers. After all, they have spent greater part of their lives in this country and by their acts and deeds over number of years they have proved they are law-abiding and obedient people. If any one of them commits an act injurious to the cause of America, we are the ones who should take the blame for failure of maintaining order within the Japanese community. If your father commits sabotage, you yourself should voluntarily ask the authority to arrest you as well as your father, for your failure to prevent your father from doing such thing certainly reflects upon your character as an American citizen.

"For the past two months since the war started, we haven't done a thing to help our nation with the war because all we have done so far is just repetition of what we had done before the war; namely, constant protestation of our loyalty to the United States merely by words. This is time for action, not words, you say. But what have we done? Suspecting and informing of old issei folks who are too tame to do any sabotage? How can we blame white people for not trusting us when we

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can't and don't trust our own people? We have got to start all over again with sane attitude and constructive program for all Japanese-Americans, issei and nisei alike, and start doing something to contribute to our victory as a nation.

"We note by reading the newspapers that it is always some American missionaries who are showing willingness to defend our hapless fathers who are confined in the government camps. Not even one nisei has come out openly to speak for the issei. Some of our nisei leaders definitely took the attitude of regarding the interned fathers as enemies of the nation and went ahead looking for more victims of witch-hunting instead of guiding the terrorized isseis who were simply too scared to do anything against this country.

"As these resulted from a fact, there is a lack of understanding and sympathy between the issei nisei prior to the war. Disunity within the Japanese community was, it seems to me, another factor which played major role in bringing about this sad situation in which we find ourselves today. Wenisesi are not trusted by Caucasian fellow citizens, and also are distrusted and even feared by our fold folks.

"Instead of further attempts to profess loyalty to America by mere words, and instead of making more promises to our white friends as to what we will do and intend to do as loyal Americans, let us move forward really doing something for this country; let us first try to allay the fear and distrust some of our Caucasian friends entertain about our fathers by explaining what our fathers have done for this country during the past two scores of years; let us contribute to the nation by offering our youthful manpower in armed services and labor battalions; and above all, let us achieve complete unity among ourselves; an unity of purposes and of emotion, an unity free of any prejudice toward any one group among ourselves. If we trust each other and work together without quarreling I believe we can win back trust and sympathy of our Caucasian friends. Remember, divided we fall, and united we stand?

"I make this advice to your because I believe we are now faced with a supreme test as a minority group in this melting pot of different races and creeds.

Yours truly,

F.B.J."

February 22, 1942 -- Nisei representatives of over 20 organizations met this afternoon at the Japanese Union Church, 118 North San Pedro Street, to hear reports by Masao Satow, executive secretary of the Japanese Y.M.C.A., and Wesley Oyama, who has been active in the forming of the United Citizens Federation. About 35 persons were present. There is an apparent air of bewilderment and a growing fear of the uncertainty of tomorrow. Some of these people have had their fathers or mothers taken into custody by the F.B.I. I am not sure, but there seems to be a general feeling that many innocent persons have been thus arrested. ✓

Selection of representatives to appear before the Tolan Congressional Committee hearings was discussed at today's meeting. Wesley Oyama stresses need to invite "Caucasian American" friends to testify at the hearing. The suggestion was also made that an Issei should make an appearance before that hearing in Los Angeles, which is scheduled for March 6-7.

There is a definite feeling of resentment here against Mayor Fletcher Bowron. One attendant at this meeting commented: "I thought the Mayor was a liberal and a man who had a scrupulous regard for human justice and honesty. He's more of a pompous jackass and hypocrite from what I can gather." The Mayor's newspaper statements indiscriminately accusing "all Japs, including American-born" of fifth column designs.

The Los Angeles J.A.C.L. does not dominate this meeting. Fred Tayama, though chairman of the larger Southern District J.A.C.L., sits in the corner with Shigemi Aratani (a printer by trade), president of the Los Angeles J.A.C.L. Both seem to hold themselves aloof from the discussions, and the few comments they make reflect the attitude that "all these meetings and discussions should really come under the Southern District and the National J.A.C.L." The split between the newly-formed United Citizens Federation and the Japanese American Citizens League is widening. ✓

* * *

Saburo Kido, president, and Mike Masaoka, national secretary, of the National Japanese American Citizens League with headquarters in San Francisco, telephoned me at The Rafu Shimpō office today. Things are getting rather tense in the Bay Region area. Kido and Masaoka are a little disturbed over the formation of the United Citizens Federation and ask why "you guys down south can't get together; we're more or less all in the same boat." Kido hinted that the "National is planning to send Mike to Washington." The C.I.O. in San Francisco is exerting all its influence to protect the American citizenship rights of the Nisei, according to Kido. ✓

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A Samuel S. Shapira, attorney at law,
535 West First Street, Apt. 16, Los Angeles, encloses
a photograph of himself along with the following letter:

"SAMUEL S. SHAPIRA
Attorney-at-law
-706-Penn-Avenue, -Room-204
-Wilkinsburg, -Pennsylvania
535 West First St., Apt 16
Los Angeles, Calif.
Feb. 22, 1942

"Dear Editor:

"We are in war, and General Sherman rightly said 'War is Hell.' Justice and decency have no place in hell. Don't expect equity now. Prepare yourselves for war's blows without hysteria or worthless objections. And so you may survive this war, and plant security here later on a sounder foundation.

"I wish to discuss the situation realistically with my Japanese fellow-citizens. I have many years ago written in support of a Federation of Humanity as the way to world peace. To me the people of Asia, Europe, and America are one brotherhood. The genius of liberty that was born in a few chosen souls in France and England took seed in the minds of early American colonists whom fortune permitted to establish in America a progressive republic, dedicated to human liberty and political equality, and especially to freedom of thought and of conscience and of expression, which all intelligent people cherish highly, and should defend with their lives if need be.

"People come here from Asia to settle among the Europeans and met opposition and hostility. Their children born here are, under the Constitution, American citizens. I am of the opinion that Asia's youth can make as fine citizens as Europe's youth when given the same chance.

"Hate and ignorance are mates; by attacking ignorance with knowledge, hate is vanquished, and decency is given a chance. We must hold fast to the liberating power of truth. We must seek truth. We must respect and cherish and sustain truth in order to make life worth while. We must honestly sustain truth's torchbearers of all races and national origins, and acknowledge them and their work, if we are to be considered moral human beings and not low animals, for they are our real and only saviors. Without truth there is no salvation.

"I trace my ancestry back to Asia. My father

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is buried in Asia. I treasure the values of Asia. I want the sons and daughters of Asia living in America given a chance here to develop and express the best that is in them. I am one with them in their struggles for fair play and justice. Wherever injustice is practised there am I in mind and spirit always on the side of the wronged.

"The Japanese Americans, whether citizens or not, and I presume they all should like to be citizens, are forcing the challenge of the dominant white Christian race as to their loyalty to the Stars and Stripes now attacked in war by their motherland. As a friend I advise the Japanese here not to resist government mandates with technical appeals to court which will irritate and inflame the masses against them to their great injury. Do nothing that will arouse the wild, base, ignorant and organized mob against you. You are a mere handful among many, and perfectly helpless to resist the will of this white Christian nation. Suppose you were conscripted into the firing lines, would that be better for you. Of course you have your quota in the American Army. I am talking about the rest.

"Be devoted to the ideals of democracy. Be loyal to America during this war whether citizens or not. If the American government directs your removal to a new location or state during the war, my advice as a friend is that you comply with the order of this government. Don't rush into court to hamper the nation's planned defenses which are now more important than your convenience and profits. However, defend your rights to your farms and property in court. Work in harmony with the various defense plans, and this will be remembered after the war for your good. When the war is ended, we must unite for a more human and just social and economic order for all people in our midst.

"I am a mature lawyer since 1907 when I was admitted to the Pennsylvania State Bar and later to the Federal Court Bar. In my youth I was a candidate for County District Attorney in Esmeralda County, Nevada. I am the father of the late nation-wide revival of the ideals of democracy and liberty through my challenging pamphlet published seven years ago against growing fascism and mass unemployment here. I am author of a new book just off the press entitled 'Your Great Awakening', a thought-provoking and challenging work for all humanity. I have fought many a battle in our courts and won most of them. I have stood out all my life for principles without fear. I regret the Japanese American war which I wished to see avoided. I am not the coward to turn against you in America for

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the conduct of politicians beyond your control. You are still here my brothers and sisters from Asia, even as are the Chinese and Arabs and Hindus and Persians.

"I feel the time is now ripe for Asia's American Rights League to launch out in America to protect the rights of the citizens and non-citizens in America come from the various countries of Asia, to give voice to their needs through various publicity channels, and to contend for them before state and national government bodies. This society can also act as a helpful cultural influence to the individual men and women of Asiatic origin.

"Emergency, stress, perplexity stimulate people to think socially as they do not in normal times.

"The sons and daughters of Japan in America ought as a body to become members of my proposed Asia's American Rights League of which I should remain Executive Director. The dues will be only \$2 a year payable in advance, or semi-annually each six months which the poorest can afford.

"I will not take away any law business from any Japanese American lawyer. I want every Japanese lawyer to become a contributing member with the assurance that anyone Japanese coming to me with a lawsuit will be told to select a lawyer of his own choosing without any recommendations from the League. The lawyer chosen will, however, have the moral support of the League and the benefit of my experienced, legal guidance which is valuable. I have at times received large fees in certain cases and then again have fought powerfully for little or no pay.

"My Asia's American Rights League will appeal to the better judgment and conscience of America as a powerful advocate whenever hysteria or injustice threatens any man or woman of Asia's household. We will be vigilant, fearless, honest and wide awake.

"It will not fear government officials, because it will stand for justice and humanitarianism and square dealing. It will be able to render a service for the sons and daughters of Japan openly and without fear during the war of value beyond price. I need more support to carry it out, and as soon as I get it I will open offices in Los Angeles and in Philadelphia which is conveniently close to Washington, D.C. and New York City.

"I have discussed this proposal of mine to a leading Japanese American lawyer, Mr. M. Igasaki, of

Los Angeles, who is in sympathy with it, and he suggested that I address myself directly to the people through your papers.

"I want every reader of your paper to join my Asia's American Rights League by mailing me the years dues of \$2 with the name and address and occupation or if more convenient one dollar bill for half year's dues. I need immediate mass financial support to finance my program for your protection during the war and after it. I ask that all Japanese papers in America print this letter, as if I'd mailed it to them wherever published in the United States.

"This will not be a Japanese society, but a universal Asiatic American Society. We will look out equally for the rights of the Chinese as the Japanese. Our problems are American problems. We are not interested in Asiatic politics and rivalries. We are loyal to America and will help America win this war. We know that America has something worth while to preserve and develop, and the children of Asia can do their share of work in making Lincoln 'government of the people, by the people, and for the people' a source of satisfaction to all who dwell in our land whether from Asia or Europe.

"All I will have is a living from this organization. Are you men and women of Japanese origin ready to enroll in mass with me now? You should show it by mailing me your names and addresses with dues at once. I will then fight your battles in Washington, D.C. and in your various State Capitals as the occasion calls with courage and I will see that you are safely preserved for better times here when the clash of conflict closes and peace is restored. Back me up, all of you, now, address your mail to me personally at present.

Sincerely yours,

Samuel S. Shapira (LLB)"

* * *

What the mail doesn't bring these days...

This man has the subtlety of a sledge hammer; shades of Harry 'Ham' Beall. The staff read the letter; I decided

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to salvage it for our files; other newspapers may print
this; we won't.

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Letter from one of our contributors, Joseph Kurihara, sent from San Diego. The last time we heard from him was from San Pedro. I've never met him, but his writing indicates he is an older nisei. The letter:

"San Diego, California
February 21, 1942

"THE RAFU SHIMPO
Los Angeles, California

"Dear Mr. Togo:

"Sorry I was not able to attend the Nisei's meeting held few nights ago. Had I known sooner, I would have made the arrangement to attend, since I am very much interested in the trend of events taking place regarding the American-Japanese.

"May I ask you if the meeting has produce anyone willing to assume the leadership? How's about Attorney Maeno, Attorney Satow, or Attorney Dodo of Los Angeles? Personally I believe they are the most qualified individuals to lead and speak-up for the Niseis. Don't you think so?

"However, if they have no intention of assuming the leadership, or any other who can qualify but does not wish to, then, may I ask if you can obtain the sanction of the Niseis to delegate the position to me? I will gladly sacrifice my personal liberty, and resources for the sake of the niseis. I am not able-- a public speaker, but I am sure I can put ~~ev~~ it over with thelp and co-operation from others.

"Should you feel my proposition is worth while entertaining, please let me know, addressing your letter to 741 First Avenue, San Diego, California.

Yours truly,

(signed)

J.Y. Kurihara"

There is an Attorney John Maeno, but to our knowledge there is neither an "Attorney Satow nor an Attorney Dodo". There is a Masao Satow, secretary of the Japanese Y.M.C.A. and used to be Masao Dodo, of The Rafu Shimpō, but he is now in Japan with one of the large newspapers there.