

BULL, BIART & BIEBERSTEIN
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELLORS
MADISON, WISCONSIN

BENJ. H. BULL
NAT. P. BIART
A. J. BIEBERSTEIN
S. W. FRANKEN
WALTER M. BJORK

817-824 GAY BUILDING
BADGER 1760

May 28, 1942

Dr. Paul Taylor,
University of California
Berkeley, California

Dear Paul:

Here you are. The American Legion Post of this city by direction of its executive committee appointed a committee of four to present a service flag to Mr. and Mrs. Henry Toki in honor of their son in the army. This was done because the Mayor of the City called the Legion's attention to the fact that Miss Toki, the oldest daughter, an American citizen, who had previously been honored by the State of Wisconsin for 4-H club work, was conscious of some slighting following the declaration of war.

Upon the principle of toleration and of lending a helping hand to our fellow citizens and deserving aliens, as we had extended to German and Austrian soldiers of the last World War who had become citizens of the United States, the Legion felt that this gesture to this family would be of definite assistance. The principal involved was that during this emergency we should keep alive the American principle of equality politically and of toleration among our citizens. At this presentation neighbors, including a grocery man, a farmer, Miss Kelsey of the English department of the University of Wisconsin, Professor Finch of the University, and the County Agent participated. A letter to the family and the service flag were presented.

The results were that the mother and father felt much relieved, the daughter said that they smiled the first time since the war, the three girls were encouraged, and when the son, who is in the army, was informed of it he felt very happy and proud of the recognition.

The group of Legionaires includes the Commander, who operates a restaurant, Alderman Garner, Alderman Walsh, County Judge Evans, and the movement is supported generally by the leaders of the Legion. This was done to keep alive American ideals and to help these people realize what we believe are their hopes that America is a land of opportunity and toleration, instead of driving them in their despair into disbelief in those things.

There is your paragraph. I might say that since the above about twelve Japanese have come to Madison. A truck farmer, Mr.

Dr. Paul Taylor

Page 2

May 28, 1942

Splinter, has engaged one whom he likes very much, Happy Suzuki, a Japanese truck farmer well established here, is taking a man and his wife; Mr. and Mrs. Nomura with four children have succeeded in renting a flat in a well established district; two boys, Tom and Taka Nomura are staying with Mr. and Mrs. Splinter and doing odd jobs. They are both registered, and I personally think that they should be inducted here provided that the United States army feels that the men can be used and will be reasonably well treated. This seems possible because in the 6th corps area we have three hundred Americans of Japanese descent.

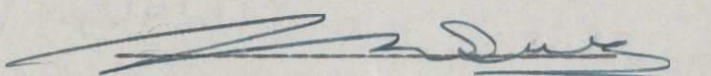
Thus Madison seems to be well on its way to assimilating twelve who are either American citizens of Japanese descent or Japanese of long residence in this country.

I trust that with this example thousands of other cities will move in the same direction of assimilation.

Yours truly,

BULL, BIART & BIEBERSTEIN

By



BHB:LET

C O P Y

T H E A M E R I C A N L E G I O N

Department of Arkansas

Fayetteville, Arkansas.
September 28, 1942.

Form Letter-
Addressee cut out-
Readdressed to:
Policy Section
War Relocation Authority

Commander Lackey has named me your Department Americanism Chairman for the year 1943.

This committee is one of the most important committees of the legion in peace time and now that we are in war there is no question as to its importance. I shall do my best but much depends on the work of you and the other members of the committee, as well as, the entire membership of the American Legion of Arkansas.

It was my pleasure to "set in" at the meeting of the National Americanism Committee at Kansas City, which was conducted by our own B.A. (Bab) Brooks, National Chairman. To see and to hear these serious minded legionaires from all the states of the union, voicing their opinions on resolutions and other matters pertaining to the welfare of our country, made me feel proud that I belong to an organization such as the legion. Lots of "Jap" resolutions. Being from Arkansas, I thought there was one "Jap Resolution" missing that effected our state. As you know, we are losing a great number of good teachers from our local schools which educate the youth of our communities. Remember the legion has, against great odds, fought anything that would lower our school standards and should still continue to fight all things that would deprive our children of the best education possible. The best teachers of the Arkansas schools (too many of them) are taking positions at camps to educate "Japs". The draft has and will continue to take our best teachers from us, but at the expense of a sound American education for our youth of America, we should not educate the "Japs" of Tokyo.

SO MUCH FOR THE JAPS!!!

In view of the fact, that I will not be able to cover the state on account of tires, I would appreciate a letter outlining any Americanism work that you think would help to make a more successful year.

Sincerely and Fraternally yours,

G. M. "Jerry" LeMarr,
Dept. Americanism Chairman,
The American Legion,
Fayetteville, Arkansas

That's the way we are thinking. They are not educating American Prisoners or internees.

*This was then in real
by am. sender to URA*

RESTRICTED

Notes on Conference with American Legion officials
November 12, 1942

(by John Baker)

Frank Samuel, National Adjutant
Homer Chailleaux, Director of Americanization

Samuel, a personal friend of Frank Cross was affable, but non-committal throughout; Chailleaux, who holds a position formerly held by Cross, was friendly, gave evidence of familiarity with the Japanese problem, is a former resident of California, knows and admires Col. Karl Bendetsen of WCCA, sat with resolutions committee at Legion convention. He said the Japanese situation was discussed by people from many states, not only the Western states. The unofficial opinion expressed by most individuals at the convention was that evacuees should be caused to work in the war effort or fight. He was surprised, or acted that way, upon being told that young men of Japanese ancestry were no longer acceptable to the Army through selective service or enlistment except for bi-lingual men now being recruited for special work in the Intelligence service. I pointed out, and Chailleaux admitted that the resolution did not reflect the "work or fight" point of view which he said legionnaires held, and that both would be almost impossible if the legion's recommendations were to be carried out.

The advocating of rounding up the Japanese who "escaped" referred to those who left between December 7 and March 2, rather than those who left Western states between March 2 to 29. He mentioned that four Japanese went to his home town of Manchester, N. H. -- and all were arrested by local police as subversive or potentially so.

Chailleaux's attitude was that all Japanese, regardless of place of birth, are to be suspected.

A meeting of state commanders and adjutants is to be held next week. Jim Fisk, adjutant in California, is expected to present a resolution advocating removal of citizenship from all persons of Japanese ancestry, regardless of birth. This is in the face of the fact that the Legion takes credit for legislation extending the opportunity of citizenship to Japanese who served in the American Army during World War I.

Chailleaux stated that legion post officials and private citizens frequently write to Legion headquarters requesting information on the Legion's attitude toward handling of evacuees. For this reason, he is interested in having information concerning the WRA program.

It is my opininn that the Legion will continue to be opposed to any steps on the part of WRA which have liberal tendencies or result in treating evacuees as anything other than prisoners of war.

C O P Y

Jerome Relocation Center
Denson, Arkansas

June 19, 1943

Mr. John C. Baker
Chief, Office of Reports
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Baker:

Attached is a copy of an article which
appeared in the June 16th issue of the Arkansas
Legionnaire.

Sincerely,

Charles R. Lynn
Reports Officer

Enclosure

C O P Y

W. H. MOORE WILL SERVE IN TENTH

CARPENTER CHOSEN VICE; WANTS JAPANESE BUYING RESTRICTED;
MILLER ENDORSED.

McGehee, - W. H. Moore of Dermott and Charles H. Carpenter of Hamburg were elected commander and vice commander, respectively, by acclamation at the Tenth District convention held here Tuesday night, June 10. Moore was nominated by Charles N. Gleason of Arkansas City and Carpenter by R. L. Gordon of Dermott.

Department Commander Hendrix Lackey was the guest speaker. Other visitors and speakers included, J. A. Pearman, Carl Thompson and Bert Presson of Little Rock, Corp. Paul A. Lucas, World War I veteran and Legionnaire, now a member of the Military Police Detachment at the Rohwer Relocation Center; Harry G. Miller and Dr. D. E. White of El Dorado.

On motion of Tom Johnson of McGehee, seconded by Virgil White of Monticello, the convention endorsed Miller for Department Commander.

Post Commander L. C. Clinton opened the meeting and Dr. Dewey C. Hubler, Monticello, district commander, presided.

Three resolutions previously adopted at an Eighth District Conference were discussed and referred to the State Convention without action.

W. R. A. RESOLUTION

The following resolution regarding operation of the Japanese Relocation Centers was adopted.

"WHEREAS, the Federal Government now rations most all foodstuffs and many commodities because of shortages, and
WHEREAS, there are two Japanese camps in Southeast Arkansas, maintained by the government, at which are housed approximately seventeen thousand people, and

WHEREAS, the Japanese in these camps are permitted to visit surrounding cities and towns and while there purchase many commodities and foods, notwithstanding that the government furnished an adequate amount, and

WHEREAS, Japanese in these camps are permitted to patronize cafes and restaurants while so visiting, regardless of the fact that food is prepared for them at their camps and

WHEREAS, This condition and permission causes a shortage of such foods and commodities which otherwise might not exist, and

WHEREAS, Other almost intolerant conditions exist at these camps, among which are excessive and nonessential use of government trucks, speeding on highways, disrespect of loyal Americans and their rights, NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the proper authorities restrict the Japanese in these camps from purchasing any foodstuffs and only necessary commodities, prohibit buying in restaurants and cafes, in these surrounding towns and also that they be restricted in the use of our highways and trucks to a minimum."

A fish supper prepared by William Kinsey was served.

C
O
P
Y

MILLS COLLEGE
Oakland 13, California

June 23, 1943

Editor
THE AMERICAN LEGION MONTHLY
1 Park Avenue, New York City

Dear Comrade:

Historians and cynics agree that truth is the first casualty in any war, and the fact that we are at war with Japan may justify us in deceiving the Japanese government in any way that will give us a military advantage. It does not, however, justify the spreading of misinformation among our own people.

The article "Japs In Our Yard", in the June issue of The American Legion Monthly, contains certain errors of fact which invite the following comments:

1. The statement that "the Japanese are the only nationality to establish a dual citizenship" is completely erroneous. Many governments, including our own, confer citizenship on the children born to their nationals living abroad, even though the state of their birth may declare them to be citizens of that state. In this matter the policy of Japan was more liberal than that of many countries for Japan refused to confer citizenship on the children born to its nationals living abroad, unless the parents within two weeks registered them as citizens with a Japanese Consulate. (1)

2. The author warns us that locating the Japanese in the sparsely settled Mountain States might be dangerous because "there will be no vested powers in these regions to discriminate and restrict--hold the race in 'Little Tokyos' as there was in California." As a citizen of California I would like to know what these "powers" were and in whom they were "vested." They were certainly not exercised by either the state or local governments because the Supreme Court of the United States has repeatedly held that local ordinances or regulations seeking to restrict the residence of citizens on the basis of race are unconstitutional. The truth is that the "Little Tokyos", like the "Chinatowns" and the "Little Italys", were based in part on mutual convenience and desire, and, particularly in the case of the Oriental settlements, on the inability of Orientals of whatever nationality to purchase property outside the vaguely defined areas in which they had been established.

3. Dr. Murray then asks "How did they happen to buy their gardens, stores and houses in these vital areas so important for defense of the coast?" To most Californians the answer is perfectly obvious. The Japanese were pretty largely

(1) The most readily available treatment of the problem of dual citizenship is to be found in the Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences, Vol. V, pp. 259 et seq. Richard W. Flournoy, Jr. of the United States Department of State, summarizes the situation as follows:

"A child born in a country other than that of which his parents are nationals may possess the nationality of his parents under the ius sanguinis and the nationality of the country of birth under the ius soli. The problem of dual nationality is complicated by the fact that certain states whose laws of nationality are based upon ius soli have engrafted upon them to a greater or less extent the rules of ius consanguinis and vice versa. The United States has adopted both the ius soli and the ius consanguinis."

truck gardeners and they rented the larger tracts of low, level land in the undeveloped industrial areas. Such areas are normally served by one or more railroads and until the land is wanted for industrial purposes it sells at a high price but rents at a fairly low rental. Those who live in such sections are people of low income, chiefly foreigners, for whom "the other side of the tracks" is their usual abode. The Japanese truck gardeners were installed in these areas before the defense plants were even contemplated. That this is the true explanation is shown by the complete absence of any attempts at sabotage by Japanese, either on the mainland or in Hawaii.

4. But the most fantastic criticism is the one that is directed at the Hawaiian born Japanese. The indictment brought against them because of the attack on Pearl Harbor runs as follows:

"None tried to save Hawaii. How could these Japanese brought up with so many privileges, some even educated in mainland universities and Christian colleges, allow this treacherous attack upon their island home, upon their planes, their ships, their fellow-citizens--the soldiers and sailors--who died in the hatches and holds with no chance to escape?"

If there were Japanese in Hawaii who might have "saved" it, or if the attack by air came only because they "allowed" it, they had more foresight and power than all our generals and admirals on the spot. The responsible leaders there, both military and civilian, have reported that there is no record of sabotage or any other treasonable activity on the part of the Hawaiian born Japanese, although one man of German birth was recently reported to have spied for the Japanese government. By now it should be widely known that our Army has permitted these Hawaiian born Japanese who "allowed" the attack on Pearl Harbor, to enlist in the Army of the United States and they are now in training for active service. The charge that men of this type are responsible for Pearl Harbor is so illogical that it could be dismissed with a smile were it not indicative of a flight from reason that is alarming. Total war may explain but cannot justify such a total absurdity.

5. The article also stresses the treachery, cruelty and strange morals of the Japanese people. Without attempting to excuse the conduct of the Japanese governmental leaders, both civil and military, it is proper to recall that the traits complained of are cultural traits and are not transmitted by biological inheritance. One does not acquire a treasonable attitude in the way he acquires the color of his eyes. Japanese Americans reared in this country are as likely to be free of the traits mentioned as are the citizens of any other racial or national origin. The writer of the article is a medical doctor with scientific training and surely he would not have us believe that objectionable traits of character are transmitted through the germ plasm from one generation to another. If any Japanese Americans develop them it will be due to their environment and not to their heredity.

6. The charge that they are "reluctant to intermarry" is a strange one in view of the fact that so many of our states forbid intermarriage between Whites and Japanese. We are apparently as reluctant as they, but we rely so little on their reluctance that we interpose the criminal law in case their reluctance should be overcome. The plain truth is that we do not want them to marry White persons, and then we condemn them for their failure to do so. In short we want the grindstone to turn both ways at once, and this indicates a mental condition for which there is no known remedy.

7. The charge that they have established Japanese language schools in this country falls rather strangely on the ears of those who are familiar with the long history of the American School in Tokyo. The Japanese and other aliens in the United States, just like Americans living abroad, are reluctant to watch their children grow up in ignorance of their parents' native tongue. Such schools should be regulated in order to preclude the possibility of any disloyal or un-American propaganda, but their existence is no evidence of treason.

8. The article concludes with a recommendation that the American born Japanese now living in the continental United States be relocated in "the Territory of Hawaii and other Pacific Islands in our possession like Guam, Wake, Midway, Samoa and others." Inasmuch as the total area of Guam, Wake, Midway and Samoa is only about 300 sq. miles, they must have been included merely to suggest that there is ample room in our Pacific possessions for all of our citizens of Japanese ancestry. The fact is that we have no territory of any appreciable size in the Pacific, other than the Hawaiian Islands, which are volcanic, mountainous, incapable of industrial development, and, by every reasonable standard, are already over-crowded.

The proposal to establish a kind of Pale of Settlement in the South Seas, a sort of ghetto into which American citizens of Japanese ancestry would be herded, is so impractical that it could be disregarded except that it indicates a willingness on the part of some to establish a kind of second-class citizenship under the American flag, in violation of the Fourteenth Amendment, the Bill of Rights, and most of the principles and traditions of American democracy. The racial theories and programs associated in our minds with A. Hitler and Jim Crow must never be incorporated in the American Constitution. To propose such a system of racial segregation is to furnish grist to the propaganda mills of Tokyo, and to rebuff our non-White friends in the Philippine Islands, China and South-east Asia. In the interest both of justice and of victory, any such proposal must be promptly scotched.

9. The article further states that "California does not want the Japanese back" and that "the West Coast will not take them back." There are of course some people in California who would favor the post-war segregation of Japanese Americans in the Mountain States, the South Pacific, or in Hell for that matter, but the more responsible leaders in California have not succumbed to such tribal emotions.

Many of our leaders were in fact so alarmed over the hostility directed at loyal Japanese Americans that they organized The Pacific Coast Committee On American Principles and Fair Play to see that measures deemed necessary to prevent and detect sabotage do not degenerate into some permanent form of racial persecution. The Honorary Chairman of that Committee is Dr. Robert Sproul, President of the University of California, and it includes the presidents of Stanford University, The College of the Pacific and Mills College. Other members are the Hon. C.C. Young, former governor of California, Mr. Frank Gaines, mayor of Berkeley, Dr. Chester Rowell of The San Francisco Chronicle, Mr. Alfred J. Lundberg, former president of The California State Chamber of Commerce, General David P. Barrows, former president of the University of California, Dr. Henry F. Grady, former Under Secretary of State, and other leaders from trade unions, churches, women's and civic organizations.

The men and women who serve on this Committee have earned the respect and confidence of the people of this State. They may at times hold opinions that are at variance with the popular passions engendered by the War and inflamed by our

politicians, but in the long run their counsel will prevail. They are of those who do the best thinking that is done in California and some of us Legionnaires will be sorry indeed if the Legion forfeits their good will by endorsing any project for the permanent segregation of American citizens because of their racial origin. All talk of dividing our people on the basis of color or race is dangerous talk because it breeds a disunity which can only give aid and comfort to the enemy. Most of us Legionnaires are too old to fight but we can perform a real service if we combat every attempt to employ racial doctrines to disrupt the unity of our nation and the United Nations.

Sincerely,

Glenn E. Hoover

Glenn E. Hoover
(Member Oakland Post No. 5)

June 24, 1943

Mr. M. F. Wildman
Adjutant
Bar-Le-Duc Post
Veterans' Memorial Building
Oakland, California

Dear Mr. Wildman:

Please permit me to acknowledge your letter of June 18th, enclosing copy of resolution adopted by your Post.

You may be sure that I appreciate receiving your views and I shall certainly keep them in mind.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

John H. Tolan
Member of Congress

JHT:VEB



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VETERAN'S MEMORIAL BUILDING
OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

BAR-LE-DUC POST

545

June 18, 1943

*Thank for
views*

Hon. John H. Tolan,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith is a resolution adopted
by this Post, which is self-explanatory.

We respectfully urge that you do whatever
lies in your power to further the recommendations
contained therein.

Yours very truly,

M. F. Wildman

M. F. WILDMAN
Adjutant

Enclosure

A R E S O L U T I O N

URGING THAT THE CONTROL OF INTERNMENT CAMPS BE PLACED UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES

WHEREAS, It has been brought to our attention that several thousand Japanese have been released from internment camps, and

WHEREAS, A movement is now on foot to release many more, and

WHEREAS, Protestations of loyalty to the United States on the part of both native and foreign born Japanese cannot be relied upon, and

WHEREAS, The safety of this country is paramount to any inconvenience or injustice caused to any individual or group of individuals, and

WHEREAS, The authorities who are charged with the defense of this country are better qualified to administer the affairs of these camps than any other agency of the Federal government; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: By Bar-Le-Duc Post #545, The American Legion, in regular meeting assembled, at Oakland, California, this 15th day of June, 1943, that we go on record urging that the military authorities be placed in complete charge of all relocation centers, internment and concentration camps, and that all civilian agencies be completely divorced therefrom; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That Lt. Gen. John L. DeWitt be commended for the efficient manner in which he has administered this area, and that we urge his retention as commander of the Western Defense Command and 4th Army; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Headquarters, Tenth District, American Legion, and a copy be spread upon the minutes of this meeting.

Passed June 15th, 1943

M. F. Wilder
Adjutant

HEARST NEWSPAPERS

Times-Herald Building
Room 607
Washington, 5, D. C.

Ray Richards
Washington Correspondent

March 20, 1944

William P. Haughton, Esq.
State Commander,
The American Legion,
Los Angeles.

Dear Commander Haughton:

I think it would be well to clarify some confusion that apparently has arisen regarding publicity given Dr. John Lechner on his latest visit to Washington.

I do not recall that Dr. Lechner, in so many words, made the direct and specific statement that he came as a representative of ~~the~~ California State Department of the American Legion. That is, he did not make any such remark as: "I am an official representative of the California State Department of the American Legion".

But I am sure he knew I was referring to the State Department in at least one of my stories, and allowed it to stand.

Dr. Lechner brought with him so large a file of Legion material, including Legion publications bearing his name as author, and type-written copies of district, state and national Legion resolutions on the Japanese question, that in showing it to me he left the very clear impression that he was carrying on a state, district and national Legion cause, as a Legionnaire, and without any question of state and district Legion approval.

Dr. Lechner did state specifically that he represented the Los Angeles district of the Legion, and, as I remember, he had pamphlets apparently written ~~by~~ him and published by the state Legion. This came after your telegram of protest to him, in my care.

However, when he wrote me on his return to Los Angeles, asking me to write a letter to Mr. Podmore to alleviate criticism of any deliberate misrepresentation, I was glad enough, with only casual thought, to do so, as I was completely in the dark as to the extent of the issue that was arising.

During our numerous talks, no doubt arose in my mind that Dr. Lechner was speaking for the Legion in general in California, and there seemed no particular reason, in view of all the documents he carried, to question him specifically. This now seems to have been a bit of carelessness on my part, due to my complete ignorance then of the background of the situation.

Naturally, my purpose in using the Legion's name so prominently was to give the Legion credit for what the West Coast public feels is extremely commendable work. I had no reason to exploit Dr. Lechner personally, but reported his visit and activities as part of a steadily running series of stories on the Japanese resident problem -- a series starting in Los Angeles and continued here -- that began before the evacuation.

My friendship and admiration for the American Legion started with its creation, and I would not for the world do anything to embarrass the Legion.

Very truly yours,

s/ Ray Richards

THE AMERICAN LEGION

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

SAN FRANCISCO WAR MEMORIAL

VETERANS BUILDING

HEMLOCK 2400

POSTAL DISTRICT 2

WM. P. HAUGHTON COMMANDER
LEON V. MCCARDLE . . . NAT'L COMMITTEEMAN
JAMES K. FISK ADJUTANT

March 31, 1944

TO ALL DISTRICT AND AREA COMMANDERS:

Although none was received by your Department Commander or Department Adjutant, James K. Fisk, several members of the Department Executive Committee have referred to me a letter, with certain enclosures, recently sent out by Ray Podmore, Twenty-Third District Commander, requesting that the Department Executive Committee rescind its action taken at its last meeting, censuring Dr. Lechner.

In order that you may have all of the facts before you, the following information is submitted for your consideration:

At the last National Convention, a resolution dealing with the Japanese question was adopted. A copy of this resolution is enclosed. Your attention is directed to the last paragraph which instructs our National Commander to bring this program to the attention of the President and the Congress of the United States.

Under date of July 14, 1943, Dr. L. A. Hammer, the then Commander of the Twenty-Third District, wrote Department Commander Leon Happell relative to the special committee created on the Japanese problem, by the Twenty-Third District. In this letter he states:

"We have been challenged with a responsibility of coordinating more than three thousand leading organizations under American Legion leadership to carry this fight directly to Congress, where our Committee has been invited to appear. Most of the organizations have stipulated that they would like a representative of our Committee to represent them in presenting the pertinent facts on the Japanese problem to Congress. An important Committee in the Congress has already invited this representative to appear before it in the introduction of a far reaching program relative to the Japanese which will be introduced in the next session.

"Although our District did a splendid job in financing this program, we are going to run short, especially with regard to the costs involved of a Washington hearing. Understand, we are not going back to Washington representing the American Legion as an organization but we are going back to represent the Legion Posts, civic groups, City and County Governments which have designated this Committee as their representatives for this purpose. Would you have any personal objection if four or five of our friends outside the American Legion offered their assistance in a financial way so that we can do this job right?"

TO DISTRICT & AREA COMMANDERS

March 31, 1944

Under date of July 20, 1943, our then Department Commander Happell replied to Dr. Hammer's letter, a pertinent paragraph of which reads as follows:

"In the event that representatives from the Americanism Educational League should go to Washington, D. C., or elsewhere, for the purpose of testifying on the Japanese question, it should be very plainly stated that they are speaking for that organization and not for The American Legion. My purpose in requesting this is because we have a legislative set-up, Americanism Commission, National Defense, etc., which are very satisfactory, representing, as they do, the million Legionnaires in this Nation, and who can give testimony which will carry more weight than the Americanism Educational League - - I believe we should stay in the "groove" so far as the Legion is concerned".

Around the first of November 1943, a series of articles began to appear in the Hearst newspapers throughout the Country, written by Ray Richards, which reported that the California American Legion was opening a direct attack through Congressional channels on the American good faith of the Japanese-American Educational League. Dr. Lechner was mentioned as follows: "Representing the Legion, under resolutions adopted by the California Department and ratified by the National organization, John R. Lechner, of Los Angeles, held a series of conferences with key members of Congress".

Immediately following the release of these articles, your Department Commander began to receive complaints objecting to Dr. Lechner's activities in Washington and his representations as being the spokesman for The American Legion. Under date of November 2, 1943, your Department Commander sent Dr. Lechner the following telegram:

"Newspaper articles emanating from Washington D.C. the last two days under Ray Richards' name contain the statements that you are back there as a representative of the American Legion, Department of California, to secure the enactment of anti-Japanese legislation. As you well know you hold no appointment whatsoever in the American Legion, Department of California. A resolution on the Japanese situation was passed at our August Department Convention and then at the September National Convention in Omaha. Thereafter any action on such resolution properly belongs to our National Commander and our permanent National Legislative Committee in Washington, D.C. and not to you or any other self-appointed individual. The American Legion has no control over what you do as an individual or through your American Educational League but does have control over your actions as a purported representative of our organization. You are advised that should these misrepresentations on your part continue appropriate action will be taken against you at the State Executive Committee meeting to be held in San Francisco next month".

Dr. Lechner wired back stating, among other things, that at no time did he say that he represented the Department; that he was chairman of the Twenty-Third District Committee on Japanese problems; that the mistake was one of reporting and not his; that the Department Commander had better get excited over the Japs

TO DISTRICT & AREA COMMANDERS

March 31, 1944

at Tulalake and not over him, and for the Department Commander to tell that to the Executive Committee.

Following the return of Dr. Lechner to Los Angeles from his trip to Washington, D. C., he maintained to your Department Commander and others that the mistake was one of reporting and that at no time had he held himself out as having been in Washington, D. C., as a representative of The American Legion.

In the meantime it had become necessary for our National organization to advise certain Congressmen, who are members of The American Legion and who look to the duly constituted authorities of our organization for guidance and support, that Dr. Lechner did not represent the Department of California or the National organization of The American Legion in his appearance in Washington, D. C.

It also became necessary for National to give similar advice to the F.B.I. This later action resulted from an inquiry to National from the F.B.I., occasioned by a letter written by Dr. Lechner to J. Edgar Hoover under date of October 25th, 1943, in which Dr. Lechner states:

"I expect to leave for Washington this week and be there from November 1-12th for a series of conferences to clarify for our people the attitude of some of the departments on the Japanese question. I am making this trip at the request of the American Legion whose Committee on the Japanese problem I am directing".

Following his return to California, Dr. Lechner further violated the directions contained in the letter of Leon Happell to Dr. Lechner, above mentioned, and your Department Commander's wire, by having printed and disseminated copies of the news articles written by Ray Richards in which Dr. Lechner's name is frequently mentioned as representing The American Legion. This reprint of the articles mentioned was enclosed with the letter from Ray Podmore, Twenty-Third District Commander, recently sent to each of the District Commanders of the Department. As previously stated, this letter was not sent to either the Department Commander or the Department Adjutant but has been called to our attention by a number of the District Commanders.

A few days ago your Department Commander received a letter from Ray Richards in which he states that he does not recall that Dr. Lechner, in so many words, made the direct and specific statement that he came as a representative of the California State Department of The American Legion - "...but I am sure he knew I was referring to the State Department in at least one of my stories, and allowed it to stand". Mr. Richards further writes, "During our numerous talks, no doubt arose in my mind that Dr. Lechner was speaking for the Legion in general in California, and there seemed no particular reason, in view of all the documents he carried, to question him specifically". A copy of this letter is enclosed.

Your Department Commander is in receipt of a letter from our National Commander, Warren Atherton, in connection with this matter, which reads as follows:

TO DISTRICT & AREA COMMANDERS

March 31, 1944

"You have drawn my attention to the fact that a recent Department Executive Committee disapproved actions of Dr. John R. Lechner in permitting himself to be publicized as appearing on behalf of The American Legion.

"If the Doctor appeared before Congress or any other public forum claiming to represent The American Legion he should not have done so.

"The American Legion has attained its outstanding place in national affairs by repeatedly adhering to the line of authority provided by our Constitution, By-Laws and resolutions.

"On matters of national import, Posts must clear with their Districts, Districts must clear with their Departments and the Departments must present the matter either to a national convention or a national executive committee. If either of the two latter bodies approve the policy or enact a mandate, the execution of the policy or mandate is entrusted to a particular officer who is charged with the sole responsibility of carrying it into effect; in legislative matters this officer is the National Legislative Director.

"Obviously, if unauthorized persons purport to speak for the Legion the prestige and power of the Legion itself are broken down and there is no means of regulation or control.

"Therefore I trust that you and the Department Executive Committee will continue to be rigid in upholding the right of the national organization to deal exclusively in furthering action approved by the majority of our members through channels".

As heretofore pointed out, our delegates to the last National Convention adopted a program relative to the Japanese, both foreign and American-born, and our National Commander was instructed to bring it to the attention of the President and Congress.

In a recent communication from our National Commander, he emphasizes that "The National organization of The American Legion can only hope to carry the wishes of its members into effect and to accomplish the national program if its authority to speak on such matters is exclusive. Under the very democratic system in use by our organization, a Post can initiate action; it should clear such action through its District; if the District approves, the matter is forwarded to a Department Convention or Department Executive Committee; from either of the last two bodies it can be forwarded to the National Convention or National Executive Committee for final decision; after final decision is made action should be left exclusively in the hands of the National officers".

Very truly yours,

William P. Haughton
William P. Haughton,
Department Commander.

Lechner

THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN FRANCISCO

OFFICE OF
THE DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

May 15, 1944

Mr. Galen M. Fisher,
11 El Sueno, Route 2,
Orinda, California.

Dear Mr. Fisher:

I am returning herewith two copies of the special report on Dr. Lechner; also enclosed is a copy of a letter sent by me to each of the members of the Department Executive Committee. Lechner's supporters, following the sending out of my letter, decided not to bring their request for rescission of the action previously taken by the Department Executive, censuring Dr. Lechner.

I wish to thank you for the information which you forwarded me and I regret that lack of space did not permit the publishing of the speech of Ben Kuroki before the Commonwealth Club of San Francisco.

Cordially yours,

Wm. P. Haughton
William P. Haughton,
Department Commander.

WPH:gem
Encls

MEMO
from the desk of
DR. RUSSELL W. STARR

Am. Legion
T 1.71

February 10, 1945

Mr. Booth:

Per telephone request today -

This speech was made before the Board of Social Action of the First Congregational Church, Los Angeles, Calif., on Wednesday, February 7, 1945.

oOo

The Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion reads in part: "For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes: to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order." The Supreme Court of our land has decreed that the rights of citizens of Japanese ancestry shall not be abridged. With this we agree. Color, race, or creed must not be the governing factor in our lives if our democratic form of government is to continue.

National Defense in time of Peace as well as in time of War, has been of more special interest to the American Legion than to any other civilian group. We who have had personal contact with the horrors of war, have in the past raised our voices in warning that our lack of nearly everything needed for a proper National Defense, invited aggressor nations to attack our beloved country with its vast storehouse of wealth and the freedom it gives its citizens.

Now we find ourselves in the fourth year of a global war,

fighting for our existence, fighting, if you please, to determine whether you and I shall retain our liberties, our right to worship when and where we please, the right to gather together in such meetings as this.

The American Legion is firm in its belief that nothing must interfere with WINNING THE WAR! War is no respecter of persons or things. It calls for sacrifice from all of us, some more than others. With our sons and brothers offering their dearest possession, life itself, who are we to blind ourselves to the stark realism of war and its demands? Inequalities can be righted, and in the case of our citizens of Japanese ancestry, this is now being done. Japanese-American citizens have regained their rights; Japanese aliens are now handled in a manner similar to citizens of other enemy nations. The Army still retains the right to restrict activities of all enemy aliens in this country and this is as it should be.

Let me tell a story or two -- When I returned from service in World War I the only Medical School in Southern California was the College of Medical Evangelists at Loma Linda and Los Angeles. Here I went to complete my medical studies. This school is operated differently from most. Bible Study is required throughout the entire medical course. Morning worship, evening vespers and weekly religious services are arranged for all students. During the past several years a number of students of Japanese ancestry have been graduated. These men have been in a deeply religious atmosphere for at least four years - yet what happens!

Most of you will recall reading the extensive newspaper reports of the diary of a Japanese Medical Officer on Attu. When the "chips were down" this man reverted to Emperor worship and the orders of his army. He murdered some twenty or more patients under his care and then committed suicide.

Recently an American Army Medical Officer returned from a tour of duty in the South Pacific. He told of finding a Japanese classmate of his at Loma Linda, educated under the same conditions as those related above. He found an expensive Anatomy book with his own name in it, which had disappeared during school days. He was much surprised, because this Japanese doctor's father was a Christian Japanese minister and all his formal education had been in religious schools in the United States.

One more story to illustrate the point I wish to make -- Probably a number of you know Tokie Slocum. He was born in Japan - he was a good soldier for Uncle Sam during World War I and later a special Act of Congress made him a Citizen. When December 7, 1941 passed and plans were made to intern all persons of Japanese ancestry, Tokie said "If that's what Uncle Sam wants, I'll lead the parade to Manzanar." This he did. In Manzanar he was still loyal to the United States and did everything possible to encourage loyalty among other internees. For this he was beaten within an inch of his life and had to be taken out of Manzanar.

Today Tokie Slocum wears a Sergeant's uniform in the Army of the United States. Last October he stopped at a local hotel on his way East from service in the South Pacific. He telephoned

another friend of his, Mr. John D. Home, a Los Angeles attorney an active Legionnaire. John invited Tokie to lunch and he accepted. A little later in the conversation John mentioned he was managing the campaign of Gordon McDonough for Congress. Tokie promptly declined the luncheon appointment and John asked why. Tokie's words were "Too many people know me in Los Angeles. It might hurt Gordon McDonough if it became known that we had lunch together, and I will not knowingly cause any of my friends the least embarrassment."

There spoke a man who had America's interest at heart, and I, too, am proud to call him friend. Thus we see that each case involving a person of Japanese ancestry must be decided on its merits. No person who really loves America will do anything to injure or embarrass America.

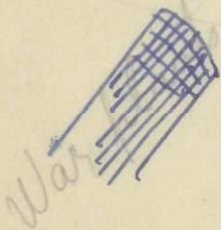
The working out of the Japanese problem on the Pacific Coast can be done by constitutional means and such procedure will be supported by the American Legion. We invite you to join with the American Legion and "Carry on" for God and Country!

AMERICAN LEGION PLATFORM

- 1 - Only those Japanese who have signed loyalty oaths should be considered for temporary work releases.
- 2 - That non-signers of loyalty oaths be not permitted or influenced at a later date to sign previously rejected loyalty oaths.
- 3 - That those refusing to sign loyalty oaths be segregated in war relocation camps apart from those signing loyalty oaths.
- 4 - That the disloyal be put into camps at constructive work for the duration and that all aliens disloyal be deported immediately following the war.
- 5 - That only American-born Japanese be eligible for release from relocation centers, and that they should not be released until their loyalty to the United States has been definitely proved.
- 6 - That all alien-born Japanese released to date be immediately returned to the camps and not again released.
- 7 - That the Japanese in all camps live under the same food rationing policy as that followed by the American public.
- 8 - That the war relocation centers be placed under the control of the military authority.

Rept. of Americanism
Chairman, James O'Meil
American Legion

(from newspaper
clipping Aug. & Sept. 1943)



H. M. Lyon

MILITARY CONTROL OVER JAPANESE INTERNMENT CAMPS URGED

Resolution No. 281

WHEREAS, all Japanese, both alien and native born, were ordered confined in concentration camps for the duration of the war; and

WHEREAS, while the military authorities were in charge of these camps, there was no complaint from the Japanese as to their loss of privileges or confinement in these camps; and

WHEREAS, these camps were to be fenced and patrolled to see that none of the Japanese escaped; and

WHEREAS, since June 1, 1942, when the authority over these camps was turned over to a civilian control board, discipline has been relaxed, no fences have been built and discontent has been bred among the Japanese confined there; and

WHEREAS, a campaign is under way to allow 2000 Japanese students to leave the camp and continue their education at the different schools and colleges; and

WHEREAS; thousands of our sons have had their educational program cut short by being drafted into the military service in defense of our country;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by The American Legion in National Convention assembled at Kansas City, Missouri, that we go on record as being opposed to any special privileges being granted Japanese in these camps and that they be denied the privilege of leaving these camps under any pretext for the duration of the way and that control of these camps be returned to the military authorities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that those Japanese that escaped to States east of the Rockies be taken into custody and placed in these different camps or that they be placed under military control in their present location.

Passed by 24th Annual National Convention, Sept., 1942.

WHEREAS, The Twenty-Fourth Annual National Convention of The American Legion, held in Kansas City, Missouri in September, 1942, opposed the releasing of Japanese, both foreign and American born, from War Relocation Centers to attend colleges and universities in the United States and for other reasons, and the National Executive Committee of The American Legion at its November, 1942, meeting reiterated opposition to such plans; and

WHEREAS, The War Relocation Authority, the agency of the Federal Government charged with the responsibility of looking after interned Japanese, is continuing to release Japanese for the purpose of continuing their higher education and for other reasons; and

WHEREAS, This same Federal agency has stated by letter to the office of the National Americanism Commission that all such Japanese now being released are thoroughly investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and

WHEREAS, J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the F.B.I., stated in a letter to the office of the National Americanism Commission that such Japanese are not investigated by the bureau under his supervision;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Executive Committee session, May 6-7, 1943, that the Congress of the United States be urged to enact legislation to immediately return to War Relocation Centers all those so released; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all such camps be placed under the control of military authorities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That The American Legion, both National and State, utilize all avenues of publicity in securing the cooperation of all patriotic Americans to urge Congress to take such action.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all Departments, Districts and Posts be requested to adopt similar resolutions and forward same to their representatives in Congress.

Passed by Executive Committee of Legion in May 6-7, 1943.

From National Publicity Division, The American Legion, Omaha, Nebraska

Omaha, Neb. Sept. 1943. Deportation at the conclusion of the war of all alien and all American-born Japanese who have been found disloyal, was demanded by the 25th National Convention of The American Legion at its closing session here, September 23.

It adopted the following resolution on the Japanese problem as presented by Chairman Sam Rorex, Little Rock, Ark., of the resolutions committee:

"WHEREAS, many people in the United States are not familiar with the character, habits and mode of living of the Japanese, and consequently are not in possession of sufficient facts upon which to base their conclusions as to the desirability of the Japanese as residents of the United States; and

"WHEREAS, it is impossible to assimilate into our American way of life; and

"WHEREAS, as the American Legion in Convention assembled in Omaha, this 23rd day of September 1943, that we favor the adoption of the following program in relation to the Japanese, both alien and American born, within the borders of the United States, its territories and possessions;

"(1). The utilization in agriculture, wherever possible and practicable, exclusive of combat zone, of American born Japanese, under Army supervision.

"(2). The release of all Japanese-owned farm implements, cars and tires for wartime use, under the doctrine of eminent domain.

"(3). The creation of a Congressional Fact Finding Committee to study every phase of the Japanese problem in America, to the end that sound recommendation be made for Post-War action.

"(4). The immediate passage of legislation by Congress to provide at the conclusion of the War for the deportation of all alien Japanese and American born Japanese who have been found by competent authority:

"(a) To have given aid or comfort to any enemy of the United States in the present War.

"(b) To have advocated or taught the overthrow by force or violence of the Government of the United States.

"(c) To knowingly and intentionally expressed by deed or by word, either orally or in writing, loyalty to a foreign state.

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That upon adoption of this Resolution the National Commander be instructed to bring this program to the attention of the President and the Congress of the United States".

100 cr. 222

RESOLUTION ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS GUILD

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION IN MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN,

AUGUST 9, 1944.

PROPOSED BY WILLIAM OLIVER, PRESIDENT LOS ANGELES NEWSPAPER GUILD
SPONSORED ON FLOOR BY: G. WARREN MORGAN, WASHINGTON D.C. GUILD

JAPANESE AMERICANS

WHEREAS, American soldiers of all ancestries are fighting and dying on war fronts throughout the world to preserve the human rights and institutions of this country, and

WHEREAS these American soldiers of all ancestries are fighting and dying to eradicate for all time the blot of racial and religious discrimination and persecution which helped to foment the present global catastrophe, and are fighting to restore to all men the dignity of freedom, and

WHEREAS 74,000 American citizens of Japanese ancestry--many of whom are still behind wire fences--were removed from their Pacific Coast homes to War Relocation Centers because of a military necessity, and

WHEREAS the Fourteenth Amendment of Our Constitution guarantees full rights of citizenship to every person born in this country, therefore:

Be it resolved that the American Newspaper Guild request the Federal Government re-examine its position with regard to loyal Americans of Japanese ancestry with the view of returning ^{to their} homes at the earliest possible moment.

RESOLUTION UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED BY
LOS ANGELES POST NO. 8, AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA
AT ITS REGULAR MEETING HELD DECEMBER 21, 1944

WHEREAS, there has been considerable controversy and agitation since Pearl Harbor regarding the rights and status of American citizens of Japanese descent; and

WHEREAS, included among such Americans are those who have served in the American armed forces in World Wars I and II and those who are now serving America in various combat areas with heroic distinction; and

WHEREAS, among that group are those who have served actively and patriotically for many years as our comrades in the American Legion; and

WHEREAS, we have personally observed their conduct and activities as members of our own Legion Post and as members of the 17th District of California; and

WHEREAS, there have been grave assaults upon the rights of these fellow Americans and there has been and now is being waged a persistent campaign of intolerance, prejudice and hatred against them; and

WHEREAS, our attitude toward Americans of Japanese ancestry is of transcendent importance not only to them but to all Americans of whatever ancestry since it concerns a preservation of our constitution and the maintenance of the rights guaranteed thereunder; and

WHEREAS, the order of evacuation issued by the military authorities has now been vacated and the return of a number of the Japanese to our community is anticipated; and

WHEREAS, we are of the conviction that the time has come for a fair, honorable and American expression regarding this so-called Japanese problem:

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, THE members of the Los Angeles Post of the American Legion, do hereby declare:

1. There must be no discrimination whatever against any American citizen based solely on his Japanese ancestry. We are deeply concerned over the widely disseminated expressions of certain groups and individuals which seek to deny these Americans their rights as such and attempt to establish a distinction between them and other citizens solely by reason of their race in disregard of the constitutional provision that there be no distinction between any person because of his race or color.
2. We particularly deplore any expression emanating from an American Legion source which refuses to accord any American ex-service man or service man the same rights, privileges and honors as any other citizen solely because of his ancestry.
3. We urge our comrades in the American Legion to see to it that the persons and property of the Japanese returning to our community are safeguarded and protected and that they be accorded their full rights and privileges under the constitution without reservation.

RESOLUTION UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED BY
HOLLYWOOD WORLD WAR II POST 591, AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA
AT ITS REGULAR MEETING HELD JANUARY 9, 1945
2035 N. Highland Ave., Hollywood 28, California

WHEREAS, we as members of the American Legion are pledged to support the Constitution of our country and

WHEREAS, we consider the guaranty effected by Article 14 of the Constitution to be of great importance to us in the maintenance of our democratic ideals and

WHEREAS, recently there has been much controversy and agitation in the western states and particularly in California attacking the rights of American citizens of Japanese descent and

WHEREAS, affected by these unjust attacks are many American citizens who have served in our armed forces, not only in World War I but are still serving in World War II, many of them having received citations and commendations for valor beyond the call of duty and

WHEREAS, among this falsely attacked group are loyal American veterans who have served and are serving actively and patriotically as American Legionnaires and

WHEREAS, the order of evacuation issued by the U. S. Army has now been vacated and

WHEREAS, we are aware of the fact that disloyal Japanese and such Americans of Japanese descent who are suspect, will be kept in custody of the Government with a view toward deportation and de-naturalization after the war and

WHEREAS, the American Legion has full confidence in the judgement of our military authorities and

WHEREAS, there have been grave assaults upon the inherent rights of fellow Americans and

(more)

2-RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, there is now being waged a persistent campaign of intolerance, prejudice and hatred against them and

WHEREAS, there is cause for grave suspicion that certain elements are waging this campaign behind the cloak of false patriotism although their only true consideration concerns their selfish economic advantage.

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, the members of Post 591 American Legion, Hollywood, World War II, Department of California, hereby declare:

1. WE, the members of this Post condemn any discrimination of whatsoever type against any American citizen based on the stand that he or she is of Japanese or any other racial descent.
2. WE, as veterans of World War II have been fighting for the ideals of and principals guaranteed by the U. S. Constitution and are much concerned over the actions of certain groups and individuals who are attacking these very ideals for which we have been fighting.
3. WE, strongly condemn any efforts to establish a false distinction among American citizens based on race, color or religious creed, such distinctions being a complete violation of the constitutional provision that there be no such distinction established among American citizens.
4. WE, therefore, condemn the action of the Hood River Post of the American Legion in effacing the names of American soldiers fighting overseas from their honor roster as a shameful act which discredits and humiliates the name of the American Legion.
5. WE, urge all comrades of our Post and all other American Legion Posts and all citizens who have the welfare of the nation at heart, to safeguard the constitutional rights of all Americans regardless of race, color and creed.

Never accepted.

222

WHEREAS, One of the avowed purposes of the American Legion as voiced in the Preamble of its Constitution is "To make right the master of night, to promote peace and good will on Earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy," and

WHEREAS, The ranks of the American Legion contain comrades of Japanese ancestry who fought in the first World War and will doubtless contain others from among the ranks of the good Americans of Japanese ancestry who are fighting loyally and bravely in the present struggle, and

WHEREAS, The American Legion recognizes its responsibility of preventing waves of hysteria fed by demagogic appeal to the baser emotions from beclouding the sane and studied judgement of the people in this time of stress, and

WHEREAS, The Departments of War and Justice of the Federal Government have expressed approval of the principles, policy and purposes of the War Relocation Authority in their present handling of the relocation of American citizens of Japanese ancestry and of alien Japanese, and

WHEREAS, the Western Defense Command removed all persons of Japanese ancestry from the Pacific Coast Area,

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the American Legion, Department of California, in convention assembled,

THAT the distinction now being made in the segregation of disloyal from loyal Japanese being carried out by the War Relocation Authority and endorsed by the War and Justice Departments of the Federal Government be, and hereby is, approved.

THAT we are in full accord with the decision of the Western Defense Command to evacuate all persons of Japanese ancestry from the Pacific Coast Area.

THAT we endorse the policy of preventing the return to the Pacific Coast Area of persons of Japanese ancestry for the "duration".

THAT in view of the fact that the Japanese government may use any ill treatment of these persons of Japanese ancestry for propaganda purposes in the Orient and as a basis for retaliation against American citizens held captive in Japan, we believe that all evacuees should be treated firmly but in a humanitarian manner in conformity with the

Constitution of our Country and the traditions for which it stands.

THAT we believe that all employable persons of Japanese ancestry should be put to work to relieve the manpower shortage as long as such employment does not jeopardize the safety of the Nation.

THAT we are in full accord with the present program, which has been approved by the War Department and the Department of Justice, for the separation of all persons of Japanese ancestry who are loyal to Japan from those who are loyal to the United States and confining those who are disloyal for the duration of the war.

July 23, 1943

Clyde Shoemaker

RESOLUTION.

WHEREAS, various misguided and uninformed persons and organizations are engaged in efforts to discredit the Government and those responsible for the evacuation of persons of Japanese ancestry from the prohibited and restricted areas along the Pacific Coast, on the ground that the orders and proclamations whereby the Japanese evacuation was promulgated and carried out were illegal and contrary to the processes of democracy, and are endeavoring by means of propaganda to nullify those orders and proclamations, and to bring about a release of the Japanese from the relocation and assembly centers where they are now situated under government supervision;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Los Angeles County Council of the American Legion does hereby declare its belief in the integrity and validity of the Japanese evacuation in all of its aspects upon the grounds that the orders and proclamations of the President of the United States, the Secretary of War, and of J. L. De Witt, Lieutenant General, United States, Commanding, of the Fourth Army and Western Defense Command, providing for the evacuation of the Japanese from the Pacific Coast area, were based upon grounds of vital military necessity for the purpose of guarding against three principal dangers affecting the security of our country in the war with Japan, those dangers being essentially espionage, sabotage and fifth column activities, and that the evacuation of the Japanese as a result of the orders and proclamations made and issued by the representatives of our Government was justified in every particular, and was brought about and carried out through and by the exercise of regularly constituted procedure of our duly elected and appointed representatives charged with the responsibility of safeguarding the security of our country and successfully defending against the attacks of the enemy, and prosecuting the war against the enemy.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Los Angeles County Council of the American Legion does hereby declare its firm adherence to the policy of the Government manifested by the evacuation of the Japanese from the Pacific Coast area, and its belief that the United States Army should be charged with the responsibility of supervising and controlling the relocation centers and the assembly centers in this country wherever the Japanese may be situated, and in directing their activities, and that all civilian responsibility in that connection should be terminated, and that the army should be substituted as the agency having full charge and control of the Japanese evacuees.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Los Angeles County Council of the American Legion does hereby urge the President of the United States and the Secretary of War to promulgate such orders and proclamations as may be operative to divest civilian authorities of the control and supervision of the relocation and assembly centers where the Japanese evacuees are now situated, and to place the same entirely under the control, supervision and direction of the army and its representatives, upon the ground that the same public policy and military necessity which justified the evacuation continue to make it imperative that army discipline, supervision and control be immediately substituted for civilian control.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY
CALIFORNIA CIO COUNCIL
IN EXECUTIVE SESSION
AT OAKLAND ON JAN. 14, 1945

RETURN TO CALIFORNIA OF AMERICANS OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY

The California CIO Council in executive session in Oakland, January 14, 1945, recognizes the recent order of the War Department and the War Relocation Authority permitting the return of loyal Americans of Japanese ancestry to the Pacific coast as a commendable and correct step; one in line with the principles for which this war is being fought.

In view of the established fact that thousands of our Japanese-Americans are now serving their country with honor and distinction on the battlefield, we believe that such action as taken by the American Legion, Hood River, Oregon, in erasing the names of Japanese from the honor roll of World War II veterans, should be condemned as regrettable and unjustifiable.

This attempt to foster race hysteria must be recognized by all Americans as a threat to the unity of our people and further indicates a lack of confidence in the judgment of our War Department.

The experience of our country since Pearl Harbor has been that these Americans of Japanese ancestry have proven themselves responsible and loyal Americans, participating in all phases of the war. As such they are entitled to as much protection under our constitution as any Americans regardless of race, creed or color.

The California CIO Council wholeheartedly supports the action of the War Department and condemns those who are attempting to split the American people by arousing racial prejudices for their own partisan ends.

The California CIO Council further calls upon all public officials of State, County and Municipal governments and all people of this State to do everything within their power to cooperate with the War Department in order to assist in the readjustment of these loyal Japanese-Americans to our community life.

Rec'd by JRA 10/1/43

From NATIONAL PUBLICITY DIVISION, THE AMERICAN LEGION, Omaha, Neb.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OMAHA, Neb. Sept. Deportation at the conclusion of the war of all alien and all American-born Japanese who have been found disloyal, was demanded by the 25th National Convention of The American Legion at its closing session here, September 23. ✓

It adopted the following resolution on the Japanese problem as presented by Chairman Sam Rorex, Little Rock, Arkansas, of the resolutions committee:

"WHEREAS, many people in the United States are not familiar with the character, habits and mode of living of the Japanese, and consequently are not in possession of sufficient facts upon which to base their conclusions as to the desirability of the Japanese as residents of the United States; and,

"WHEREAS, it is impossible to assimilate into our American way of life; and,

"WHEREAS, as the American Legion in Convention assembled in Omaha, this 23rd day of September 1943, that we favor the adoption of the following program in relation to the Japanese, both alien and American born, within the borders of the United States, its territories and possessions:

"(1). The utilization in agriculture, wherever possible and practicable, exclusive of combat zone, of American born Japanese, under Army supervision.

"(2). The release of all Japanese-owned farm implements, cars and tires for wartime use, under the doctrine of eminent domain.

"(3). The creation of a Congressional Fact Finding Committee to study every phase of the Japanese problem in America, to the end that sound recommendation be made for Post-War action.

"(4). The immediate passage of legislation by Congress to provide at the conclusion of the War for the deportation of all alien Japanese and

(ambiguity in this statement)

American born Japanese who have been found by competent authority:

"(a) To have given aid or confort to any enemy of the United States in the Present War.

"(b) To have advocated or taught the overthrow by force or violence of the Government of the United States.

"(c) To knowingly and intentionally expressed by deed or by word, either orally or in writing, loyalty to a foreign state.

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That upon adoption of this Resolution the National Commander be instructed to bring this program to the attention of the President and the Congress of the United States."

Copy of a four col¹ in 10 inch advertisement an Imperial Valley newspaper on December 28, 1944.

TO ALL PERSONS OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY EVACUATED
FROM IMPERIAL VALLEY

Amer Legion

You will recall that in 1941 shortly after Pearl Harbor, the Westmorland Post of the American Legion threw open the doors of its hall and invited you to come to a mass meeting there to be addressed by certain individuals in authority in Imperial Valley on how to conduct yourselves so as to bring the least possible harm to yourselves.

The meeting was a success and much good came of it because you followed the rules and suggestions laid down by Sheriff Ware and Elmer Heald, District Attorney at that time.

This post feels that because of the proven wisdom of that meeting three years ago that it has earned the right to speak at this time. We have some advice to give you Japanese and it is this:

DO NOT RETURN TO IMPERIAL VALLEY

To Support This Statement We List The Following Facts:

1. The People of this area are not friendly to Japanese.
2. The War with Japan is still to be finished and it is next door to this area, there is bound to be more feeling here.
3. The economy of this Valley has changed since you left and you will find it difficult if not impossible to re-establish yourselves here.
4. There is an acute housing shortage in the Valley.
5. There is no land available to rent.
6. It will be easier to reestablish yourselves in the large eastern cities where there are many different races already living together. We suggest you go there and establish yourselves while there is a manpower shortage - You will be in a better position when the war ends.
7. The Japanese situation has always been a sore spot in California - Witness the alien land laws - Now is your time to clean up all your holding here and get the best price you will ever be able to obtain.
8. You should have more pride than to try to return to a place where you are not welcome and not wanted by the majority of the citizens.

The Westmorland Post of the American Legion hopes this ad will be read by the Japanese at Poston and elsewhere and that the Japanese will seriously consider each reason listed above, any one of which should be sufficient to persuade you from returning here.

WESTMORLAND POST N.O 173 AMERICAN LEGION

11/21/44

C O P Y

Legion Adopts Pasadenan's Views on Japanese Question

(Pasadena Post. May 11, 1943)

So pleased was the National executive committee of the American Legion with an article written by W. W. Colton of Pasadena regarding exclusion of Japanese from the United States, that the article was adopted as the official viewpoint of the American Legion.

Mr. Colton is the editor of the Pasadena Post No. 13 weekly bulletin. News of the committee's action was returned to Pasadena yesterday by Robert M. McCurdy, who attended sessions of the national organization at Indianapolis last week.

Advocates Exclusion

In his editorial on the Japanese Mr. Colton pointed out that there is no happy way of retaining Japanese land owners in this country after the war and he advocated exclusion of them all.

Mr. McCurdy was one of several Pasadenans invited to attend the Indianapolis conference. Mr. McCurdy is a member of the National rehabilitation committee of the Legion.

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(Pasadena American Legion Bulletin. May 1, 1943)

BILL'S PAGE, by W. W. Colton

Only One Way Out

The murder of General Doolittle's flyers by an exultant Japanese government became known at the height of a silly but dangerous campaign to release and resettle the "loyal" Japanese on the Pacific Coast and in Arizona. It is hoped this horrible, official execution, which was patently preceded by torture, will bring the inherent sadism and savage appetites of the Nipponese race sharply to the attention of the grandmothers--old and young, male and female--who, in the mistaken interests of justice, would repopulate the Far West with unassimilable aliens, whose presence, now or a hundred years from now, could only end in tragedy and disaster.

As for making distinctions between "loyal" and "disloyal" Nisei, the people of this area know such a proposal constitutes the ultimate horseradish. It simply can't be done. The mind of the Japanese-American is utterly inscrutable to the Caucasian, though he lives next door for a lifetime. Most of the present internees protest their allegiance to the United States, which is obviously to their advantage. But the extent of the Pearl Harbor Day riots at Manzanar

and Poston give many of them the lie. And, not one instance has been published of a "loyal" Japanese giving information of traitorous activities on the part of a single person among his thousands of dis-loyal brethren. The grandmothers can't answer that one, except to say, "They're human beings", which may possibly be so but which has nothing to do with the danger of turning them loose in a designated war zone.

To release them to the interior, where they might acquire property and form rapidly-multiplying colonies--forever alien--would likewise be a tragic move. The mistaken humanitarians of the east and midwest who, for many years, opposed California's alien land laws and the Oriental Exclusion Act because they were so far from the situation they didn't know what they were talking about, find, in this threat, their chickens come home to roost. In sheer self-defense and with only a hazy idea of what a Japanese infiltration would mean, the Michigan State Legislature has passed a doubtfully constitutional exclusion act of its own; the war industries of Pittsburgh have stated emphatically that they won't hire them; and almost every state suggested as a haven for them has protested frantically if sometimes informally.

The Nipponese are out of place in this country--they will always be out of place. Their residence anywhere in the United States, with their child and female labor making the underselling of white farmers and merchants a foregone conclusion, would eventually be as tough and dangerous for the Japs as for their Caucasian neighbors. Race riots might ensue. Bitterness would always be present.

With the welfare of both American and the American-born Japanese at stake, there is but one way out. It can be used immediately at the close of this war--it can never be used again. Send them back across the Pacific to live among their natural kindred. Their opportunities for social acceptance and self-respect lie there.

Would they be humiliated by such a procedure? Only for a year or two, after which they would become the social and economic leaders of their communities. Would they prosper? Anywhere. Would they encounter competition? With millions of Oriental and Pacific island acres to which they might be transported--not too much. Would their removal be constitutional? The Constitution was made for amendments in crises. Would they undergo financial hardships because of deportation? No. Their property has been sold or is in the process of being sold at a fair market price and all transactions can be completed before the war is over. Will the opportunity to deport them in a humane manner occur again? No. Because with hard cash in their hand, the Nisei upon release, will buy property at once and tie themselves to the soil. Will the opportunity to deport them at all occur

again? No. Because they propagate too rapidly and, in all likelihood, they will never again be entirely assembled in camps under the arbitrary control of the federal authorities. Will deportation and resettlement in the Orient or Pacific islands cost money? Plenty. But far less than the retention of the Nisei in America, with the specter of their possible domination of western agriculture, the menacing race problem caused by their fecundity and the almost certain stimulation of World War III as a result of unceasing and unavoidable bitterness between irreconcilable opposites living together.

The time comes to men and nations when an unpleasant purgative is the only way to health. That time, for the United States, is about to arrive.