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COUNCIL ON ALIEN RELATIONS

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SUBJECT: HYPHENATED AMERICANS

COUNCIL ON ALIEN RELATIONS

MONTHLY BULLETIN

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COUNCIL ON ALIEN RELATIONS

March, 1945

HYPHENATED

AMERICANS

NOTE

Minorities halt the assimilation which makes America "the great melting pot" by insisting upon the use of hyphenated identifications such as "Italian-American", "German-American", "Irish-American", "Japanese-American" and "Mexican-American".

The Council on Alien Relations, recognizing this fact, has consistently pointed out that to hyphenate one's Americanism implied divided loyalty. The practice has continued, nevertheless. Hence, these hyphenated Americans may find food for thought in a proposal which is gaining wide support in the West.

The proposal, advanced as a amendment to the federal constitution, provides "that all persons born in this country whose parents are non-citizens must, upon attaining the age of 21, formally swear allegiance to the United States government and to the constitution, and foreswear allegiance to the country of their father's birth, and if that condition is not met, such persons shall be denied all rights of citizenship."

The Council believes the proposed amendment warrants consideration and the support of every thinking American. Loyal Americans have not forgotten the widespread use of citizenship as a cloak of protection of subversive activities. Surely no citizen of 21 would object to swearing his allegiance to the U.S. IF his loyalty were undivided and he were proud to accept

the responsibilities as well as the priveleges of citizenship.

Sharing interest with the constitutional proposal is the Johnson Bill, now pending before Congress to denationalize "all persons" who during the war, fail to answer affirmatively the question of the government as to whether they will swear allegiance to the U.S. and foreswear all other allegiances.

The measure was introduced by Rep. LeRoy Johnson of Calif. who, no doubt, has in mind the matter of future dealing with enemy aliens and citizens of doubtful loyalty. Alien Japanese are not eligible to citizenship. Any American-born Japanese or American-born or naturalized citizen of any other nationality who refuses to answer affirmatively, the Council feels, deserves to be denationalized and deported. There is too much disloyalty in this country, both overt and furtive. If fairly enforced, the Johnson Bill should yield a motley array of assorted nationalities.

LANGUAGE The so-called language school system by which minor-
SCHOOL ity nationalities in this country perpetuate the lang-
DANGER uage, traditions and some of the worst doctrines of the homeland has been brought to national attention by the Calif. State Senate's fact-finding committee on Japanese resettlement.

Before Pearl Harbor, 248 of these schools were operated in California with teaching faculties totaling 454 and student bodies of 17,800. Children were enrolled at kindergarten age and send each day after public school to one of the Japanese language schools. Almost all of the teachers were alien Japanese or educated in Japan. Many were Shinto priests trained in the religion

of Japanese nationalism. Until the spring of 1941 when a legislative investigation threatened in California, textbooks used in the schools were published by the Japanese imperial Board of Education.

Here is how a typical fifth grade lesson begins:

"Our heavenly ruler has governed our Empire for ages past and we are his subjects...There is no other country with such a royal lineage. Be thankful you are a Japanese and worship the Imperial family."

This was the type of "instruction" given in the language schools which, by estimates of the Nisei themselves, were attended by 85% of the American-born Japanese.

Senator Hugh Donnelly, head of the Fact Finding Committee, has offered a bill calling for the licensing and regulation of language schools by the California State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Most West Coast residents will agree this legislation is long overdue.

PRODUCE MEN Some enlightening material was released recently
SEEK OUT by the Americans League of California, composed principally of growers and produce men.

Denying that it was self-interest which prompted their opposition to Japanese West Coast resettlement, the League proceeded to show by official government figures that the Japanese DID NOT hold a dominant position in the California agricultural industry before the war. Rather, The League Bulletin said it was 40 years of business and social relationships which had given

them "an opportunity to learn Japanese psychology and the true attitude of the Japanese toward the American people."

The Bulletin also quoted the 1944 annual summary, compiled by the Los Angeles Division of the Federal-State Market News Service, as declaring that "many of the Japanese growers, of course subsidized by the Emperor, always produced an oversupply of vegetables."

"Before Pearl Harbor, the Japanese government reached into this country and exerted a strong control and influence over the lives of all Japanese, both alien and American-born in this country," the Bulletin continued.

"This hold was almost feudalistic and was exerted through a web of interlocking associations. Virtually every Japanese was a member of several associations. Some of them were social, some were industrial and other were clearly operated to maintain the patriotic urge for the Mother country. Japanese associations generally were linked directly or indirectly to the Japanese Consulate. Through these associations, rules of conduct were laid down, trade practices were regulated and woe be unto the Japanese either foreign or American born, who failed to heed the edicts of his association. He risked his business and social existence."

"It is a matter of record that Japanese residents in Calif. contributed tens of thousands of dollars to the Japanese war effort in the pre-Pearl Harbor days. Evidence recently made public in the briefs of California, Oregon and Washington Attorneys General in the United States Supreme Court case of Fred Toyosaburo Korematsu further disclosed also that many thousands of Japanese residents in the United States had a financial stake in Japan through "fixed Yen Deposits".

"It was a common occurrence before the war for credit organizations checking into Japanese businesses to find instances of huge transfers of money from this country to Japan. Invariably, the transaction could be traced to the Yokohama Specie Bank, where inquiries would be met by a wall of silence. The Yokohama Specie Bank is sponsored by the Japanese Imperial Government."

ISSEI IN There seems to be little doubt but what the Issei
CONTROL (alien) Japanese controlled the thoughts and actions
of the Japanese population in the U.S. before the war. ^hat they
are continuing to do so, despite Nisei (American-born Japanese*)
declarations to the contrary, was indicated in recent news reports.
One story came from the Heart Mountain (Wyo.) Relocation Center
newspaper. It told of the selection of an all-Issei (foreign-born)
delegation to attend the eight-center conference at Salt Lake City
on a uniform program for evacuees, now free to relocate on the
Pacific Coast. It is indeed a strange commentary that Heart Mount-
ain, which numbers among its thousands a large percentage of Ameri-
can-born Japanese, should name Issei (foreign-born) spokesman to
plan the future of the Japanese in the U.S.

As a sample of Issei thinking, take the Japanese language sect-
ion of the Utah Nippo, Salt Lake City evacuee newspaper. Through
its columns, it was learned that the Japanese plan to establish a
lobby with certain front organizations and prosecute so-called in-
demnity claims to Congress for a total of \$400,000,000. The claims
purportedly involve losses in time and income since the West Coast
evacuation in 1942.

Editorials, also in Japanese, urged evacuees to remain a closely
knit entity in the United States, confronting the U.S. government
and West Coast "discrimination" with the Yamato spirit-- the same
spirit with which fanatical Japanese soldiers offer their lives for
the Emperor.

Previously the Utah Nippo announced that Japanese truck gardeners, failing to find a welcome back to the West Coast were settling elsewhere with post-war plans for a vengeful price-cutting campaign against California Caucasian growers in Eastern Produce markets.

This mood of retaliation is typically Japanese and offers additional proof, if such is needed, that the thinking of the U.S. Japanese is still controlled by their alien elders.

Political and economic assimilation of the Japanese--with their help--is the only solution to a vexing nationality problem. Interested groups must look at this problem on a national basis and substitute realism for theory. Those familiar with the West Coast realize that population concentrations are an inherent bar to Americanization. Had these considerations been foremost in dealing with evacuees, the spirit of retaliation would not be rampant among the U.S. Japanese today.

*Yamato is the ancient word for Japan. Yamato implies an exclusiveness and superiority similar to the term "Aryan" used by the Nazis. The expression used today, "remember Yamato Tamashi", means "Remember the spirit of Japan", and is the foremost challenge of Japanese fanaticism. Any relation of Nisei to the Yamato thesis is a direct contradiction of loyalty to the U.S.A.

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COUNCIL ON ALIEN RELATIONS
PARK CENTRAL BUILDING

December 1944

H. DEXTER McRAY
Executive Secretary

"Let every man honor and love the land of his birth and the race from which he springs and keep their memory green. It is a pious and honorable duty. But let us have done with British-Americans and Irish-Americans and German-Americans, and so on, and all be AmericansIf a man is going to be an American at all, let him be so without qualifying adjectives; and if he is going to be something else, let him drop the word American from his personal description." - By Henry Cabot Lodge.

The above quotation from Henry Cabot Lodge, one of America's great statesmen, provides common ground for the representative Western men and women who have banded together to form the Council on Alien Relations. In this, the first of a series of monthly bulletins, the Council takes occasion to identify itself and its objectives.

The people who are lending their names and their support to this new Council realize the need of an organization interested in the nation's alien population. Their goal is to build better citizenship and unified loyalty to the United States.

This nation seems destined after the war to participate more widely than ever before in international affairs. Yet, internally she has vast alien groups who have yet to be convinced this country is worthy of their citizenship. There they remain -- 3,400,000 of them -- unnaturalized and unassimilated.

OBJECTIVES 1. To encourage, as citizens, naturalization and assimilation of our alien population.
LISTED:

2. To eliminate through legislation the mask of dual citizenship which serves so often to bind a foreign-born resident to his native land.

3. Enemy aliens and other interned persons should not be allowed freedom of movement in coastal defense areas until hostilities cease. And before release from an internment center to any destination, each should be investigated as to loyalty by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

4. Congress should create immediately a committee to study and to recommend proper legislation so that in the post-war era the entire relocation problem can be handled with intelligence and in a democratic manner to assure justice for all involved.

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5. Enemy aliens and other interned persons who have shown or avowed disloyalty to the United States should be expatriated under special treat arrangements with their country of origin at the conclusion of the war.

6. Even though most of the persons interned in the interests of wartime security come from the Pacific Coastal area, citizens throughout the United States should be acquainted with the entire background, history and pre-war activities of internees in order to understand the comprehensive national problem involved.

CITIZENSHIP: From its first days as a Nation, the United States has welcomed new blood foreseeing in it strength, vision and aggressiveness. It was taken for granted that the new people from abroad would seek citizenship for themselves and their children in exchange for freedom and opportunity.

Every war sends naturalization figures soaring and this is no exception. During the past year more than 435,000 took out papers. Certainly those foreign-born who have been looking and working toward the day they become citizens deserve the highest tribute.

But it is a fair question to ask how many were frightened into action by world events which they thought might affect their security. Until the war came along, many of these people by their own admissions had gone for 20, 30 or 40 years partaking of American benefits but accepting none of the responsibilities.

The Council feels that there should be legislation requiring aliens to become naturalized within a specified period, possibly 5 years after their arrival in this country or forfeit their right of citizenship. This period should provide ample time for the alien to meet the language requirements for naturalization and determine in his own mind whether American citizenship is preferable to his native land.

Aliens of German, Italian and Japanese extraction found themselves in the uncomfortable position of "enemy aliens" when the war began. Even though loyal to this country, many were under suspicion subject to curfew regulations and other restrictions.

Loyal German and Italian individuals and groups simplified the FBI's task of dealing with subversive elements. Cooperation of their aliens was one of the main factors in influencing the Western Defense Command, within a period of months, to exempt them from a curfew.

Only 67,000 German and Italian aliens resided in the Pacific Coast states of California, Oregon, Washington and Arizona. That is a small proportion in comparison with the nation as a whole.

In contrast, almost 113,000 or 89 percent of the Japanese population lived in these states. Much controversy arose over the evacuation of this nationality group to inland areas. Pointing to

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the minor restrictions imposed upon German and Italian aliens, some charged the Japanese were being discriminated against and their civil rights ignored.

The Army, after intensive investigations carried on in cooperation with the Navy, FBI came to quite a different conclusion. Internal security, it decided, would be definitely impaired if the Japanese were allowed to remain.

The Council, through dint of extensive research, has found ample evidence for military necessity in the Army's unprecedented action. Nor is there any reason to believe that this is a time to reverse the decision.

OUR EVACUEE POPULATION:
AN ANALYSIS With the end of the European war expected in a matter of weeks or months and persistent demands by certain groups for return of Japanese to restricted Pacific Coast areas, an analysis of relocation center population appears in order.

In the beginning, relocation centers housed approximately 100,000 alien Japanese and Japanese-Americans. When the WRA's resettlement program was inaugurated in the fall of 1942, that agency hoped for virtually complete resettlement of all evacuees under its direction by June of this year.

For the purpose of this study, Tule Lake, by far the largest of the nine remaining centers may be disregarded inasmuch as it houses alien and American-born incorrigibles and their families who are unlikely to be released before the end of the war. Tule Lake's population is more than 18,000. The eight other centers account for 80,000 people who are the WRA must interest in resettlement.

Who are these people and what is their outlook?

To learn these facts, Toshio Yatsushiro, Iwao Ishino and Yoshiharu conducted a recent survey of persons 15 years or older at Colorado River Relocation Center, Poston, Arizona.

Here is what they found:

75 percent of the Issei (aliens) questioned indicated that they were planning to stay in Poston.

7 percent were undecided.

18 percent (only) plan to resettle.

On the other hand, the survey of Nisei (American-born Japanese) showed almost the reverse with 63 percent planning resettlement.

Thus, in Poston where the aliens and American-born are almost equal in number, only 40 percent of the adult population favors starting life anew in a city or town outside of the restricted area and

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the remaining 60 percent will "wait it out" for the duration or until they can return to the West Coast.

Inasmuch as the Poston survey group considers its findings typical of relocation centers, generally, we can assume that the composition of returning evacuees would be heavily alien, a significant and startling fact in view of our stepped-up Pacific War.

SENTIMENT Why wasn't the Poston report, with its implications,
VS. brought to the nation's attention? Because the WRA was
FACTS too busy pushing its propaganda program, which follows
 this two-fold pattern:

1. -- Anyone who opposes the return of the Japanese to the Pacific Coast, no matter what his reason, is a race-monger or worse.
2. -- Because 10,000 to 12,000 persons of Japanese ancestry are in the armed forces, all Japanese are loyal.

In the first instance, the WRA is doing the Japanese and the nation a disservice by creating a racial issue. With due respect and honor for those loyal Japanese, in and out of the Army, the second point proves nothing.

By way of recapitulation, about 9 percent of the nation's total population is in the armed forces. The percentage figure for the Japanese population runs less than half of that. In fact, the 10,000 to 12,000 total can be attributed largely to Hawaii.

Furthermore, it does not follow that families of men in service are necessarily loyal to the United States. Any number of those who enlisted did so in defiance of their families, who are as devoted as ever to the Mikado.

Some insight into why the number of Japanese in U.S. Service is proportionately small, may be gained from the testimony of Col. Kai E. Rasmussen, the War Department's Japanese expert, before a Senate Military Affairs Subcommittee in 1942.

Rasmussen branded as "enemies of the country" at least 25 percent of our aliens and American born Japanese. How right he was can be judged by the fact that one out of every four eligible Japanese of draft age (17-37) refused to take an oath of loyalty to this country or to serve its armed forces.

The Poston survey, the aforementioned facts relating to the Japanese service record and Rasmussen's expert opinion on loyalty are only a few of the things on which the WRA has neglected to inform the American people.

Although interested in problems affecting all alien groups, the Council felt timeliness warranted discussion of the Japanese issue in this monthly bulletin. The American people are inherently fair. When they have all the facts, you can depend upon them for a reasonable decision. The Council believe in keeping the record straight.