

Committee on Un-American Activities in California

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Excerpts from Senate Journal of June 14, 1945, Containing
Final Report of the Joint Fact-Finding
Committee on

Un-American Activities in California

Created by Resolutions Chapter 132, Fifty-fifth Regular Session

Members of Committee

JACK B. TENNEY, *Chairman*
HUGH M. BURNS
NELSON S. DILWORTH
JESSE RANDOLPH KELLEMS
RANDOLPH F. DICKEY

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of the
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HON. FREDERICK F. HOUSER
President

HON. JERROLD L. SEAWELL
President Pro Tempore

J. A. BEEK
Secretary

MOTION TO PRINT REPORT IN JOURNAL

Senator Tenney moved that the report of the Joint Fact-Finding Committee on Un-American Activities in California be printed in the Journal of Thursday, June 14, 1945, and that 5,000 additional copies be printed.

Motion carried.

REPORT OF THE JOINT FACT-FINDING COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES IN CALIFORNIA

Introduction

Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, and Members of the Legislature:

Your Joint Fact-Finding Committee Investigating Un-American Activities in California pursuant to Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 59, herewith submits its final report on investigations conducted throughout the State during 1943 and 1944:

AUTHORIZATION

The Joint Fact-Finding Committee on Un-American Activities in California was created pursuant to Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 59, filed with the Secretary of State, May 12, 1943. This committee was instructed to "investigate, ascertain, collate and appraise all facts causing or constituting interference with the National Defense Program in California or rendering the people of the State, as a part of the Nation, less fit physically, mentally, morally, economically or socially," and to "investigate the activity of groups and organizations whose membership includes persons who are members of the *Communist Party*, the *Fascist Organizations*, the *German Nazi Bund*, or any other organization known or suspected to be dominated or controlled by a Foreign power, which activities affect the conduct of this State for National defense, the functioning of any State agency, unemployment relief and other forms of public assistance, educational institutions of this State supported in whole or in part by State funds, or any political program." Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 59 authorized the committee to act during the 1943 Session of the Legislature, and until the convening of the Fifty-sixth Legislature in 1945 and "to meet either during sessions of this Legislature (1943) or during any recess hereof in any and all places in this State, in public or executive session," and "to file reports with the Legislature during the Fifty-fifth Session thereof or any special extraordinary session thereof, and to file its final report with the Fifty-sixth Legislature."

Pursuant to the provisions of the resolution, the Committee on Rules of the Senate appointed Senator Hugh M. Burns of Fresno County and Senator Jack B. Tenney of Los Angeles County, and the Speaker of the Assembly appointed Assemblyman Nelson S. Dilworth, Dr. Jesse Randolph Kellems of Bel-Air, and Randal F. Dickey of Alameda, as members of the committee. In compliance with the provisions of the resolution the members of the committee, at its organizational meeting, elected Senator Jack B. Tenney as chairman.

ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE

The accumulated testimony of witnesses since the Joint Fact-Finding Committee was first organized in 1941 now consists of 5,387 typewritten pages, contained in 24 transcript volumes. Exhibits, introduced in connection with the testimony of witnesses, are voluminous. Many pamphlets, circulars, newspapers and magazines have been added to committee records.

Mr. R. E. Combs of Visalia was unanimously selected by the committee members to continue as chief investigator. Additional investigators were hired from time to time. Thomas L. Cavett did special work for the committee and Mr. W. Bruce Pine of Los Angeles continued his voluntary services in special phases of the committee's investigations. The *American Legion*, *Veterans of Foreign Wars*, the *Anti-Defamation League* and many patriotic and fraternal organizations rendered the committee, its members and its investigators, invaluable services. Many individuals, who desire to be unnamed, and many patriotic organizations, cooperated and worked with the committee, its members and investigators.

The members of the committee, following the policy laid down by the committee in 1941, were continually mindful of the sensationalism of all alleged subversive activities and endeavored in every way to conduct public hearings with dignity and restraint.

The committee, as heretofore, cooperated closely with the intelligence units of the armed forces, with the *Federal Bureau of Investigation* and with State and Federal agencies.

The press of the State of California continued to be an important adjunct to the work of the committee and, for the greater part, reported the committee's public hearings and investigations with accuracy.

JAPANESE PROBLEMS IN CALIFORNIA

In both the first and second reports of the committee, the Japanese problem was reported on and discussed at some length. Since the filing of the second report, the "*Final Report Japanese Evacuation from the West Coast 1942*," by Lieutenant General J. L. DeWitt, has been released as a public document. It is a 618 page book, published by the United States Government Printing Office, Washington. Due to the reports' official and military status the committee feels it is its duty to quote at some length therefrom; and due to the wide public interest in the relocating of the *Japanese aliens* and *Japanese Americans*, the committee feels that it is its duty to give to the Legislature and the public a cross-section of public opinion as represented in the Daily Press, the same being news items and editorials from some of the principal dailies.

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

In earlier reports we have criticized the War Relocation Authority for the manner in which they have handled their jurisdictional duties over the *Japanese* and *Japanese Americans*. During the month of May, 1945, a controversy arose between the ILWU and some of its Stockton members over the employment of what was in the beginning a "*Japanese American*," whose first name was given variously as "*James*," "*Louis*" and "*Fukuso*" Yamamoto. On June 6, 1945 it was disclosed to the

press by the manager of the War Relocation Authority at Stockton that he had known at all times that *Yamamoto* was an alien, but that he withheld the information for the reason that he did not wish to put the union on the spot.

The following is WRA Manager Robertson's statement to the press:

"STOCKTON (San Joaquin Co.), June 6—(INS)—Disclosure that *Fukuso Yamamoto*, whose employment at a Stockton warehouse brought on a union dispute is an alien was not expected today to affect the suspension of the local unit of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union.

Yamamoto's alien status was made known by John R. Robertson, War Relocation Authority manager. The Japanese at first was reported to be an American citizen.

Sixty members of the Stockton union remained suspended by the parent San Francisco local because of asserted racial discrimination toward *Yamamoto*. A union hearing on the discrimination charge is to be held June 17th.

Knew Man Was an Alien

Robertson said *Yamamoto* is presently living with a Japanese family at Acampo, Calif., and is employed in farm work.

He said he knew *Yamamoto* was an alien Japanese shortly after he was employed, but said nothing about it as he 'didn't want to put the union in a spot.'

The union suspension was ordered to remain effective until the Stockton warehousemen sign pledge cards, renewing their promise to uphold the union's constitution which prohibits 'racial discrimination.'

Born in Japan

Yamamoto, released May 1st from the Gila Relocation Center in Arizona, claimed he was born in 1904 in Hawaii, but his WRA record card showed he lived in Japan from 1904 to 1918.

The WRA records also show his mother was born in Japan in 1882 and remained there until 1916."

(*Yamamoto's* age was recorded as 41 years.) Parenthetic statement ours.

In view of the faithlessness of the WRA revealed in the INS news item just quoted, it seems that the committee has been justified in its criticism of the WRA. While this is a single incident, it is representative of the general conduct of the WRA in the administration of its jurisdictional duties. There are many shades of opinion in the public's opposition to the return of *Japanese aliens* and *Japanese Americans* to the West Coast. In the main these opinions center around the lack of public safety, and the safety of the *Japanese aliens* and the *Japanese Americans*.

PRESS EDITORIAL COMMENTS

An editorial from the *Los Angeles Times*, republished in the *Sacramento Bee* on June 7th, highlights the varied opinions:

"The grave and perplexing question of permitting the return of Japanese to the West Coast in wartime has entered a new disturbing phase, as had been anticipated.

Unpardonable violence against Japanese has occurred in a few instances. These are being magnified and distorted in Washington, D. C., and the East to give the impression that all Californians are bloodthirsty ruffians engaged in midnight raids on innocent persons.

Truth is that nearly all Californians are restraining not only themselves but any impetuous elements who threaten violence. It also is true, however, that this very air of tension was forecast by responsible elements anxious to avoid any trouble, when they urged that, as a military measure, persons of Japanese extraction be kept from the Coastal States until the war with Japan is over. The War Relocation Authority, nevertheless, insisted upon immediate return, although most of the Japanese themselves were willing, as a contribution to the war effort, to continue to absent themselves.

There has never been any question of the constitutional 'right' of American citizens of Japanese blood to return here after relaxing of military restrictions. But there was every evidence that the relaxation of army controls was forced by higher political circles.

Now that the very thing which most sober citizens here feared has begun to happen, there is no excuse for the rest of the country to slander Californians with a general condemnation of lawlessness. We deplore hoodlumism as much as anyone, but we foresaw its inevitability.

The fact is, as Ickes would learn if he took the trouble, that the great majority of the people of the Pacific Coast, while they do not welcome the return of any Japanese during wartime, are not hostile to them and deplore violence. They feel the action of the War Relocation Authority and Ickes, who heads it, in returning them is a mistake and would be a mistake even if the loyalty of every such single individual to the United States could be guaranteed. First, because it is impossible to safeguard them against the actions of hotheads, of which every community contains some; and second, because the presence of Japanese moving about freely here obviously facilitates the introduction of spies."

MORE FROM THE PRESS

A more detailed editorial from the *San Bernardino, California, Sun*, April 18th, 1945, reads as follows:

A Big Problem

"California has a profound interest in the loyalty of those Japanese-American citizens who are being returned to our State from concentration camps.

Their fidelity has been attested by the War Relocation Board, headed by Dillon S. Meyer, in whose judgment many do not have too much confidence. In addition, investigation has been made of these returning Japs by the Bureau of Investigation of the Department of Justice, which declares them worthy of American confidence.

Nobody can doubt the efficiency of the FBI. Its achievements with reference to the war effort are beyond adequate praise. But the question arises in most Californians' minds as to how the loyalty of *Japanese-American* can really be tested. It is a reasonable assumption that they share the traits of their Japanese ancestors

and ancestry means a lot to a Japanese, whether he is of a second generation or the first.

Probably the California prejudice against the Japanese may be based on selfishness. Whatever sort of base it is, the questions arising therefrom will be the same, whether they are reasonable or not.

While we Americans, all of us, grant the claim upon our patience American citizens of any race or creed have a right to make, there are some facts it is impossible to ignore. One of them very strikingly is that 6,000 out of the 7,000 *American-born Japanese* under 17 years of age in the Tule Lake Relocation Center have applied for citizenship renunciation papers.

That means, obviously that they prefer to return to Japan rather than remain in this country.

All that is doubtless highly discouraging to many Americans and it is much too significant to be ignored. The high incidence of disloyalty among *Japanese-Americans* will not be surprising to many Californians because they have long suspected their *Japanese-American* neighbors.

It is to be hoped now that the facts recited with reference to the Tule Lake Relocation Center have impressed those Americans who have assumed fellow citizens, whether members of an alien race, are endowed with respect and admiration for the American way of life.

Apparently, those Californians who have been protesting the return of the so-called *Japanese-Americans* from the war relocation centers had something more than mere suspicion upon which to base their complaints. Leading the opposition in Congress to return of *American-born Japanese* to California is Congressman Clair Engel, of Northern California, formerly a member of the California Senate and a former district attorney. He has made an exhaustive investigation of the situation and he says this:

'We should not have to fool around with any of these Japs who have acknowledged they are disloyal, or with their families. So long as they remain in this country, they are a source of danger, for their children will become American children by reason of birth. Such citizens who have renounced their own citizenship do not promise to become assets of this country.'

To many Californians the facts recited above will not only be astonishing but shocking. That 6,000 out of 7,000 *American-born Japanese* in a single war relocation center prefer to be citizens of Japan rather than of this land of the free would seem to be incredible.

Precisely what there is about this democracy of ours that failed to impress these Nipponese who have been among us since birth is a grave indictment of our American system, or its application to these people, or their own racial habits of thought.

We prefer to believe it is the latter. There is no other group in our citizenship, no matter what their extraction or racial origin, in whom a similar situation might be found to exist, we feel sure."

NEWSPAPER POLL

On May 10, 1945, the *Sacramento Union* conducted a street poll, which follows:

"In response to Secretary of Interior Ickes' Sunday declaration that *Japanese-Americans* returning to the West Coast are being terrorized, and to his appeal that residents of the West remember the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, a *Union* reporter yesterday put the issue to Sacramentans as he met them on the street.

'Keep the loyal ones here; deport the disloyal ones and the non-citizens' summed up the attitude of half a dozen who were interviewed.

Others favored outright deportation of all Japanese, and one man came forward with the idea of placing them all on an island, giving them representation, and saying: 'This is your home.'

Following are replies:

LT. ALLEN PANG, Honolulu, Army flyer with three stars, one while in the infantry at Pearl Harbor—I guess the younger generation are all right but I don't know about those older ones in Honolulu. Some of them were disloyal no matter what they say now. As for letting them come back to the Coast—they can come back under the law—that's all there is to it.

CHAPLAIN JOHN W. BETZOLD, Philadelphia, now at Camp Beale—They ought to come back if they're American citizens. It wasn't American citizens who caused Pearl Harbor. Unless it can be shown in a legal way that they should be deprived of their property, they should be allowed to come back to it. That is the law of our land.

M. E. GOMEZ, 1509 32d Street, theater manager—I think they should all go back to Japan. I don't think very much of them. They played dirty on us once and will again if they get the chance.

SGT. A. JOHANSON, Eureka—I've had no contact with the Japanese myself, but don't believe they should be allowed back on the coast. Some of our men say they have fought Japanese soldiers they went to school with back here. We are just educating their army.

R. B. REINBACK, Hotel Land, Assembly Sergeant-at-Arms, whose son was killed at Bougainville—I think the ones who were loyal should return; the ones who were disloyal should be barred. The loyal American citizens have that constitutional right. I'll tell you what I'd do—give them an island, give them representation and say, "This is your home."

R. P. SMITH, 2975 Marysville Road, North Sacramento, aircraft mechanic—As far as I am concerned, they don't need to come back ever. Those who don't speak English and are not citizens should be sent back to their own country; those who are American citizens in an American way—that's a different situation.

SAILOR X of Sacramento—I was in battles of Lingayen Gulf and Okinawa—Can't give my name because of restrictions.

They shouldn't be returned here. No special reason except the main one—I don't like them.

J. T. BATES, 1515 10th Street, draftsman—Those who are American citizens should be returned after the war, not now. Those who are not should be deported. I don't approve of this terrorism in California. We have law and order to take care of the situation.

FIRST LT. KENNETH KREUGER, Palo Alto, Army Air Force navigator, temporarily stationed at Camp Beale—The Japs would probably be happier if they went back to Japan. The ones who are citizens could settle down in some inland area like Denver.

MRS. KAY KARSHEN, 1017 14th Street, housewife—For our own protection, I think they should be returned to Japan.

MRS. RUTH TENER, 1231 33d Street, adjustment clerk for PGE—I don't think they should be allowed to return. When our soldiers come home, the Japs would be taking jobs our men will need. The Japs aren't American; they are Oriental and they can't assimilate into the American way of life.

MRS. INEZ WOOD, 725 Ninth Street, employed in the Department of Motor Vehicles—The Japs should never return, even the ones who are American citizens. I don't know about the legal aspects of taking their property away from them, but they shouldn't come back.

OPINION OF UNITED STATES SENATOR WARREN G. MAGNUSON

To demonstrate that the foregoing opinion is coast-wide, the following news item taken from the *Seattle Post Intelligencer* of April 29, 1945, quoting United States Senator Warren G. Magnuson (D-Wash.), follows:

“WASHINGTON, April 28.—A clear-cut National policy on Japanese residing in the United States was demanded tonight by Sen. Warren G. Magnuson (D-Wash.).

Magnuson said he would call on the immigration service to announce immediately after X-Day how it proposes to handle the Japanese problem. Congress can proceed from that point on, he added.

The Washington Senator has definite views on what should be done with each of several distinctive groupings of *Japanese* and *Japanese-Americans*.

Would Deport Some

‘One class of Japanese should be shipped off to Japanese territory on the first boat we can spare,’ Magnuson asserted. ‘They are the *alien Japanese* and the *American-born Japanese* who have indicated by act of implication their loyalty to Hirohito.

‘*Japanese aliens* not deported promptly should be held subject to deportation on the first evidence of sympathy toward Japan or of unfriendliness to this country, deportation to be consummated without involved and prolonged bureau procedures.

‘Persons of Japanese ancestry born in America should also be subject to deportation unless they attest their loyalty to the United States by formally renouncing the principle of dual citizenship.’

Magnuson explained the Japanese government considers all persons of Japanese ancestry, wherever they may be born, citizens of that country and subjects of the emperor.

'Events have proved many Japanese, although born in the United States, have considered their real allegiance is to Japan,' he said.

'On the other hand there have been *Japanese-Americans*, although their number is few, who long before the war went into court and legally renounced Japan's pretensions of their citizenship.

Loyalty Test Urged

" 'It is time for every *Japanese-American* to stand up and be counted. This country has no place either in war or in peace for anyone of questioned or questionable loyalty.' "

JAPANESE-AMERICAN SOLDIERS

The committee is mindful of the fact that the relocation of *Japanese aliens* and *Japanese-Americans* is a many-faceted problem; however, it is the complex nature of the *Japanese aliens* and *Japanese-Americans* that make it such. The committee is not unmindful of the bravery and valor of the *Japanese-Americans* in the army, but citing their sacrifices to bolster up public opinion in reference to disloyal *Japanese-Americans* only complicates the problem that these soldiers—the pick of the lot—must face in coming out into civilian life. There would be no "Japanese" problem if all of the *Nisei* and *Kebei*, or a substantial majority of them, would have taken a leaf out of the book of these soldiers who had the courage to throw aside the tradition of emperor worship.

The heretofore quoted editorial from the *San Bernardino, California, Sun*, and the following AP story from Phoenix, Arizona, evidences the great percentage of disloyal "*Japanese-Americans*":

Nisei and Kebei Draft Dodgers

"PHOENIX—(AP)—Judge Dave W. Ling of U. S. District Court upheld authority of Selective Service Boards to order induction of *Japanese-Americans* from relocation centers in a ruling which affected 98 youths from the Colorado River Camp at Poston, Ariz.

Ling, in a test case, found three of the youths guilty of violating the Selective Service Law by failure to report for induction. It previously had been stipulated that the ruling would apply to the 98.

Defense counsel contended Selective Service did not apply to the *Japanese* because most of them had been classified as enemy aliens and some had renounced American citizenship and applied for repatriation to Japan.

Of the three individual cases submitted to the court, *Yashuto Fujioka* and *Kingo Tajii*, submitted affidavits that they had asked permission to return to Japan and were prohibited from leaving the relocation center without military guard.

Hideichi Takeguma said he did not report for induction because he had been deprived of his rights as a citizen and believed he was not subject to the draft.

Attorneys said the case would be appealed to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, San Francisco."

SECRETARY ICKES

Secretary of Interior Ickes has blown hot and cold in reference to the returning of the Japanese to the West Coast. In one breath he has said that "they are being discouraged in returning until after the war." In another, he has urged them to go to their homes on the West Coast, and the War Relocation Authority has emulated the pattern set by Mr. Ickes.

EXCERPTS FROM DeWITT'S FINAL REPORT

The "DeWitt Report," at page 85, paragraph e, states:

(Keibi More Japanese Than Alien Parents)

"The typical Japanese family, therefore, consisted of *Japanese-born* parents who were enemy aliens, and their *American-born* children. Because of the Japanese custom of sending substantial numbers of their children, particularly the older children, to Japan to live with their grandparents or other relatives and to be educated as Japanese, there were in the 'citizen' group an undetermined number of *Kibei*. Many of these were even more Japanese in customs and loyalty than their alien parents."

Page 7 to page 19 of the "DeWitt Report" sets forth the problem of evacuation of the Japanese, as well as giving a clear and concise story of the Japanese situation which then existed—and will exist again without vigilant attention to the circumstances. The pages of the Report just referred to, read as follows:

Civil Control Evacuation Impossible

"The Commanding General, meantime, prepared and submitted recommendations for the establishment of prohibited zones in Arizona, Oregon and Washington, similar to those he had prepared for California. Upon receipt of these supplemental recommendations, forwarded by the Secretary of War, the Attorney General declined to act until further study. In the case of Washington State, the recommended prohibited zone included virtually all of the territory lying west of the Cascades. A general enemy alien evacuation from this area would have been required. More than 9,500 persons would have been affected. No agency was then prepared to supervise or conduct a mass movement, and the Attorney General was not convinced of the necessity.

As early as January 5, in a memorandum of that date to Mr. Rowe, during the initial conferences at San Francisco, the Commanding General pointed to the need for careful advanced planning to provide against such economic and social dislocations which might ensue from such mass evacuation. The point was also established that the Army had no wish to assume any aspects of civil control if there were any means by which the necessary security measures could be taken through normal civilian channels. In order to trace clearly the developments which ultimately led to Executive Order No. 9066, and the establishment of military control, that memorandum is quoted in full at the end of this chapter.

The Department of Justice had indicated informally that it did not consider itself in a position to direct any enforced migrations. The Commanding General's recommendations for prohibited zones in Washington and Oregon were therefore viewed with particular concern by the Department. Not only did it feel that such action should be predicated on convincing evidence of the military necessity, it regarded the responsibility for collective evacuation as one not within its functions."

Attorney General Refused to Accept Responsibility for Evacuation

The Attorney General, on February 9, 1942, formally advised the Secretary of War, by letter, that he could not accept the recommendation of the Commanding General for the establishment of a zone prohibited to enemy aliens in the States of Washington and Oregon of the extent proposed by him. He stated in part:

'Your recommendation of prohibited areas for Oregon and Washington include the cities of Portland, Seattle and Tacoma and therefore contemplate a mass evacuation of many thousands * * *. No reasons were given for this mass evacuation * * *. I understood that * * * Lieutenant General DeWitt has been requested to supply the War Department with further details and further material before any action is taken on these recommendations. I shall, therefore, await your further advice.'

Problem of Great Magnitude

'* * * The evacuation * * * from this area would, of course, present a problem of very great magnitude. The Department of Justice is not physically equipped to carry out any mass evacuation. It would mean that only the War Department has the equipment and personnel to manage the task.'

Civil Authorities Could Only Deal With Alien Japanese

'The proclamations directing the Department of Justice to apprehend, and where necessary, evacuate alien enemies, do not, of course, include American citizens of the Japanese race. If they have to be evacuated, I believe that this would have to be done as a military necessity in these particular areas. Such action, therefore, should in my opinion, be taken by the War Department and not by the Department of Justice.'

"The Commanding General thereafter submitted a resume of the military considerations which prompted his recommendation for a prohibited zone in Washington and Oregon embracing virtually the westerly half of those States. The Department of Justice, however, concluded that it was not in a position to undertake any mass evacuation, and declined in any event to administer such general civil control measures."

Alien and American-born Japanese Reside on Same Premises

"Meanwhile, the uncertainties of the situation became further complicated. The enforcement of contraband provisions was impeded by the fact that many *Japanese aliens* resided in premises owned by *American-born persons of Japanese ancestry*. The Department of Justice had agreed to authorize its special field

agents of the *Federal Bureau of Investigation* to undertake spot raids without warrant to determine the possession of arms, cameras and other contraband by Japanese, but only in those premises occupied exclusively by enemy aliens. The search of mixed occupancy premises or dwellings had not been authorized except by warrant only."

Spot Search Revealed Munitions and Maps

"In the Monterey area in California a Federal Bureau of Investigation spot raid made about February 12, 1942, found more than 60,000 rounds of ammunition and many rifles, shotguns and maps of all kinds. These raids had not succeeded in arresting the continuance of illicit signaling. Most dwelling places were in the mixed occupancy class and could not be searched promptly upon receipt of reports. It became increasingly apparent that adequate security measures could not be taken unless the Federal Government placed itself in a position to deal with the whole problem."

Night Signaling From Coast Observed

"The Pacific Coast had become exposed to attack by enemy successes in the Pacific. The situation in the Pacific theatre had gravely deteriorated. There were hundreds of reports nightly of signal lights visible from the coast, and of intercepts of unidentified radio transmissions. Signaling was often observed at premises which could not be entered without a warrant because of mixed occupancy. The problem required immediate solution. It called for the application of measures not then in being."

Footnote 1 follows:

1. It is interesting to note that following the evacuation, interceptions of suspicious or unidentified radio signals and shore-to-ship signal lights were virtually eliminated and attacks on outbound shipping from West Coast ports appreciably reduced.

Situation Dangerous to Safety of Japanese

Further, the situation was fraught with danger to the Japanese population itself. The combination of spot raids revealing hidden caches of contraband, the attacks on coastwise shipping, the interception of illicit radio transmissions, the nightly observation of visual signal lamps from constantly changing locations, and the success of the enemy offensive in the Pacific, had so aroused the public along the West Coast against the Japanese that it was ready to take matters into its own hands. Press and periodical reports of the public attitudes along the West Coast from December 7, 1941, to the initiation of controlled evacuation clearly reflected the intensity of feeling. Numerous incidents of violence involving Japanese and others occurred; many more were reported but were subsequently either unverified or were found to be cumulative.

**Attorney General Has No Legal Authority Over
American-born Japanese**

The acceptance by the Attorney General of the Washington and Oregon recommendations would not have provided the security which the military situation then required. More than two-thirds of the total Japanese population on the West Coast were not subject to alien enemy regulations. The action ultimately taken was based upon authority not then existing. It had become essential to provide means which would remove the potential menace to which the presence of this group under all the circumstances subjected the West Coast. It is pertinent now to examine the situation with which the military authorities were then confronted.

Impossible to Determine Loyal From Disloyal Japanese

Because of the ties of race, the intense feeling of filial piety and the strong bonds of common tradition, culture and customs, this population presented a tightly-knit racial group. It included in excess of 115,000 persons deployed along the Pacific Coast. Whether by design or accident, virtually always their communities were adjacent to very vital shore installations, war plants, etc. While it was believed that some were loyal, it was known that many were not. To complicate the situation no ready means existed for determining the loyal and the disloyal with any degree of safety. It was necessary to face the realities—a positive determination could not have been made.

Japs Located at Strategic Points Not Coincidence

It could not be established, of course, that the location of thousands of Japanese adjacent to strategic points verified the existence of some vast conspiracy to which all of them were parties. Some of them doubtless resided there through mere coincidence. It seemed equally beyond doubt, however, that the presence of others was not mere coincidence. It was difficult to explain the situation in Santa Barbara County, for example, by coincidence alone.

Power Lines, Air Fields Surrounded by Japanese

Throughout the Santa Maria Valley in that County, including the cities of Santa Maria and Guadalupe, every utility, air field, bridge, telephone and power line or other facility of importance was flanked by Japanese. They even surrounded the oil fields in this area. Only a few miles south, however, in the Santa Ynez Valley, lay an area equally as productive agriculturally as the Santa Maria Valley and with lands equally available for purchase and lease, but without any strategic installations whatever. There were no Japanese in the Santa Ynez Valley.

Land Adjacent to Oil Fields Japanese Occupied

Similarly, along the coastal plain of Santa Barbara County from Gaviota south, the entire plain, though narrow, had been subject to intensive cultivation. Yet, the only Japanese in this area were located immediately adjacent to such widely separated points as the El Capitan Oil Field, Elwood Oil Field, Summerland Oil Field, Santa Barbara airport and Santa Barbara lighthouse and harbor entrance. There were no Japanese on the equally attractive lands

between these points. In the north end of the county is a stretch of open beach ideally suited for landing purposes, extending for 15 or 20 miles, on which almost the only inhabitants were Japanese.

Such a distribution of the Japanese population appeared to manifest something more than coincidence. In any case, it was certainly evident that the Japanese population of the Pacific Coast was, as a whole, ideally situated with reference to points of strategic importance, to carry into execution a tremendous program of sabotage on a mass scale should any considerable number of them have been inclined to do so.

Numerous Pro-Japanese Organizations in United States

There were other very disturbing indications that the Commanding General could not ignore. He was forced to consider the character of the Japanese colony along the coast. While this is neither the place nor the time to record in detail significant pro-Japanese activities in the United States, it is pertinent to note some of these in passing. Research has established that there were over 124 separate Japanese organizations along the Pacific Coast engaged, in varying degrees, in common pro-Japanese purposes. This number does not include local branches of parent organizations, of which there were more than 310.

Fascistic and Militaristic Organizations Made Up of Japanese

Research and coordination of information had made possible the identification of more than 100 parent fascistic or militaristic organizations in Japan which have had some relation, either direct or indirect, with Japanese organizations or individuals in the United States. Many of the former were parent organizations of subsidiary or branch organizations in the United States and in that capacity directed organizational and functional activities. There was definite information that the great majority of activities followed a line of control from the Japanese government, through key individuals and associations to the Japanese residents in the United States.

Japanese Language Propaganda Urging Contribution to Japanese War Effort

That the Japanese associations, as organizations, aided the military campaigns of the Japanese Government is beyond doubt. The contributions of these associations towards the Japanese war effort had been freely published in Japanese newspapers throughout California.

Footnote 2 reads as follows:

2. Some of the newspaper items are as follows:

“March 13, 1941. Thirty-two bales of tinfoil were shipped to Japan through the Japanese Consulate General and were contributed by Japanese Associations of Fresno County, Kern County, Delano and San Bernardino.”

“July 6, 1941. Central California Japanese Association announces the collection and transmission to the War Ministry of the sum of \$3,542.05.”

Japanese Veterans' Association Active

'The Japanese Veterans Association was similarly engaged :
 "March 20, 1941. It is announced that the War Veterans Associations in Japan, Germany and Italy, in keeping with the spirit of the Axis Treaty have formed joint and advisory committees to aid and establish the new world order. There are 3½ million veterans and reservists headed by General Imei who have pledged their cooperation to Axis aims.'"

Emperor Worship—Propaganda Used

The extent to which Emperor worshiping ceremonies were attended could not have been overlooked. Many articles appearing in issues of Japanese language newspapers gave evidence that these ceremonies had been directed toward the stimulation of 'burning patriotism' and 'all-out support of the Japanese Asiatic Co-Prosperity Program.'

Numerous Emperor worshiping ceremonies had been held. Hundreds of Japanese attended these ceremonies, and it was an objective of the sponsoring organization to encourage one hundred per cent attendance. For example, on February 11, 1940, at 7.00 p.m., the Japanese Association of Sacramento sponsored an Emperor Worshiping ceremony in commemoration of the 2,600th anniversary of the founding of Japan. Three thousand attended.

Annual Ceremonies Devoted to Emperor Worship

Another group of Japanese met on January 1, 1941, at Lindsay, California. They honored the 2,601st Year of the Founding of the Japanese Empire and participated in the annual reverence to the Emperor, and bowed their heads toward Japan in order to indicate that they would be '* * * ready to respond to the call of the mother country with one mind. Japan is fighting to carry out our program of Greater Asiatic co-prosperity. Our fellow Japanese countrymen must be of one spirit and should endeavor to unite our Japanese societies in this country * * *.'

Japanese Military Code Instilled in Japanese Youth

A few examples of the many Japanese associations extant along the Pacific Coast are described in the following passages:

The *Hokubei Butoku Kai*. The *Hokubei Butoku Kai*, or *Military Virtue Society of North America*, was organized in 1931 with headquarters at Alvarado, Alameda County, California, and a branch office in Tokyo. One of the purposes of the organization was to instill the Japanese military code of *Bushido* among the Japanese throughout North America. This highly nationalistic and militaristic organization was formed primarily to teach Japanese boys 'military virtues' through *Kendo* (fencing), *Judo* (Jiu-jitsu), and *Sumo* (wrestling). The manner in which this society became closely integrated with many other Japanese organizations, both business and social, is well illustrated by the postal address of some of these branches.

Japanese War Effort Furthered

The *Heimusha Kai*. The *Heimusha Kai* was organized for the sole purpose of furthering the Japanese war effort. The intelligences services (including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Military Intelligence Service and the Office of Naval Intelligence) had reached the conclusion that this organization was engaged in espionage. Its membership contained highly militaristic males eligible for compulsory military service in Japan. Its prime function was the collection of war funds for the Japanese army and navy. In more than 1,000 translated articles in which *Heimusha Kai* was mentioned, there was no evidence of any function save the collection of war relief funds.

A prospectus was issued to all Japanese in the United States by the Sponsor Committee for *Heimusha Kai* in America. That prospectus is quoted as follows:

'The world should realize that our military action in China is based upon the significant fact that we are forced to fight under realistic circumstances. As a matter of historical fact, whenever the Japanese government begins a military campaign, we, Japanese, must be united and everyone of us must do his part.'

American-born Japanese Youth Taught Race Superior to All Others

'As far as our patriotism is concerned, the world knows that we are superior to any other nation. However, as long as we are staying on foreign soil, what can we do for our mother country? All our courageous fighters are fighting at the front today, forgetting their parents, wives and children in their homes! It is beyond our imagination, the manner in which our imperial soldiers are sacrificing their lives at the front line, bomb after bomb, deaths after deaths! Whenever we read and hear this sad news, who can keep from crying in sympathy? Therefore, we, the Japanese in the United States, have been contributing a huge amount of money for war relief funds and numerous comforting bags for our imperial soldiers.'

Japanese in United States Must Cooperate With Japanese Homeland

'Today, we, Japanese in the United States, who are not able to sacrifice our lives for our national cause are now firmly resolved to stand by to settle the present war as early as possible. We are proud to say that our daily happy life in America is dependent upon the protective power of Great Japan. We are facing a critical emergency, and we will take strong action as planned. We do hope and beg you all to cooperate with us for our national cause.'

Mother Country Relief Group Organized

The *Heimusha Kai* was organized on October 24, 1937, in San Francisco. The meeting took place at the Golden Gate Hall, and

there were more than 200 members present. The following resolution was passed:

'We, the members of the Japanese Reserve Army Corps in America, are resolved to do our best in support of the Japanese campaign in China and to set up an Army Relief Department for our Mother Country.'

According to reliable sources there were more than 10,000 members of *Heimusha Kai* in 1940.

Japanese Language Textbooks Edited by Imperial Government

One extremely important obstacle in the path of Americanization of the second-generation Japanese was the widespread formation, and increasing importance, of the Japanese language schools in the United States. The purposes and functions of these Japanese language schools are well known. They employed only those textbooks which had been edited by the Department of Education of the Japanese Imperial Government.

Japanization of Second Generation American-born Japanese

In order to assist the Japanization of the second generation, the *Zaibei Ikuei Kai (Society for Education of the Second Generation in America)* was organized in Los Angeles in April, 1940. 'With the grace of the Emperor, the *ZAIIBEI IKUEI KAI* is being organized in commemoration of the 2,600th Anniversary of the Founding of the Japanese Empire to Japanize the second and third generations in this country for the accomplishment of establishing a greater Asia in the future * * * '.

In California alone there were over 248 schools with an aggregate faculty of 454 and a student body of 17,800.

Second Generation American-born Japanese Sent to Japan for Indoctrination

The number of American-born Japanese who had been sent to Japan for education and who were now in the United States could not be overlooked. For more than twenty-five years *American-born progeny of alien Japanese* had been sent to Japan by their parents for education and indoctrination. There they remained for extended periods, following which they ordinarily returned to the United States. The extent of their influence upon other *Nisei Japanese* could not be accurately calculated. But it could not be disregarded.

20,000 American-born Japanese in Japan for Training

The *Kibei Shimin* movement was sponsored by the *Japanese Association of America*. Its objective for many years had been to encourage the return to America from Japan of *American-born Japanese*. When the movement started it was ascertained that there were about 20,000 *American-born Japanese* in Japan. The *Japanese Association of America* sent representatives to Japan to confer with Prefectural officials on the problems of financing and transportation. The Association also arranged with steamship companies for special rates for groups of one or more so returning, and requested all Japanese associations to secure employment for returning *American-born Japanese*.

**Many Alien and American-born Japanese Return to
United States in 1941**

During 1941 alone more than 1,573 *American-born Japanese* entered West Coast ports from Japan. Over 1,147 *Issei*, or *alien Japanese*, re-entered the United States from Japan during that year.

Some Percentages on Ages of Japanese Returned to United States

The 557 male Japanese less than twenty-five years of age who entered West Coast ports from Japan during 1941 had an average age of 18.2 years and had spent an average of 5.2 years in Japan. Of these, 239 had spent more than three years there. This latter group had spent an average of 10.2 years in Japan.

Of the 239 males who spent three years or more abroad, 180 were in the age group 15 to 19 (with an assumed average age of 17.5 years) and had spent 10.7 years abroad. In other words, these 180 *Kibei* lived, on the average, 6.8 years at the beginning of their life in the United States and the next 10.7 years in Japan. Forty of the 239 who had spent three or more years abroad were in the age group 20 to 24, with an assumed average age 22.5. These were returning to the United States after having lived here, on the average, for their first 13 years and having spent the last 9.5 years in Japan, including one or more years when they were of compulsory (Japanese) military age.

It will be noted that 42.3 per cent of those in the 15 to 19 year group lived with a father or mother in Japan, and that 13.2 lived with a grandparent. In other words, more than 50 per cent of this group of *Kibei* had a parent or grandparent in Japan, and it is reasonable to assume that in most instances these *Kibei* lived with this nearest relative.

**American-born Japanese Lived With Parents and Grandparents
While in Japan**

Combining this information with that from the preceding table, it is seen that in a group with an average age of 17.5 years who were returning to the United States after having spent an average of 7.4 years abroad continuously (in other words, from the time they were ten years of age) one-half had lived with their parent or grandparent in Japan. Yet, this group consists entirely of American citizens.

**American-born Japanese Take Great Pride in Japanese
Cultural Attainments**

Of the *Kibei* in Hawaii, Andrew W. Lind, Professor of Sociology, University of Hawaii, says: 'Finally, there is the rather large *Kibei* group of the second generation who, although citizens of the United States by virtue of birth within the Territory, are frequently more fanatically Japanese in their disposition than their own parents. Many of these individuals have returned from Japan so recently as to be unable to speak the English language and some are unquestionably disappointed by the lack of appreciation manifested for their Japanese education.' (American Council Paper No. 5, Page 187, American Council, Institute of Pacific Relations, 129 East 52nd Street, New York).

Japanese Unassimilable

It was, perforce, a combination of factors and circumstances with which the Commanding General had to deal. Here was a relatively homogeneous, unassimilated element bearing a close relationship through ties of race, religion, language, custom, and indoctrination to the enemy.

Commanding General's Duties to Defend Coast

The mission of the Commanding General was to defend the West Coast from enemy attack, both from within and without. The Japanese were concentrated along the coastal strip. The nature of this area and its relation to the national war effort had to be carefully considered.

Outline of Military Areas

The areas ultimately evacuated of all persons of Japanese ancestry embraced the coastal area of the Pacific slope. In the States of Washington and Oregon to the north, Military Area No. 1 contains all that portion lying westerly of the eastern bases of the Cascade Mountains. In other words, the coastal plain, the forests, and the mountain barrier. In California the evacuation program encompassed the entire State—that is to say, not only Military Area No. 1 but also Military Area No. 2. Military Area No. 2 in California was evacuated because (1) geographically and strategically the eastern boundary of the State of California approximates the easterly limit of Military Area No. 1 in Washington and Oregon, and because (2) the natural forests and mountain barriers, from which it was determined to exclude all Japanese, lie in Military Area No. 2 in California, although these lie in Military Area No. 1 of Washington and Oregon. A brief reference to the relationship of the coastal States to the National war effort is here pertinent.

That part of the States of Washington, Oregon, and California which lies west of the Cascade and Sierra Nevada Ranges, is dominated by many waterways, forests and vital industrial installations. Throughout the Puget Sound area there are many military and naval establishments as well as shipyards, airplane factories and other industries essential to total war. In the vicinity of Whidby Island, Island County, Washington, at the north end of the island, is the important Deception Pass Bridge. This bridge provides the only means of transit by land from important naval installations, facilities and properties in the vicinity of Whidby Island. This island afforded an ideal rendezvous from which enemy agents might communicate with enemy submarines in the Strait of Juan de Fuca or with other agents on the Olympic Peninsula. From Whidby and Camano Islands, comprising Island County, the passages through Admiralty Inlet, Skagit Bay and Saratoga Passage from Juan de Fuca Strait to the vital areas of the Bremerton Navy Yard and Bainbridge Island can be watched. The important city of Seattle with its airplane plants, airports, waterfront facilities, Army and Navy transport establishments and supply terminals required that an unassimilated group of doubtful loyalty be removed a safe distance from these critical areas. A reference to the spot map (published in Chapter VIII), Figure 6, showing the distribution of

Japanese population along the frontier, discloses a high concentration of persons of Japanese ancestry in the Puget Sound area. Seattle is the principal port in the Northwest. It is the port from which troops in Alaska are supplied; its inland water route to Alaska passes the north coast of Washington into the Straits of Georgia on its way to Alaska.

Lumber Industry Endangered

The lumber industry is of vital importance to the war effort. The State of Washington, with Oregon and California close seconds, produces the bulk of sawed lumber in the United States. The large area devoted to this industry afforded saboteurs unlimited freedom of action. The danger from forest fires involved not only the destruction of valuable timber but also threatened cities, towns and other installations in the affected area. The entire coastal strip from Cape Flattery south to Lower California is particularly important from a protective viewpoint. There are numerous naval installations with such facilities constantly under augmentation. The coast line is particularly vulnerable. Distances between inhabited areas are great and enemy activities might be carried on without interference.

Hazard in Petroleum Industry

The petroleum industry of California and its great centers of production for aircraft and shipbuilding, are a vital part of the life blood of a Nation at war. The crippling of any part of this would seriously impede the war effort. Through the ports of Seattle, Portland, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Diego, flow the sinews of war—the men, equipment and supplies for carrying the battle against the enemy in the Pacific. A further reference to the spot map, Figure 6, in Chapter VIII, reveals the high concentration of this segment of the population surrounding nearly all these key installations.

Japanese Aliens and Japanese-Americans Tightly-knit Group—Patriotically

In his estimate of the situation, then, the Commanding General found a tightly-knit, unassimilated racial group, substantial numbers of whom were engaged in pro-Japanese activities. He found them concentrated in great numbers along the Pacific Coast, an area of the utmost importance to the National war effort. These considerations were weighed against the progress of the Emperor's Imperial Japanese forces in the Pacific. This chapter would be incomplete without a brief reference to the gravity of the external situation obtaining in the Pacific theater. It is necessary only to state the chronology of war in the Pacific to show this.

Attack on Pearl Harbor

At 8.05 a.m., the seventh of December, the Japanese attacked the United States naval base at Pearl Harbor without warning. Simultaneously they struck against Malaysia, Hong Kong, the Philippines, and Wake and Midway Islands.

Thailand and Malay Attack

On the following day, the Japanese Army invaded Thailand. Two days later the British battleships "H. M. S. Wales" and "H. M. S. Repulse" were sunk off the Malay Peninsula. The enemy's successes continued without interruption. On the 13th of December, Guam was captured and on successive days the Japanese captured Wake Island and occupied Hong Kong, December 24th and 25th, respectively. On January 2d, Manila fell, and on the 27th of February the battle of the Java Sea resulted in a crushing naval defeat to the United Nations. Thirteen United Nations' warships were sunk and one damaged. Japanese losses were limited to two warships sunk and five damaged.

On the ninth of March the Japanese Imperial forces established full control of the Netherlands East Indies; Rangoon and Burma were occupied. Continuing during the course of evacuation, on the ninth of April, Bataan was occupied by the Japanese and on May 6th Corregidor surrendered.

Japanese Carrier Attacks Dutch Harbor

On June 3d, Dutch Harbor, Alaska, was attacked by Japanese carrier-based aircraft and, with the occupation by the Japanese on June 7th of Attu and Kiska Islands, United States territory in continental Northern America had been invaded.

Submarine Attacks on West Coast of United States

As already stated, there were many evidences of the successful communication of information to the enemy, information regarding positive knowledge on his part of our installations. The most striking illustrations of this are found in three of the several incidents of enemy attacks on West Coast points.

On February 23, 1942, a hostile submarine shelled Goleta, near Santa Barbara, California, in an attempt to destroy vital oil installations there. On the preceding day the shore battery in position at this point had been withdrawn to be replaced by another. On the succeeding day, when the shelling occurred, it was the only point along the coast where an enemy submarine could have successfully surfaced and fired on a vital installation without coming within the range of coast defense guns.

In the vicinity of Brookings (Mt. Emily), Oregon, an enemy submarine-based plane dropped incendiary bombs in an effort to start forest fires. At that time it was the only section of the Pacific Coast which could have been approached by enemy aircraft without interception by aircraft warning devices.

Range of United States Coast Guns Known to Japanese

Similarly, a precise knowledge of the range of coast defense guns at Astoria, Oregon, was in the possession of the enemy. A hostile submarine surfaced and shelled shore batteries there from the only position at which a surfaced submarine could have approached the coast line close enough to shell a part of its coast defenses without being within range of the coastal batteries.

Japanese Sub-Commanders Had Knowledge of Naval Off-shore Patrols

In summary, the Commanding General was confronted with the Pearl Harbor experience, which involved a positive enemy knowledge of our patrols, our Naval dispositions, etc., on the morning of December 7th; with the fact that ships leaving West Coast ports were being intercepted regularly by enemy submarines; and with the fact that an enemy element was in a position to do great damage and substantially to aid the enemy nation. Time was of the essence.

The Commanding General, charged as he was with the mission of providing for the defense of the West Coast, had to take into account these and other military considerations. He had no alternative but to conclude that the Japanese constituted a potentially dangerous element from the viewpoint of military security—that military necessity required their immediate evacuation to the interior. The impelling military necessity had become such that any measures other than those pursued along the Pacific Coast might have been “too little and too late.”

CONCLUSION

The propaganda mill of the WRA indulges in the use of the term “*Loyal Japanese Americans*” for the obvious purpose of raising by trick and device the question of the constitutional rights of citizens. The issue involved turns not on this point but on the loyalty of the *Japanese aliens* and *Japanese-Americans* to the Government of the United States and the renunciation of allegiance to the Emperor of Japan.

In view of the foregoing quoted official findings on the “loyalty” of great numbers of Japanese, both *alien* and *American-born*, we again criticise Harold L. Ickes and the WRA for the use of deceptive and diversionary tactics in disseminating false and misleading information to the public in regard to this subject.

In conclusion on the Japanese problem, your committee, in view of the foregoing representative opinions and recitation of official facts, reaffirms its position that: It is dangerous to the public safety, and to the safety of the *Japanese aliens*, and those of *American birth*, to return them to this vital defense area during the war with Japan.

Respectfully submitted.

JACK B. TENNEY, Chairman,
HUGH M. BURNS,
NELSON S. DILWORTH,
JESSE RANDOLPH KELLEMS, Ph.D.,
RANDAL F. DICKEY.