

- JAEA Study = T1.62

"Calif County and city post-evac. resolutions."

CALIFORNIA COUNTIES \*\*POST EVACUATION

Post evacuation action was taken by <sup>925</sup> ~~11~~ California counties.

The number and geographical distribution of these counties is shown on the accompanying map. These actions included resolutions of censure of the WRA administration, protests against the formation of a J-A. combat unit, proposals to deprive persons of Japanese ancestry of their citizenship, proposals to deport all Japanese at the end of the war, and resolutions urging that no Japanese be permitted to return to the Pacific Coast at the conclusion of the war.

In February of 1943, Mr. J. E. Gardner, Watsonville attorney and Chairman of the Watsonville Defense Council, wrote a letter to the editor of the Watsonville Register-Pajaronian urging action to exclude Japanese from the United States. The racial and economic basis of Mr. Gardner's opposition is clearly shown in this letter. Excerpts follow:

"Important as all these problems are, there is another that to us, the people of California, which in the long view involves considerations of greater significance than all the others combined. And that is the question as to what shall be done with and with respect to the one hundred sixty thousand Japanese who have moved in on us and/or been born native to the Pacific coast states.

"These people are members of a radically different race; a race that never has been and never will become assimilated. So long as they remain here they necessarily will be a race apart; living a different life, recognized by a foreign country as its citizens; for a thousand years born and trained to a living habit and economy such as to enable them to compete on an unfair basis with our own people; their forebears fanatically devoted to their God Emperor, such loyalty has been bred into the flesh and bone of the succeeding generations; smart, ambitious, cunning, with little conception of business honor; members of the race and claimed, at least, as citizens of the nation which for more than ten years has afforded history's worst example of deliberate, selfish, inexcusable and inhuman aggression;...

"They breed like rabbits. If they be allowed to remain in this country and to return to their former habitat, within 50 years there will be a million or more of them voters in the state of California. Naturally they will (as they now do) vote as a block. As such they will hold the bal-

ance of political power. Which means that for all practical purposes they will be able ~~to~~ politically to dictate the destiny of our state and people.

"Economically, they constitute an equally serious threat. For years the alien Japanese have been beating the devil 'round the bush by acquiring and by leasing agricultural lands in the names of their minor native born children. When, a year ago, they army came to move them out of the coastal region, it was startling to any thoughtful person to learn what a tremendous acreage of the choicest agricultural lands in California had passed into their control. As the native born increase in number, the areas so controlled are constantly being extended. In agriculture we could have no more unhealthy condition. That our food producing industry should pass into the hands of an alien, never to be assimilated race, would be a tragedy.

...  
"The African negro, too, was a race so radically different that it was and yet is impossible of assimilation.

...  
"If we permit the Japanese to remain in our country, there to continue the job of breeding little brown 'citizens', the result will eventually be that we shall have another race problem beside which that presented by the negro will dwindle into insignificance.

"We brought the negro over here. We are responsible for the problem his presence has created and must deal with it.

"We didn't bring the Japs into our country. They came here of their own choice and for entirely selfish purposes. No Jap ever chose to make his home on our shores to escape persecution. No Jap ever came here seeking a place where he might have freedom of religion, of speech or of action. None ever came with any thought but to accumulate a fortune.

"We owe them nothing.... Now is the time to correct our error. The opportunity to save ourselves from at least one threatening catastrophe is here. If we act, and act promptly, it may be done....

"The remedy is at hand.....

"Forthwith, Congress should adopt a resolution so to amend the Constitution of the United States that:

- (1) At the end of this war, we shall be in a position lawfully to return to Japan all Japanese, alien or native born;
- (2) That no person of Japanese ancestry shall ever be or become a citizen of the United States; and
- (3) That members of that race be forever excluded from anything in the nature of permanent resident here.

"Who should object to such a program but those of the Japanese race? It is with that race we are now at war. Not merely the Japanese government, not merely its army and navy. We have been attacked by and are at war with the Japanese race.... There is no occasion for us to be tender of the feelings of any person of that race.

"This is the time to rid ourselves of these people.... If it be not done now--if we wait until the war's end to speak our piece, it will be too late.  
..."

On February 23, 1943, the Watsonville Defense Council, Mr.

Gardner Chairman, passed the following resolution:

"Whereas it has been announced through the press:

(1) That the Secretary of War contemplates that some 28,000 native-born Japanese shall be incorporated into the United States army in separate combat units; and

(2) That the Federal authorities contemplate the release of from 25,000 to 40,000 Japanese from Relocation camps where they are now restrained, with no announced provision for adequate surveillance or control; and

"Whereas, the Pajaro Valley and Watsonville Defense Council, the membership of which is made up of representatives of all civic organizations in the community, at a meeting held for the purpose of considering these matters, has officially expressed its opinion that such contemplated action would be inimical to the best interests and to the welfare and effective defense of our country;

"Be it resolved that we most vigorously and earnestly protest against the above proposed actions and each of them; that we convey this protest to the Secretary of War; to the War Relocation board, to our congressmen and senators and to the President of the United States.

"That we urge upon these authorities the following reasons, based upon an extensive experience with the Japanese, for more than 40 years, an intimate knowledge of their character, and our observation of what occurred on December 7, 1941, and immediately thereafter:

(1) Following Pearl Harbor and for the defense of the West Coast against attack and sabotage the Army wisely moved the Japanese from the Pacific Coast. NOW TO PERMIT THEM TO RETURN TO THEIR FORMER HABITAT WOULD SUBJECT US AGAIN TO THE DANGER OF SERIOUS SABOTAGE AND DIFFICULTY IN DEFENDING OUR SHORE LINE IN THE EVENT OF ATTACK.

(2) DUE TO THE TEMPER OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC SINCE THE DASTARDLY ATTACK AT PEARL HARBOR we feel that IT WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE JAPANESE THEMSELVES TO ALLOW THEM TO RETURN FOR RESIDENCE ON THE WEST COAST, and that difficult additional policing problems would be presented thereby in effecting their safety.

(3) IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN LOYAL AND DISLOYAL JAPANESE....

(4) IF JAPANESE WERE ALLOWED TO RETURN TO THIS AREA WE COULD NOT EXPECT THE COOPERATION OF PRESENT AGRICULTURAL OR INDUSTRIAL LABORERS ALREADY ENGAGED IN THE WAR EFFORT IF THEY WERE CALLED UPON TO WORK WITH JAPANESE EVACUEES.

(5) TO ALLOW YOUNG JAPANESE TO LEAVE RELOCATION CAMPS FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES IN OUR COLLEGES WOULD BE UNJUST AND INEQUITABLE AS IT AFFECTS OUR OWN AMERICAN BOYS WHO HAVE BEEN TAKEN OUT OF COLLEGE AND ARE SO LOYALLY SERVING ~~IN~~ THEIR COUNTRY in the armed forces to the detriment of their education and employment.

(6) IT IS THE OPINION of this council that these Japanese should be contributing substantially to the war effort but we feel that it should be in areas removed from the Pacific Coast and by group movement UNDER FULL AND PROPER CONTROL AND SUPERVISION BY THE ARMY. IN NO EVENT SHOULD THEY BE DISBURSED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY WITHOUT PROPER PROVISION FOR ABSOLUTE SURVEILLANCE AND CONTROL.

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE JAPANESE BOTH ALIEN AND AMERICAN BORN SHOULD BE RETAINED IN ~~THE~~ RELOCATION CENTERS FOR THE DURATION UNLESS THEY ARE PLACED UNDER DIRECT AND ABSOLUTE SUPERVISION AND FULL CONTROL OF ARMY AUTHORITY and engaged in the furtherance of our war effort.

"THIS RESOLUTION ADOPTED this 23rd day of february, 1943, by the PAJARO VALLEY AND WATSONVILLE DEFENSE COUNCIL.

J.E. Gardner, Chairman

O.B. Larsen, Secretary

C.H. Baker, Mayor of Watsonville "

Subsequently this resolution was passed by the following counties:

San Benito	4/1/43
Lassen	4/12/43
Monterey	4/12/43
Lake	4/26/43
Butte	4/27/43
Los Angeles	4/27/43
Alpine	5/3/43
Amador	5/3/43

Post evacuation action was taken by ~~only 3~~<sup>19</sup> of the ~~25~~<sup>49</sup> counties containing a ~~significant percentage~~<sup>900 or more</sup> of Japanese residents. However, 7 of the ~~25~~<sup>19</sup> counties with ~~the smallest %~~<sup>10 or less</sup> of Japanese population did take post-evacuation action.

Significant no. of Japanese.....	23 of 58 counties
No. significant no. of Japanese.....	35 of 58 counties
Sign. no. plus pre-evac. action.....	12 of 23 counties
No. sign. no. plus pre-evac. action.....	7 of 35 counties
Sign. no. plus post evac. action.....	3 of 23 counties
No. sign. no. plus post evac. action.....	8 of 35 counties

Largest no. of Japanese

Smallest no. of Japanese

	<u>Pre</u>	<u>Post</u>
Los Angeles	Yes	Yes
Sacramento	Yes	No
San Francisco	Yes	No <i>yes</i>
Alameda	Yes	No
Fresno	No	No <i>yes</i>
San Joaquin	No	No
Santa Clara	No	Yes
Monterey	Yes	Yes
Santa Barbara	No	Yes
San Diego	<i>no</i> <del>No</del>	No <i>yes</i>
Orange	Yes	No
Tulare	Yes	No <i>yes</i>
Placer	Yes	No <i>yes</i>
Imperial	Yes	No
Santa Cruz	No	Yes
San Mateo	No	Yes
Yolo	No	No
S. Luis Obispo	No	No
Solano	<del>No</del> <i>yes</i>	Yes

	<u>Pre</u>	<u>Post</u>
Calaveras	No	No
Modoc	No	No
El Dorado	No	No
Shasta	No	No
Amador	No	Yes
Inyo	No	<del>Yes</del> <i>no</i>
Lake	No	Yes
Plumas	No	No <i>yes</i>
Alpine	No	Yes
Del Norte	Yes	No
Glenn	No	Yes
Humboldt	No	No
Lassen	No	Yes
Mariposa	No	No
Mono	No	No
Nevada	No	No
Sierra	No	No
Trinity	No	Yes
Tuolumne	Yes	No

Pre action---- 11  
Post action---- 12

Pre action-- 2  
Post action-- 7

Many counties which took either pre or post evacuation action added comments. Some counties which took no official action added comments either purporting to give the opinions of the members of the Board of Supervisors, the community, or merely of the writer of the letter. Some comments follow:

"...it is the undivided opinion of the Board and its members that they should never be allowed to return to this State and are solidly behind the Senate and Assembly bills introduced in the Legislature by Sen. Engle and Assemblyman Lowery." (S.D. Crutcher, Clerk of Colusa Co., 1/20/43)

"About forty years ago, the Japanese situation was taken care of by local citizens, who bombed the living establishment of the only Japanese living in this area. Since that time we have had no people of that race here. I believe it was about sixty years ago when a similar procedure eliminated the Chinese people from Humboldt, so that obviously our present Board of Supervisors have no problem with the Oriental races." (F. J. Moore, Jr., Clerk of Humboldt Co., 2/3/43)

"The Board also feels that dual citizenship should not be permitted and that those holding dual citizenship should be denied American citizenship and removed from the United States after the war." (H.T. House, Clerk, Madera Co., 1/19/43)

"Inasmuch as there are no Japanese in Mono Co. the Board of Supervisors has passed no resolutions, ordinances, etc. covering this matter. From discussion it is clear that this Board is in favor of more drastic regulation of the Japanese in this State and less "pampering" of them in the so-called Manganar Recreation Center." (Clerk of Board, Mono Co., 1/13/43)

"There were no Japanese in Nevada County. No action has been taken by the Board of Supervisors. Nevada County does not want any Japs of any color, kind, or description." (Mr. R. N. McCormack, Clerk of Nevada Co., no date.)

"The Board of Supervisors as a body does not wish to take formal action in regards to this problem, but, speaking as individual members, they feel that legislative measures should be enacted to prevent native and alien Japanese with dual citizenship from owning or leasing California land." (J. Monroe Rutherford, Chrm., B. of S., Santa Barbara Co., 2/1/43)

"We have had no Japs in this area and therefore have not had any experience with them. Yet we realize what a menace they may be. We have received a number of resolutions from other county boards of supervisors regarding Jap Evacuation etc., etc. Our Board has not drawn up any special resolutions in these matters, but have approved the different resolutions received, and are heartily in sympathy with the actions of other Boards of Supervisors in these matters, and will be glad to cooperate in any way they can." (Mr. F. H. Turner, Clerk of Sierra Co., 5/12/43)

"Sentiment within the B. of S. has been quite bitter toward the Japanese, and I feel that opinion favors deporting all Japanese back to Japan now so the matter of Japanese residence in America will not be a question for contention when the peace settlement arrives. For your information will also say public sentiment in this county does not approve the treatment being accorded the Japanese at Camp Newell. There has been much criticism of the management there." (Mr. Gordon Jacobs, Chrm., B. of S., Siskiyou Co., 1/27/43)

"I am also directed by the Board to inform you that it is their feeling that the Japanese should never be allowed to return." (Lewis Morrill, Co. Clerk of Solano Co., 1/28/43)

"..., the members of the Board have agreed that strict measures, where possible, should be taken prohibiting the Japanese from owning or leasing real estate." (H. R. Saunders, Clerk of B. of S., Yolo Co., 1/19/43)

"For your information I may state to you advisedly that each member of the B. of S. of Yuba Co. is very strongly anti-Jap." (W.M. Strief, Clerk of Yuba Co., 1/18/43)