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LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES

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Berkeley, California
13 July 1949

Edward N. Barnhart, Assistant Professor
Department of Speech
424 Wheeler Hall
University of California
Berkeley 4, California

Dear Professor Barnhart:

By the time of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, there were city and county defense councils in most of the cities and counties of the state. They were created by local ordinance, under authority of the state law which authorized them. Their formation was encouraged not only by the State Council of Defense but also by the Headquarters of the Commanding General of the Western Defense Command. In addition, of course, there was similar encouragement, amounting to insistence, from the Federal Office of Civilian Defense in Washington and the regional OCD offices established by that Federal agency which, in our case, maintained headquarters in San Francisco for the Ninth Regional Civilian Defense Area. In most cases, these city defense councils were headed up by the mayor or city manager, the county councils being headed up by the chairmen of boards of supervisors, the district attorney, or the sheriff.

I think it would be worthwhile for you to get in touch with Mr. Burton Washburn, Secretary of the California State Disaster Council, in Sacramento. This is the successor agency to the California State Defense (later War) Council. To the extent that files and records are centrally available, they would be in his custody.

If you wish to go so far, you could, of course, address communications to the city clerks and county clerks, asking them to examine the records of their local defense councils to determine whether resolutions

1215 16th St

Professor Edward N. Barnhart

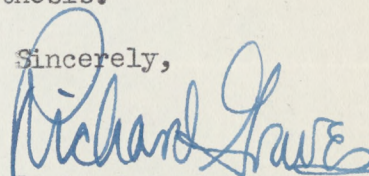
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13 July 1949

on this subject were adopted by them, and, more particularly, to look back to the record of resolutions adopted by city councils and boards of supervisors to determine whether resolutions were adopted by them during the period from Pearl Harbor until the order of the Commanding General for evacuation.

The California Newspaper Publishers' Association offices in San Francisco and Los Angeles might be helpful in giving you access to the editors of local papers where expressions of editorial opinion might be found. In view of the nature of your interest, I am confident you would get much more cooperation than Mr. Grodzins would secure to maintain his thesis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Richard Graves", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Richard Graves
Executive Director

RG:jh

424 Wheeler Hall

15 July 1949

Mr. Burton Washburn, Secy.
California State Disaster Council
1215 16th Street
Sacramento, California

Dear Mr. Washburn:

Mr. Richard Graves of the League of California Cities gave me your card and suggested that I write to you for some information in connection with a book which a colleague and I are writing on the background of the Japanese evacuation from the Coast in the months after Pearl Harbor. A book has recently been published by the University of Chicago entitled "Americans Betrayed", by H. Grodzins, which pictures the evacuation of the Japanese as being spurred by "pressure groups" acting from economic motives. The author pictures local and state politicians as acting in concert with these groups and "guiding" public opinion in favor of evacuation.

Our reading of the picture suggests that this thesis is entirely wrong: we find that all sections of the population became alarmed about the possibility of Japanese sabotage about the same time and pressed for some sort of action, and that no one group or small number of groups can be shown to have "pressured" opinion.

To confirm our theses we are anxious to secure as much evidence as we can showing the wide-spread character of this concern. I have found resolutions of cities and county boards of supervisors, grand juries, service, clubs, etc. and etc. There is one group of organizations which existed during the war about which we have very little information on this point, namely, the city and county Defense Councils.

Would it be possible to secure, from your files, a picture of how many California city and county Defense Councils passed resolutions advocating the removal of enemy aliens, or Japanese nationals or all Japanese (or whatever group was specified) from the coast? The text of such resolutions would be of great interest, if these could be secured.

I would very much like to hear from you of the possibility of securing this information. Mr. Graves thought that as the successor agency to the State Defense Council your organization might have the old files.

Sincerely

Edward N. Barnhart
Assistant professor

Washington

EARL WARREN
GOVERNOR OF CALIFORNIA
CHAIRMAN

BURTON WASHBURN
SECRETARY
1215 16TH STREET
SACRAMENTO 14, CALIFORNIA



California State Disaster Council

July 29, 1949

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LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
RAYMOND H. BARROWS
MANAGER, PACIFIC AREA, A.R.C.
DAVID W. BIRD
MEMBER, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
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LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES
FREDERICK N. HOWSER
ATTORNEY GENERAL
HAROLD J. POWERS
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE

Mr. Edward N. Barnhart, Assistant Professor
University of California
424 Wheeler Hall
Berkeley 4, California

Dear Professor Barnhart:

This is in answer to your letter of July 15, 1949 written at the suggestion of Mr. Richard Graves and requesting information as to the background of the Japanese evacuation from the Pacific Coast in the months after Pearl Harbor.

The present state administration came into the wartime program January 1943 and the records of the California State War Council do not reveal any resolutions or letters which would indicate the feeling of the public on that subject.

The records of the Office of Civilian Defense which existed at the time the Japanese were removed from the Coast are undoubtedly stored in some state warehouse and we have no facilities for making a search to obtain direct information from that source.

I am informed by a former employee of the 1941-1942 Council of Defense that Minutes of the Council were filed with the University of California and the State Library at Sacramento, and I would suggest that inquiry be made to obtain such information as may be contained in those records.

Regretting my inability to give you direct information on the subject, I am

Sincerely,

B. Washburn
BURTON WASHBURN
Secretary

BW:akl

WALTER C. HAIGHT
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW
VISALIA, CALIFORNIA

May 1, 1951

*ask names of
men in segs?*

(B)

Mr. Edward N. Barnhart
Assistant Professor
424 Wheeler Hall
Berkeley 4, California

Dear Professor Barnhart:

I have your letter of the 26th in regard to the Japanese situation immediately after the outbreak of the war and take pleasure in answering it to the best of my ability although my recollection about some details may be rather hazy after this lapse of time.

We had a large Japanese population in the County prior to the war which resulted in a great deal of dissatisfaction, particularly because of the large number of Japanese students who were getting in to the county schools. We also had considerable agitation in regard to the Alien Land Law and quite a number of attempts were made to enforce it but without decided success because of the technical difficulties in the way.

The first reaction after Pearl Harbor was, I take it, the same as throughout the country; mingled anger and resentment, with some fear, though the fear did not persist very long. When steps were being taken in regard to zoning, there was a decided objection in this county to moving Japanese from the coast counties to the interior counties. This objection was particularly strong among the rural elements and was expressed by the Farm Bureau and the Associated Farmers, although it did not exist in the town and cities. It was felt that removing the Japanese from the coast to the interior would simply burden the interior counties with additional responsibility. Then there was a feeling that if the Japanese were to be moved at all, they should be moved out of the state. There never was any particular panic in this county, at least after the first few days and some of the groups, especially the church groups took a more liberal attitude than the groups that I referred to above. There was a feeling that some distinction should be drawn between the Japanese and the German and Italian elements. Many of the Italians and Germans residents had lived here for many years, but had not taken the trouble of getting naturalized.

Mr. Edward N. Barnhart
May 1, 1951
Page Two ---

I do not believe that the Army responded to any pressure from this county and its decisions except in regard to moving the Japanese from the coast were generally approved and cooperation was given by the local organizations.

I was the head of the Tulare County Defense Council at the time and I do not recall that we ever took any particular position in regard to the proceedings of the Army, except in regard to moving the Japanese from the coast counties. The council did feel strongly that it was not advisable. The council did, of course, do its best to keep the Japanese as far as possible away from public places. I advised the few Japanese, with whom I was in contact that it would be better that they not come to town or be seen in public places.

So far as I know, there was never any violence or threats of violence and the energy of the people was devoted to matters of defense, like the air raid warning system, establishing organizations of wardens and etc.

If there is any more information that I can add to this somewhat vague statement, I wish you would feel free to call upon me.

With best regards, I am,

Very truly yours,

Walter C. Haight
Walter C. Haight

WCH:ld

Defense Councils

Incomplete picture. Grodzins relied, as he indicates in footnote on "newspaper clippings, files of Dept. of Justice, and files of congressmen and senators." (page 122; book) His statement in book does not agree with a tabulation of his found in files. [Text of a few in the files; indicated by TEXT after date.]

According to file tabulation this is the picture.

California State Council of Defense came out January 22 in favor of keeping enemy aliens on farms under govt. guard.

Counties

6 ~~54~~ counties came out for evacuation.

- ① Stanislaus - Feb 11 ⁶ TEXT #4
 - ✓ ② Los Angeles - Feb 11 TEXT #1
 - ③ San Bernadino - Mar 3
 - ⑥ Butte - Mar ?
 - ③ San Diego Feb. 19 #2 TEXT
 - Feb 13 ④ KERN (Ag. Comm.)
- Tolson 11678*

Cities

10 cities came out for evacuation.

Oceanside Feb. 7
El Monte Feb 10.
Atascadero Feb 10.
Ukiah Feb 10.
Garden City Feb 11.
Colfax Feb 11.
Gardena Feb 19.
San Bernadino Feb 24.
Indio Feb 27
Orange Cove Mar 16

atascadero Feb 13 - wired Middle

Oregon - 1 city - Feb 2

Washington - 1 county - Feb 16

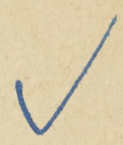
Arizona - 1 city - Feb 20

Lindsay Council wrote to Se Witt (Jan 17) favoring "removal of Japanese from this & other areas." (TEXT #3)

ACTION TAKEN BY CITY AND COUNTY

DEFENSE COUNCILS

gradyins



California

✓ California State Council of Defense 1/22/42
Enemy aliens should be left on farms to aid in agricultural production, but should be watched by government agents.

Three Rivers 2/2/42
Intern J citizens and all other aliens → Oregon

1 El Monte 2/10/42
Evacuate

Stanislaus County 2/10/42
Move 200 miles inland

2 Atascadero 2/10/42

3 Ukiah 2/10/42

Evacuate all Js from the combat zone

4 Los Angeles County 2/11/42 14
"All native born citizens of Japanese descent not selected for Army service shall...be interned for the period of the war."

7 Garden City 2/11/42
Evacuate all enemy aliens and citizens of questionable loyalty from the west coast.

5 Colfax 2/11/42
Remove all Js from Placer County

6 Oceanside 2/7/42
Evacuate all Js; have trusteeships for property

~~Los Angeles County 2/18/42~~

7 Gardena 2/19/42
Remove all aliens and citizens of questionable loyalty

8 San Bernardino City 2/24/42
Evacuate all Js

9 Indio 2/27/42
Evacuate all Js

San Bernardino County 3/3/42
Evacuate all Js

Butte County 3/7/42
Evacuate all Js

10 Orange Co., Fresno Co.
Washington--Pierce County
Evacuate all Js

Arizona--Glendale 2/20/42
Intern all enemy aliens

8 before no 42

*City NY NY 11
County 111*

2/16/42 - Elliott file

ACTION TAKEN BY CITY AND COUNTY

DEFENSE COUNCILS

California

California State Council of Defense 1/22/42
Enemy aliens should be left on farms to aid in agricultural
production, but should be watched by government agents.

Three Rivers 2/24/42
Intern J citizens and all other aliens

El Monte 2/10/42
Evacuate

Stanislaus County 2/10/42
Move 200 miles inland

Atascadero
Ukiah 2/10/42
Evacuate all Js from the combat zone

Los Angeles City 2/11/42
"All native born citizens of Japanese descent not selected for
Army service shall...be interned for the period of the war."

Garden City 2/11/42
Evacuate all enemy aliens and citizens of questionable
loyalty from the west coast.

Colfax 2/11/42
Remove all Js from Placer County

Oceanside 2/7/42
Evacuate all Js; have trusteeships for property

Los Angeles County 2/19/42

Gardena 2/19/42
Remove all aliens and citizens of questionable loyalty

San Bernardino 2/24/42
Evacuate all Js

Indio 2/27/42
Evacuate all Js

San Bernardino County 3/3/42
Evacuate all Js

Butte County 3/7/42
Evacuate all Js

Orange Cove, Fresno Co.
Washington--Pierce County 3/10/42 - *Ellis file*
Evacuate all Js 2/16/42

Arizona--Glendale 2/20/42
Intern all enemy aliens

4

Stanislaus County Defense Council, Modesto, California Tolon 11239

Report by L.A. Cleary, Chairman, Stanislaus County Defense Council

At a meeting of the Stanislaus County Defense Council on Friday, February 6, 1942, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Whereas the State of California, because of its geographic location is of immense strategic importance in a war with Japan; and

Whereas more war industries and manufacturing plants are located in the State of California than in practically any other State in the Union; and

Whereas, the large part of the entire Japanese alien population of the United States is located in the State of California; and

Whereas it is essential for the protection of the people, industries and property of this State that some immediate effective and orderly plan be adopted for eliminating danger of sabotage and fifth column activities; Now, therefore, it is hereby

Resolved by the Stanislaus County Defense Council in regular meeting assembled as follows, to wit:

1. That the Federal Government of the United States through its proper agencies should take immediate steps to remove all Japanese enemy aliens from the territory in the State of California within 200 miles of the Pacific coast lines;

2. That said Japanese enemy aliens so removed should be placed in some suitable portion of the United States where they may be kept under constant surveillance and cared for in such a way as to eliminate as far as possible the possibility of a ~~max~~ repetition of the fifth column activities that occurred at Pearl Harbor;

3. That this defense council respectfully requests that the President of the United States, the Attorney General of the United States, and all other responsible officials take action on this matter without further delay;

4. That a copy of this resolution be sent to the President of the United States, the Attorney General of the U.S., all Senators, and Congressmen representing the State of California, and to other county defense councils and to ex-servicemen's organization in the State of California.