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ON TREATMENT OF JAPANESE-AMERICANS

March, 1943

SOME FOLKS SAID TO GET EXCITED AT
THINGS THEY KNOW LITTLE ABOUT

Too often we get most excited about the things regarding which we know least. Last fall we had a California boy living in our home who had gone through high school with scores of Japanese boys and girls. He said he was thoroughly acquainted with their ways and reactions. He had watched them as they were forced out into concentration camps. Apparently there was little, if anything, in their actions that impressed him as being dangerous or un-American.

We know that farmers in Fresno county, California, have repeatedly asked the authorities to release Japanese workers to help them with their crops. The Tolan committee investigation found Japanese Americans to be worthy of more consideration than they have been receiving. F. B. I. officials have placed their stamp of approval on all who might be moved. These are facts. In the future we should be sure that we make every possible effort to obtain and use facts. Otherwise there can be no statesmanship in public affairs.

Against Japanese Rulers

We, of course, have intense feeling against the Japanese rulers and against the feudalistic military creed of

their Shinto religion. Terrible sacrifices are being made by our sons, husbands and brothers in order to uproot these threats to freedom that have their roots in the past. It is to their interest and ours that we plan for the future when there is opportunity to do so.

No one of my acquaintance has more admirably attempted to do this on the Japanese proposition than a Chinese friend--a man who last summer when his own family was suffering untold hardships at the hands of Japanese in captive territory near Hong Kong, spent several days working with Japanese laborers in the sugar beet fields in Colorado. His reasons were very clear.

In Intelligence Service

Besides believing it to be the Christian-democratic thing to do, he was thinking of the fact that we must always maintain relationships of some kind with Japan. He told me that he believed these Japanese-Americans might be the ones who could do us the most good in post-war reconciliation work.

This hope is substantiated by the fact that men of Japanese ancestry are today doing excellent service behind the scenes in the army intelligence service with little regard for the risk they are taking.

If we are fighting to preserve human freedoms we must consistently promote Christian-democratic ideals. My Chinese friend, like Madame Chiang Kai-shek, has a genuine faith in both Christianity and democracy. She is setting a

far better example than many men and women who have been respected leaders in church work in Iowa but who encourage spasms of misdirected emotional outbursts and fan the flames of prejudice which increase the difficulty of ever obtaining a just and enduring peace.

W. H. Stacy
Extension Sociologist
Iowa State College
Ames, Iowa

APPRECIATION FROM NISEI IN IOWA

We Niseis look forward daily to your inspiring editorials and your heart-warming words of encouragement. Having read these well-worded comments faithfully since the first, we deem it only right that we express our extreme gratitude for this Herculean task that you have undertaken.

We realize that we are but a small fraction of the fortunate Americans of Japanese ancestry in Iowa, and we feel that in expressing our sincere gratefulness we are expressing the thoughts of all.

In coming in contact with the various persons and groups in and about Des Moines we have been heartily welcomed. In school, in church, and in other organizations throughout this community we have been fortunate in meeting many hospitable individuals.

We, the undersigned, with the exception of one, are Drake university students, and we will eagerly look forward to your continued efforts in our behalf.

Johnnie T. Arima
Akira Asano
David Uncoura
1133 Twenty-fifth St.
Des Moines, Iowa

WORKS TO DESTROY RACIAL DOCTRINE

I have wanted many times to express my appreciation of the tolerant, intelligent, sensible views of your paper. You represent Americanism in the best sense of the word.

As I am from the west coast, and having gone to school with many Japanese, I was especially glad that you have championed our loyal Japanese. I never thought that the right to work and go to college would be determined in America by race. The next step is the formulation of a racial doctrine on the Nazi plan, one of the things that I, at least, am working to destroy.

Though I am leaving Des Moines, I shall always be glad to see The Register and Tribune.

Anna Keeney
WAAC
Fort Des Moines
Iowa

GUILTY UNTIL THEY'RE PROVEN INNOCENT

I am writing in answer to the letter in your forum from J. A. Moeller in the March 14 issue.

These Italians, Germans, Bulgars, Rumanians and Hungarians who are born in America are by that fact Americans, according to the Constitution. Every Japanese child born in America is by ceremony at birth a confirmed Jap, thereby is not worthy of the title of an American citizen.

I have been in southern California several months each year for the last three years. I was informed by those who were in position to know of the hazardous situation regarding all public equipment long before the Pearl Harbor disaster. I was there at that time and I am proud of the efficiency by which this hazard was removed.

No organization of any other foreign nation has ever reached such complete arrangements for destruction as that which was revealed by our secret means to safeguard property which meant so much to our present defense. I believe that full concentration of all Japanese for the duration of war is our only safeguard. The deception under which these people are schooled makes such precaution extremely necessary.

It will be soon enough after the war to work out a plan that will assure us of safety from teachery. If then we find that those worthy have suffered, I for one will be glad to make fair restitution. Any other means just now would make

democracy her greatest enemy.

Harry Swinscoe
218 N. Sheridan Ave.
Ottumwa, Ia.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Swinscoe implies that some wholesale plot to destroy us was brewing among our Japanese-Americans on the West Coast at the time of Pearl Harbor. On the contrary, not the slightest evidence of any such activity was found--even in Hawaii, where Japanese are far more numerous.

POINTED NOTE

I think the editor's note to Helen Mullen's letter in regard to the Japanese was very pointed. I believe if she will look up her family tree she will find herself in Ireland as it sounds like Irish to me. I am of German descent and God knows I wouldn't want to go to Germany. I am American born and my father was naturalized in 1853. He who is without sin, let him cast the first stone.

John H. Roll
Coin, Ia.

HE DOESN'T APPROVE DIFFERENT TREATMENT

I have been reading with considerable interest and some disappointment the letters on your editorial page of The Register from various people over the date in regard to the placing of some Japanese evacuees at West Branch. In this connection, I want to commend the editorial of The Register in regard to the attitude of the American Legion. I am of German

descent myself, but I fail to see why the state of Iowa should treat the Japanese-American citizens any different than it does the German-American citizens.

Chas. W. Kline
Independence, Ia.

THE TRIBUNE'S READERS SAY

March, 1943

LEGISLATORS' OFF GUARD

Thanks for your editorial of February 25 in which you spoke out so courageously on behalf of our Japanese-American students.

I could not believe my eyes when I saw that the state senate and then the house had passed a resolution in favor of sending all Japanese-American students who are now in college or university back to the concentration camps.

I understand that this action was taken with scarcely any discussion and with little or no dissent. I am sure that members of the senate and the house were taken off guard and did not stop to think.

It seemed to me very much the same sort of thing that happened so tragically during the last war when war hysteria made us condemn some of our fellow citizens just because they happened to have German names. We were very much ashamed of this after the war was over.

We must not allow ourselves to do the same thing now in regard to these Japanese-Americans. We must not judge their patriotism by their racial extraction or by the color of their skin. That is not an American thing to do. This is the kind of thing the Nazis do but we do not want to follow their example.

We need to remember that these young Japanese-American students are Americans. They have been brought up in our schools. They have lived in American communities. They have been taught the democratic way of life. They believe in it. They want to be maintained.

Some of us know of these students. We know that they want to serve their country in every way they can. We know that they want to make America a better America.

They cannot do this if we send them back to the concentration camps. That will not make good Americans of them. Let us give them every possible opportunity to develop themselves and to prepare themselves for good citizenship and for the greatest possible contribution to our common life.

(The Rev.)
Stoddard Lane
Plymouth Congregational Church
Des Moines, Iowa

PLAYING INTO ENEMY HANDS

I am led to the conclusion that the Japanese-Americans have not been dealt with justly, but that their fate was determined in the heat of wartime hysteria; and the problems created by our treatment of them are complex, threatening to create a serious situation, of which post-war America will have too many at best.

We have played directly into the hands of enemy propagandists, long anxious to find good use for the "color-jitters" in their ballyhoo. And, what will be done with these Americans in the future? Will they be suddenly released to flood the over-crowded post-war labor market? Or will they become permanent wards of the tax-crushed American public? Aside from these very practical considerations, what about the inconsistency to our loud proclamations of devotion to Christian, democratic principles?

These problems are aggravated by such statements as those in the senate resolution, which obviously emanate from thought based on prejudice and emotion, rather than logic and authentic information. The matter of whether or not the Nisei should be sent to college is one thing; it is another and much more dangerous one to talk glibly, in vague generalizations, about their "unfitness for military duty" and "doubtful loyalty, by virtue of their racial extraction."

I have been out of high school two years. My aspirations to continue with my education have been waylaid by the uncertainties of the times. Out of this background, I hesitate to acquiesce to any plan to put the Japanese-Americans in college in lieu of anything better to do with them.

Rather, inform the American people, squelch these vicious, biased blurbings which make it impossible to put them in positions where they can make their maximum contributions to the war effort as human beings and American citizens. Let

them take their rightful place in the war effort, tilling the soil, working in the factories, or using their various technical skills. Only as they are allowed to contribute to the victory and participate in it equally with all other groups of Americans, can be averted a serious post-war social and economic problem which could conceivably take on the proportions of disaster.

Paul Blakely
R. F. D. No. 1
Harlan, Ia.

Appeared in Des Moines, Iowa paper

FEARS REPERCUSSION FROM ANTI-JAP BILL

March, 1943

QUAKER TALKS ON PREJUDICE

Warns of Effects on Negroes, Chinese

The Iowa legislature's resolution asking that Japanese who are American citizens be denied the privilege of attending Iowa colleges was criticized Tuesday by an official of the American Friends Service committee.

E. Raymond Wilson, associate secretary of the committee, addressed a conference sponsored by the service committee, at the Young Women's Christian association. Des Moines ministers and church workers of several denominations attended the afternoon and evening sessions.

"That act of the Iowa legislature," Wilson said, "will result in repercussions for the next 50 years.

"They are saying to the 13 million Negroes in the United States that the state with the highest percentage of literacy is not willing to extend freedom and equal rights to American citizens of a different color."

Wilson also added that the legislature's action, based on racial prejudice, would serve also as an affront to the Chinese, the people of India and others who are not members of the white race.

"You cannot recall the concern and the suspicion that such action creates," he said, even if the legislature should

reconsider and recall the resolution.

Chicago Hostel

Wilson also told of the work which is being carried on by the hostel operated by the committee in Chicago, Ill., for Japanese who are American citizens.

It is virtually the same as the one planned for the Scattergood hostel at West Branch, Ia. The latter could not be put in operation because of objections raised by persons in the West Branch community.

Wilson said the Chicago hostel is located in a north side Young Men's Christian Association college building and accommodates about 20 persons.

"Their only difficulty," Wilson said, "is that there have been delays while the papers and records are checked for those leaving the relocation centers.

Volunteer Help

"The people in the neighborhood of the hostel are very glad to have these people and are very friendly. The local ration board has asked those who are in residence at the hostel to give volunteer help while awaiting jobs and they have been glad to help out in the ration board office."

Wilson said the Chicago hostel has arranged for jobs with a Chicago firm for two Japanese chemists, as soon as their records are cleared.

One architect has been placed, he added, and the hostel has helped a number of others who are nurserymen or have similar skills find work in the Chicago area.

The hostel was opened only a few weeks ago.

E. Raymond Wilson
Associate Secretary
Am. Friends Service Com.

Appeared in Des Moines, Iowa paper

KU-KLUX OF THE WEST

March, 1943

"They are so different from us that they will never make good citizens"—this is what some people are saying about the Japanese-Americans, 60 per cent of them born here.

In the 1920s people were saying the same thing about immigrants from eastern and southern Europe.

In the 1850s they were saying it about the Irish.

In the early 1700s they were saying it about the Scotch-Irish, who ate potatoes and oats instead of wheat and corn--imagine that!

You'd think we would learn after a while that "citizens by choice" and their children often have an even deeper understanding of the essentials of Americanism than those whose families have been here from away back.

A California organization known as the Native Sons of the Golden West has now brought suit to deprive the 70,000 Japanese-American citizens-by-birth of their citizenship, the Fourteenth amendment of the Constitution notwithstanding.

The Fourteenth amendment says "all persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof are citizens," excluding the children of diplomats.

The sons of the Golden West argue that it excludes Japanese, because of their "dual citizenship" and because they are "of a different race." The dual citizenship argument would exclude all sorts of other people, too, and the racial argument

just has no foundation whatever.

The federal district court threw this case out last June. Then the Sons of the Golden West appealed.

Late in February the United States Circuit Court of Appeals at San Francisco threw it out again, after hearing just the "Sons" side of it--without even bothering to hear the government's argument against such fantastic race-mongering.

Now if only the point of prejudice could be cleared up as quickly as the point of view.

Appeared in Des Moines Register
Iowa

WHAT READERS THINK

March, 1943

Says Brotherhood of Man Not Followed

May I add another "blind spot" to the editor's earnest rebuttal to Senator Findlay's American-Japanese resolutions, Sunday Register, March 7.

For years we "Christians" have been sending missionaries to the far parts of the earth to teach the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man.

All this time have we had our fingers crossed? Have we said "We want you to practise the brotherhood of man among yourselves, but don't expect us to practise it toward you in this country."

Do we believe in the brotherhood of man? "Yes, but--".

Do we believe in "freedom from want and freedom from fear"? "Yes, but--".

Yes but "faith without works is DEAD."

Mrs. J. F. Nelson
215 N. Twelfth Street
Fort Dodge, Ia.

NISEI AND LEGION

Regarding the editorial of March 6, 1943, entitled "We'd Expect Legion to Be Bigger":

Without going into the merits of the case, although

conceding a closer inspection sometimes changes appearances, I fail to see any parallel between the West Branch deal and the case referred to at Shenandoah. However, in all fairness there is a decided parallel between this article and another attack perpetrated by those other little yellow men on Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.

The tactics employed bear a very strange resemblance-- divide to destroy, by force or ridicule, by singling out the smaller unit of resistance.

How about concurrent resolution No. 20, Iowa legislature? Or do you fear to tread where your fingers have already been burned, as evidenced by last political campaign?

Or how about the action taken by the State Adjutants' and Commanders' convention?

We Usually enjoy your editorials, whether we always agree or not. But we do think freedom of the press is contingent upon the observances of certain ethical practices. Please, please keep your punches above the belt.

Yours for better editorials.

E. E. Ward
552 W. Main Street
Washington, Ia.

EDITOR'S NOTE: We don't get it!

He's Against 'em

This bringing Japs into Iowa is one of the most absurd ideas I ever heard tell of. Why infest our state with foreign elements? It would be just like scattering sour dock seed over our fertile soil in our crops. In a few years our crops would be almost extinct and we would be kicking ourselves for the act and wondering how we are going to get rid of them. For a glimpse of the future look at our southern states under similar circumstances.

H. S. Touro
R. F. D. No. 3
Marion, Ia.

EDITOR'S NOTE: That's what they used to say about most of our European immigrants, too. But they turned out to be just as American as anybody else.

WHAT TRIBUNE READERS THINK

March, 1943

For Understanding and Truth

May I thank you for your frank, helpful editorial in Thursday's Tribune in relation to the Japanese-American question now before the state senate and house of representatives. In our state there are many prejudiced and misinformed people and those of us who are acquainted with the Japanese-American situation are anxious that you continue your leadership to help bring understanding and truth out into the open in this situation.

It is regrettable that any such information should be broadcast through the legislative body of our state. It will of course take a good deal of leadership on your part and on the part of the ministers and educators of the state to erase the prejudices that have been made by Senators Findlay and Cromwell.

The Tolan committee's report found no reason to bring these Japanese-Americans under suspicion, no facts that would indict them as being disloyal or unfaithful to the government. I think perhaps that needs emphasis right now.

Thank you for your leadership in these times when we need desperately such free, clear thinking.

(The Rev.)
L. K. Bishop, Minister
Central Church of Christ
Des Moines, Iowa

LOYAL JAPANESE STUDENTS

The Iowa legislature's resolution to deny American citizens of Japanese descent admission to colleges and universities is based on mis-information and unreasoning emotionalism.

Why are these American citizens not being called to the armed forces? Until very recently we have not permitted them to join those forces. The first combat unit of Americans of Japanese ancestry has just been organized.

Commenting on it, Secretary of War Stimson said:

"It is the inherent right of every faithful citizen, regardless of ancestry, to bear arms in the nation's battle. When obstacles to the free expression of that right are imposed by emergency considerations these barriers should be removed as soon as humanly possible. "

No Japanese-American is released from a relocation camp until he has been carefully investigated by the F.B.I. Our federal government is taking no chances, but it does not want to create by its own injustice a minority problem that will plague the United States in the future.

We who know these students, who have had daily contact with them, have worked, talked and played with them, submit that they are fine, decent and truly American individuals. They were born in America, educated in American schools, and love American ideals. We ask that they be treated as decent Americans; that they be judged for their worth as individuals, not as group responsible for the misdeeds of Japan's warlords.

Basil Karp
Des Moines, Iowa

APPREHENSIVE

I read with interest your recent editorial comment on the passing by the Iowa legislature of a resolution to memorialize the congress to debar American citizens of Japanese extraction from our colleges and universities, and to return those not already interned to relocation centers.

Thanks for its clear-thinking, non-hysterical appraisal and consequent condemnation of the resolution and all it implies.

The writer does not question the sincerity and patriotism of the gentlemen on Iowa's Capitol Hill. He is merely somewhat apprehensive that that patriotism might be guided into improper and damaging channels as a result of thinking clouded by emotionalism.

May these gentlemen take what you have written and use it as a guide for future action when they feel a tendency of their hearts to override their minds.

John Schiffmann
3310 University Ave.
Des Moines, Ia.

SOME OPINIONS FROM READERS ON JAPANESE-AMERICANS

March, 1943

A Friendly Word for Japanese-Americans

I have read with interest many of the comments of various Iowans in the correspondence column of the Des Moines Register on the question of locating Japanese-Americans in this area. I should like to submit the following propositions:

1) Few who fear these Americans of Japanese ancestry have ever known one personally. "Once a Jap always a Jap" is not said of Germans, because we know too many loyal Americans of German ancestry.

2) The United States government is encouraging the release of these loyal Americans into the war needs of the nation. It is not just a whim of a committee or small group of people.

F. B. I. Maxim

3) It is a principle of American democracy to assume that people under suspicion are innocent until proven guilty. How much less than democracy, therefore, it is to assume people as guilty after they have been proven innocent. The F. B. I. assures us of such proof.

4) An F. B. I. agent said recently that we should trust our government and the F. B. I. to discover the loyalty or lack of it in Americans. He warned us not to become "spook-minded." Times are now necessarily abnormal and much of our

education does not come from facts. If we cannot even trust the F. B. I. then our "spook-minded" is become grossly enlarged.

In Our Army

5) Many of these Americans of Japanese ancestry are comrades in arms of our own sons. Shall we despise the parents and relatives of these American soldiers? To say that the army will receive men into service who will stab their comrades in the back is a serious reflection on the intelligence of army officials of the United States.

6) We should all remember that we did not choose our own ancestors and that all of us are descendants of many nations around the earth. Our forebears came to this continent and consecrated it to human understanding and sympathy. It was made a haven for the oppressed. While the Japanese war lords tryannize Japan, we have the opportunity to keep the spirit of American democracy aflame in the lives of those who came to America for opportunity, the same as did our Caucasian forefathers.

Scattergood Plan

7) The location of the Nisei at Scattergood merits sincere study and discussion. It is important that we try to divest our minds of hearsay and prejudices and ask for facts. If we cannot settle problems on a factual basis, then the

inner stability of America is threatened, for we cannot build a civilization on anything less than truth. That is the American way--let us keep it alive.

8) Finally, can we not keep our discussion of this problem on the high level of what we have called the American way? There is no rightful place for rancor and bitterness. With every division of opinion we can still have Americans united in spirit on the guiding principles that have made America great.

E. T. Elliott, President
William Penn College
Oskaloosa, Ia.

IOWA VEGETABLE GROWER FAVORS JAPANESE HELP

I have noted the wish of the Scattergood Hostel of the American Friends committee, to serve in the relocation of Japanese laborers and Japanese working families on the farms of Iowa and also we have noted that there was a protest on the part of some citizens of West Branch.

The vegetable growers of Iowa, in proportion to the acreage they handle, are very large users of labor and if we meet at all the demands on us for food production, we shall have to have all the labor we can get. This protest by the citizens of West Branch seems to us against the public interest.

Experience

It would be very much better for the farmers and the vegetable growers of Iowa to deal with Scattergood and to inspect in person Japanese who want jobs than to deal at a distance with the war department relocation authority.

In Colorado, as a vegetable grower of the Greeley district, this writer worked with and employed Japanese labor. These folks are the most clean, well dressed, neat, and efficient people with whom he has had acquaintance. Many folks doing manual labor do not feel they can make the effort to keep themselves in the very fine condition in which the Japanese folks do keep themselves.

Church Members

Besides working with and employing these Japanese folks, I have been a close observer of them as fellow American. Last May and June in the Rocky Ford district of Colorado, I attended the Presbyterian church for a month. There were a number of Japanese members of that, the finest church of the town.

I am wholly unimpressed with the argument that the Japanese are inferior. I am wholly unimpressed with the argument that they will live more cheaply than Americans of other blood. That is not true as I have observed it. The real trouble is that they are able and zealous folks on the average and that they are hot competition. I do not believe in artificial

protection against competition. The remedy for that is ourselves to get busy and be as able, as ambitious, and as zealous as they.

C. L. Fitch, Secretary
Iowa State Vegetable Growers' Assoc.
Ames, Ia.

NO LONGER A CITIZEN. HE TELLS WHY OF WAR

For a number of years I have suffered the mental anguish of living in America without American freedom, American rights of citizenship. My hope and prayer has always been that I might win them back, with the privilege of saying once again, "I am an American citizen."

But when I see such letters as some Register readers send to you on the American-Japanese question, I just wonder if being an American citizen does mean so much. Our nationality, and not our citizenship, seems to be the important thing. How convenient for men like myself. When I leave here I can say, "Certainly I'm an ex-convict, but that doesn't matter, I'm English!"

Horrible Statements

What a horrible statement! But it's horrible too that Iowans put such narrow-minded statements in print. Why should any American citizen be damned for the treachery of the people of Japan, Germany, or Italy? Why is this most horrible of

wars being fought, anyway? Let me, a non-citizen, tell you.

This war is being fought so that every man, woman, and child, regardless of race, color or creed, who has the rightful privilege of living in these United States, shall enjoy all the rights of freedom, the four freedoms. He shall share in the justices, as well as the injustices, of the nation to which he has sworn allegiance. And he shall enjoy all the rights of "humanity." A few of our Iowans would do well to study humanitarianism."

Farmers' Business

If Iowa farmers do not want Japanese on their farms, that is their business. But why don't they make it their business to suggest some useful or constructive method of dealing with the American-Japanese problem, rather than to sit back and curse and threaten those who do?

Thad W. Riner, No. 16,108
Iowa State Penitentiary
Fort Madison, Ia.

ANTI-DEMOCRATIC VIEW SEEN IN SOME LETTERS

I am a constant, interested reader of your editorials and wish to express my appreciation for the commendable stand you take on present day problems. I am especially concerned about the unbecoming, unpatriotic and non-democratic views of some of the people who read The Register and write to the editor.

The attitude, of a few, regarding the possibility of accepting the help of qualified Japanese man and women is in complete contrast to the very fundamentals for which our men and women of the democracies are working and giving their lives.

It is my present and constant prayer that each of us may have a wider horizon and clearer vision of the basic essentials and their workings, to bring about a practice of giving credit where credit is due regardless of color, class or creed. This and only this, in my opinion, will prevent future world chaos and bring about the "Peace on Earth" for which we all hope and live.

Mrs. Clyde T. Lindsley
1231 Elm Street
Webster City, Ia.

Appeared in Des Moines, Iowa paper

AN IOWA SOCIOLOGIST DEFENDS JAPANESE-AMERICANS

March, 1943

The Des Moines Register has recently printed some rather astonishing letters from readers condemning the Japanese-Americans. Your editorial responses cannot be commended too highly, for they square completely with the facts and with what I am sure the vast majority of Iowans know to be the spirit of a democracy.

It is unfortunate that a number of citizens have so misconstrued our internal Japanese problem that implied threats of mob violence are issued, and direct threats to withdraw needed farm land from production are made, if Japanese-Americans are brought to Iowa communities. Obviously these attitudes are at once harmful to the principles of democracy and to the solution of our manpower situation.

Hasty Words

While I am sure these writers spoke hastily, they at least show a serious lack of factual knowledge regarding the nature of the Japanese-Americans and, indeed, the nature of Americans in general.

Almost two thirds of the Japanese in America are native born American citizens. Those who are aliens have, practically all of them, lived in this country many years, and lots

of them would have become citizens had we not prevented them by law. (It is only citizens who would be brought to Iowa communities under any plan I have heard of.)

American or Japanese

The fundamental question to most of us is whether or not the vast bulk of Japanese in America have raised Japanese families living in this country or if they have raised American families. If as a whole the Japanese-Americans have held themselves apart in their loyalties, have abided only by Japanese morals, Japanese education, Japanese laws, and Japanese religion, then the problem is quite different from what we would face if they have taken up the American way of life. What is the evidence? What kind of citizens have the Japanese-Americans been?

Japanese-American children have been going through our public school system for years. They progress in school as rapidly as other children. It is not true that the majority of American-born Japanese children are sent back to Japan for their education. The vast majority of the American-born were educated completely in this country.

They Go To Church

A survey of California Japanese born in this country showed that the majority are Christians and that three-fourths

of these Christians Japanese are regular attenders of some church. Among the non-Christian Japanese there has been a sharp break away from the nationalistic aspects of religion which have so influenced the Japanese of Japan.

Persons of Japanese descent abide by our laws just as well as does our native white population. Crime, immorality, and disorder are very uncommon among the Japanese, American born and Japanese born, living in this country. Honesty and uncompromising morality have always been outstanding characteristics of our Japanese as a whole.

The Japanese in America have for years been reliable, trustworthy workers in the American economy. They are mainly farmers but they have contributed lawyers, doctors, servants, merchants, teachers, and scientists to American life. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has recently asserted that the Japanese population is far more skilled in truck farming than any group which might replace it.

What Matters

The Japanese in this country are by and large Americans. They are not of the white race, it is true; their forefathers, and some of them (the aliens), came from a country we are fighting; but they are not the people we are fighting. They are part of us.

They are farmers, storekeepers, laborers, who have become Americans like us or like our German-Swedish-Italian-Irish-French-African-Norwegian grandparents who forsook their

native lands for ours. Frankly, I don't see the difference-- what counts is whether or not we have made ourselves Americans in our ideals and behavior--not how tall, nor how blonde.

"Untruthful Dogma"

None of us is really an American at birth. We all have to learn to be Americans. It is a sheer violation of factual truth to say "once a Jap always a Jap," or "the only good Jap is a dead one," or that "we have ten year old boys who know more about farming than these yellow monkey men." It is possible that one can detect in these utterances a tinge of that hideously untruthful dogma of the "Master Race."

The evidence is that the vast majority of American people of Japanese descent are good fellow citizens, and we need them every place from sexing our chickens to our cornfields and to our scientific laboratories. We aren't fighting them-- THEY ARE FIGHTING WITH US, BECAUSE THEY ARE PART OF US. The evidence is that our Japanese have gone happily to concentration camps so that any black sheep in their midst could find no opportunity to do harm to America.

Trust The F.B.I.

The evidence does not prove that there are no fifth columnists among our people of Japanese descent or of any other descent. But an intelligence officer writing in

Harper's (October, 1948) estimates that less than 3 per cent are potentially dangerous and that these can be found by the federal government.

I think most of us are willing to trust the F.B.I.'s judgment over that of some Tom, Dick or Harry who thinks patriotism is measured by the length of one's nose or the slant of an eye.

Our loyal Japanese have skills that we need; they love our country as the rest of us do and are sacrificing a lot more for it right now than a good many of us--even good concentration camps are no fun. We can use our thousands of loyal Americans of Japanese descent, just as we can use our thousands of Germans and Italian descent. Many of them would fit into Iowa communities or any other, doing jobs that ought to be done. Iowans can well afford to accept a challenge that will demonstrate to the world that real democracy pays big dividends.

Bryce Ryan
Ass't Professor of Sociology
Iowa State College
Ames, Ia.

Appeared in Des Moines, Iowa paper

BELIEVES SENATE MIGHT RECONSIDER RESOLUTION

March, 1943

I believe the Iowa senate might well reconsider its resolution regarding citizens of Japanese descent. I do not believe it is the function of the senate to pass on the loyalty of citizens, especially without a hearing of the persons involved. Practically, the effect of carrying out the resolution would be to add to public expense and diminish the productivity of some of our people. Finally, by asking that we take away the liberty of these citizens of Asiatic stock that are under our own jurisdiction, the resolution throws doubt on our good faith in wanting liberty for Asiatic people in Asia.

Ferner Nuhn
1123 W. Second St.
Cedar Falls, Ia.

SURPRISED AT OPPOSITION TO JAPANESE-AMERICANS

I have been reading with interest the various letters and articles in your paper regarding the bringing of Japanese-Americans to the Scattergood hostel near West Branch, Iowa. I have been surprised at the opposition that has been expressed in regard to the move. It would seem to me that

if these people are good enough to fight for us against their mother country they should be good enough to help us out with work that is so much needed at this time.

I am thinking too of the influence it will have on them if we turn a cold shoulder on them since they are citizens of this country the same as we are. I understand the ones who would be brought would be American citizens and approved by the F.B.I.

I was glad for the information in the letter in Saturday's Register by Bryce Ryan of Ames. I was also glad for the statement in the same paper from T. A. Moore saying "If the government goes ahead with this center, West Branch citizens will not attempt to frustrate the move."

T. C. Coffin
Pleasant Plan, Ia.

FOUND LESS GRUMBLING IN RELOCATION CENTER

I visited a Japanese relocation center in Colorado during Christmas vacation, and I heard no grumbling about rationing in comparison with what you hear every day from so-called "patriots." Those Japs have been taken from their homes and they don't like it, but do they grumble? No! They thank God for what they have and they certainly appreciate it.

I have a brother in the service and a gold star has already been hung on our family tree, but I'm still open minded enough to give other races credit. They are as good American-born Japs as some Americans.

I receive letters from a Japanese girl whom I met while visiting the camp, and her patriotic views would surely put some people to shame.

Jean Twentier
Zearing, Ia.

DEFINITION

I read with interest Eric Johnston's defense of capitalism is "economic system involving the exploitation of private capital." Exploitation according to the same Webster is unfair utilization. Don't let the New Deal destroy that.

L. R. Kerlin
Rudd, Ia.

Appeared in Des Moines, Iowa paper

WHAT READERS THINK

March, 1943

She Will Take Them If Industry Will Also

In reading the article Bryce Ryan, assistant professor of sociology, Iowa State college, wrote on the farmers' anti-American way of responding to the offers of these so-called loyal Japanese-American laborers, it would seem that in most parts of his article he has departed far from the farmer's view on this question.

If these Japs are so loyal and trustworthy, why aren't the proven loyal released for their old jobs on farms and in factories in California where they are at home?

Factories, Too

I wonder if Mr. Ryan thinks this could be done without mob violence and strikes in cities, too. This would happen, we farmers know. So do our critics. Yet we farmers are asked to accept these Japs without question as a challenge to show the rest of the world how our individual acts of democracy can pay big dividends--a challenge no other group has been asked to accept. Why, Mr. Ryan?

Factories need more help, too. If these Japs are so loyal, they can be trained for factory jobs as well as farm jobs and placed in war plants, etc., to replace Iowa men deferred in them. These men could then be returned to the

farms or army, both colors of Americans being kept in their own localities this way.

Comparison to Goebbels

This is a poor time to ask Iowa farmers to demonstrate to the world how their accepting these Jap laborers could pay such big democratic dividends. This challenge sounds to Iowa farmers like Dr. Goebbels' line to the German slaves.

If such big dividends could be expected from such a project, industry would have all these men themselves to flaunt before the world how progressive and democratic they are.

We farmers ask no "E" awards nor such huge dividends as this, and need not do this to prove ourselves as democratic as all our critics on this line.

Question and Promise

Ask industry to accept this challenge, too, Mr. Ryan. If they do, we farmers are willing to share the dividends with them and will take our share of Japs in our homes and on our farms. We need reliable help on farms, too, as most helpers must be taken into our homes to live as we do.

Maybe if the editor and professor and all other critics of farmers had to take these Jap-Americans into their homes to live with them as we farmers are asked to do, their criticism of our attitude on this issue would be less eloquent and likely wholly absent. Anyone highly educated seems to

have a talent for advising farmers on their affairs, but seldom make successful farmers themselves, it seems.

Mrs. Roy Williamson
R. F. D.
Rockwell City, Ia.

EDITORS NOTE: We think Mrs. Williamson has a valid point here. But it also has an answer. The War Relocation authority is placing these loyal Japanese-Americans in industry, as well as on farms and in other occupations. Probably the reason that has not been emphasized in this region is that we are chiefly agricultural here in Iowa.

There is no intention whatever to "foist" these people on any community anywhere, nor to require acceptance of an unfit worker. The WRA investigates the talents and aptitudes of all those whom it releases, and tries to place them where they will fit. The industrial workers are being sent into industry, naturally. The competent farm hands are being placed in farming regions, naturally. Unless an Iowa farmer had living quarters congenial both to the Japanese-American and the farm family, WRA would not even permit the worker's placement there, for obvious reasons.

* * * * *

SAYS IOWA HAS CHANCE TO PROVE SINCERITY

I feel that Iowans are specially privileged at this time to prove their sincerity by actions rather than by mere lip service, in their devotion to the ideals of America.

There is little I can add to the splendid letters of

Messrs. Galt, Weltge and Nicholls (no relation) except a plea to the citizens of the state I once called home to show their brotherly love to their fellow Americans.

It is necessary to accept these Japanese because we are Christians or because we are democratic. If we can't because of the one, we had better stop praying; if we can't because of the other, we had better stop fighting. But accept them we must if in our postwar plan for world democracy we are to be the hope, and not the despair, of the world.

(Mrs.) Evelyn Moses Nicholls
336 No. Pine
Chicago, Ill.

Appeared in the Tribune
Des Moines, Iowa

NISEI'S ROLE IS DISCUSSED

March, 1943

These Japanese-American students at Drake university Tuesday recounted some of the problems of Nisei (second generation Japanese) in relocation centers of the United States at a panel sponsored by the Des Moines Inter-Racial commission.

Dr. Sterling Brown, Drake university instructor, introduced the speakers, David Unoura, Yosh Inadoni and Chrys Kubola.

The program, one of a series in which the commission is exploring the problems of minorities living in Des Moines, was at North High school.

Greatest danger to Nisei in relocation centers, the speakers pointed out, is their enforced association with many older Japanese whose customs and ideals are contradictory to those of the American-born and American-bred Japanese.

At the meeting, the commission went on record as recognizing the necessity of developing a practical democracy and the effectiveness of mutual understanding among people, regardless of race, in easing tensions.

Appeared in Des Moines, Iowa paper

"WE WHO KNOW THEM, LIKE THEM"

March, 1943

Drake University Editor Protests Iowa Legislature
Resolution Aimed at Japanese Students

(An editorial by Pat Cowan, editor-in-chief, reprinted from
The Drake Delphic.)

The action of the Iowa legislature in passing the resolution concerning Japanese-American students has caused considerable discussion^{on} the Drake campus.

The resolution asked the federal government not to award Japanese-American students in relocation centers a college education. Furthermore, it asked that those students already in colleges and universities be returned to the relocation camps.

One reason cited was that these Japanese-Americans were being permitted to remain in school while other men were going into service. This argument collapses under the fact that until recently Americans of Japanese extraction were not allowed in the armed forces.

In addition to an editorial by the Des Moines Tribune, several letters of protest from Iowans have been printed in the "Letters to the Editor" columns of the Register and the Tribune. These have been concerned with the legal and social aspects of the resolution in general.

We at Drake feel we should voice our opinion. We have

26 students here who would be affected should the national government enact this resolution as a law.

During the month that these 26 have studied here, they have become part of the student body. Several of them are working part-time. One freshman woman maintained an "A" average for the first semester and has been pledged to the freshman honorary scholastic fraternity.

Another is active in the Christian service sorority. The liberal arts freshmen elected one Japanese-American student secretary of their class. One of the men students who enrolled this semester has joined International Relations Club.

Our stand is that we here who have come to know Japanese-American young persons like them. We have found them to be just as loyal Americans as German-Americans, Italian-Americans, English-Americans and all the rest.

We submit that ordinary individuals who have had either no contact or only isolated contact with one Japanese-American citizen have no basis for judgment in passing such a resolution.

So far as we Drake students are concerned, the resolution stands protested.

Appeared in Des Moines, Iowa paper

WHAT REGISTER READERS THINK

A Reader Is Alarmed At The Spirit of Hate

March, 1943

Since the proposal was announced to bring American born or other Japanese into Iowa, for the purpose of helping to make up the farm labor shortage I have noted with interest the comments in your public column relative to this plan--some favorable and some very much opposed.

No Foundation

What I am more alarmed at is the spirit of vicious hate voiced in some of the letters against any individual of Japanese ancestry, even though they may be born and educated in America, Americans many of which are as loyal and patriotic as our white citizens.

It seems to me that as long as we allow and cultivate this spirit of venomous hate, our hope of a permanent and tranquil peace with liberty and democracy for all will be without foundation.

This permanent peace and democracy is in truth what we are supposed to be fighting for and I think is about the only justification we have for joining the conflict abroad. Not to save our financial and industrial economy--though I think this would naturally follow--but to preserve and extend true

freedom, democracy and goodwill.

A Slim Chance

Our aims in the great struggle should be totally to crush the spirit of dictatorship and enslavement and extend the spirit of freedom and goodwill throughout the world, even to the masses in our present enemy nations, taking such necessary steps as will prevent any such future false leadership.

Until we as a nation together with our Allies, can go forward on these principles--the principles of the Golden Rule and the Ten Commandments, then I think the chance of winning the peace is small indeed.

R. P. Galt
Silver City, Ia.

DOCTRINE OF HATE SEEN AGAINST MINORITIES HERE

I have been in Iowa only five years, but the broadmindedness, sincerity, and warmheartedness of its people have been such as to make me proud to claim Iowa as my adopted state. It is therefore with sincere regret and real alarm that I have noted the letters you have recently printed protesting

against the relocation of a handful of Japanese-Americans at West Branch. I cannot believe that such intolerance and bigotry are representative of Iowans as a whole.

Escape From Hysteria

Thus far, in this war, we have escaped to a surprising extent the hysteria and pseudo-patriotism of 1914-18. But the recent sentiments expressed against American citizens of Japanese ancestry deny the very principles of democracy for which we are fighting. They preach the same doctrines of hate against helpless and innocent minorities which we as a nation oppose, and which, if they become generally held, will defeat any hopes for a peaceful world to come.

In recent months, I have received several letters from a friend in an important position in a western Japanese relocation center. Raised in New England, with no previous contacts with Japanese, his observations and experiences have been exceedingly interesting. I therefore take the liberty of quoting from his letters, which refute the baseless and heartless charges made by those who never saw anything more Japanese than a lantern:

"The dust is pretty thick in spots, coming up over our shoes sometimes. When the wind blows it is simply terrible. There is not a tree to be seen around the project--it is just pure desert.

Plants From Oregon

"Some of the Japanese have already made picturesque gardens around their steps. Some brought plants from Oregon and Washington, while others went out and brought back pieces of sage brush to transplant, and some dug up clumps of grass from alongside the irrigation canal to plant by their homes. It certainly is part of their nature to love to grow things.

"There will be many things growing here soon, no doubt. Our relocation center is already supplying others with vegetables and some fruit. Once you have the soil plus the irrigation--all you need is a Japanese or two to make the seeds grow."

William H. Nicholls
503 Lynn Ave.
Ames, Ia.

CLOSED MINDS

It is only fair to say to the "anti" reactions to the proposed West Branch Japanese relocation project that when we resort to expression of personal prejudices and malodorous inferences we close our minds to any vestige of truth and reality.

Conscientious American citizens are not categorized with unscrupulous Americans simply because that element exists; we owe the loyal Japanese-American citizens the same respect.

Let us not "postpone indefinitely" a project whereby Iowa can already make a contribution to world order. Closed minds now are the prelude to unbounded post-war chaos.

Fred Weltge
Dysart, Ia.

Appeared in Des Moines, Iowa paper

FROM METHODIST PASTOR ON SCATTERGOOD PLAN

March, 1943

I should like to make a personal public declaration with regard to the use of Scattergood Hostel as a placement center for Japanese-Americans.

I am in sympathy with the proposal. I think it is Christian, democratic and statesmanlike. If I allowed my prejudices to dominate, I suspect I should be against it. But after considerable thought and prayer, I do not see how I can be.

Government Policy

I think this is more than just a little, local issue. It is not something some resident of this community hatched up. The War Relocation Authority is authorized by the government. It has the same right to expect co-operation from us as the other branches, and most of us are co-operating in things with which we have contrary personal prejudices and desires.

There is considerable opposition to the project locally. It is more outspoken and seems to be in the majority. And we who favor it would not reflect upon either their sincerity or their integrity. But some of us feel that we may have closed our minds before we were too familiar with the actual facts in the case.

No Violence Feared

Under the circumstances, I shall not ask for a "go ahead" sign from the WRA on the project. Yet there are others in the community who feel toward the project much as I feel, more, perhaps, than we realize. We are not fighting for it. We feel that the WRA has a clear picture of the situation and we are perfectly willing to leave it in their hands. But we should like the public to know where we stand even though we are not attempting any pressure tactics. And, knowing them as we do, we fear no violence from our neighbors whatever it is the government decides to do finally. For they, too, are Americans.

James P. Gable, Pastor
The Methodist Church
West Branch, Ia.

Appeared in the Tribune
Des Moines, Iowa

JAPANESE-AMERICAN STUDENTS

March, 1943

May I commend you on the stand you have taken in the last few weeks regarding Japanese-Americans.

I felt that most people would agree with you. The recent action of the Iowa senate indicates that I was wrong.

Apparently Iowans are not yet convinced that the basic point of our democracy is before the law without respect to race, religion or previous condition of servitude. I cannot agree that we should condemn an individual because of his racial background.

My fear is that we are making scapegoats of the Japanese in order to arouse our own war hysteria. Germany did this with the Jews and came to the conclusion that the German race is superior to all others. We are fighting that superiority and yet we seem able to feel that our race has the right to condemn the Japanese race over here.

I have met some of the Japanese-American students at Drake University. Certainly they are as loyal as any group of second generation Germans or Italians. I have found them as eager to serve their country as any group of young people in the nation. Let's open the doors of Iowa to more of their kind. We need them.

Robert M. Morgani
3700 Grand Ave.
Des Moines, Iowa

Doesn't Want Jap Labor

Why bring the Japs to the middlewest to work on farms? Put them on their own land in California and under government supervision. Let them raise food that is not rationed.

The ones they bring to Iowa will only be seed and in time there is danger of their getting control of Iowa farms as they have in California.

Maybe our boys will have something to say about this when they get back and, in many cases, find no farm jobs. If the Japs are good, true Americans, why not let them shoulder a gun, the same as Americans of other races. At any rate, some of us farmers don't want Jap labor.

Mrs. C. A. Stotts
Prole, Ia.

Only Half the Battle

As a college student in this state I'd like to know what has come over some Iowans. First a resolution is offered in the senate asking that Japanese-American youth not be sent to college in Iowa. Then American Legion posts at West Branch and West Liberty ask that plans for a Japanese placement center near West Branch be blocked because it is "not in accord with our war psychology."

Truly enough we must annihilate the Japanese war machine,

but that is only half the battle. The other half is to re-educate the people of Japan to believe in democracy and its ways.

These moves are not in the right direction. Isn't there a much better chance for a good and lasting peace, if our people are educated? Who wouldn't become doubtful of the democratic way of life while shut up in a camp?

Dave Milligan
P. O. Box 605
Grinnell College
Grinnell, Ia.

Appeared in Des Moines, Iowa paper

DEPLORE SLAP AT EDUCATING NISEI IN IOWA

March, 1943

American-born Japanese students at Iowa institutions of higher learning Saturday found themselves the center of a growing dispute involving the abridgment of citizenship rights.

Latest development in the controversy came from the Iowa Civil Liberties union which "protested and deplored" the recent resolution adopted by the state legislature assailing plans to give college training to native-born Japanese, sometimes called "Nisei."

It appeared also that federal authorities were, themselves, at odds over the question of placing Nisei on campuses of Iowa colleges where more than 40 are now studying. Of these 26 are at Drake university.

These differences were highlighted by a statement made to the union by President Earl A. Roadman of Morningside college at Sioux City.

His efforts to have Japanese students placed at Morningside, he wrote, were "deterred" by authorities at the United States army bomber base at Sioux City.

Placing of students from relocation camps is handled entirely by the war relocation authority which not only selects but investigates them.

The Iowa Civil Liberties union, acting at its quarterly meeting, declared that the legislature's resolution "threatens our traditional national unity by setting race against race.

Urge Fairness

The union's resolution reiterated its stand "that Japanese-American citizens should be treated like all other citizens."

The legislature's resolution had assailed plans to give college training to Japanese-Americans "citizens" by virtue of their birth in this country whose loyalty and patriotism are rendered doubtful because of their racial extraction, thereby unfitting them to be soldiers, while denying a similar opportunity to our own young men of unquestioned loyalty.

The civil liberties group's resolution termed it "un-American" to cast doubts about patriotism on the basis of "racial extraction" and added that this phrasing is "unscientific and contrary to the facts."

In the same resolution, the union expressed "concern" over dropping of plans by the war relocation authority to use Scattergood hostel at West Branch, Ia., for training American-born Japanese as farm workers.

Opposition

Offered for this purpose by the Friends society opposition arose in West Branch and vicinity. Two American Legion posts were among opposing forces.

President Roadman wrote that he had planned to bring some of the Japanese students to Morningside but was "deterred therefrom by communications with our bomber base."

He said he realized that with 18-and-19-year-old boys being taken from the campus by the army it might not be "overly comfortable" for Japanese boys to attend Morningside.

That it is not a war department policy to keep such students off campuses where the army has training groups is indicated by the situation at Drake and at Grinnell college.

WAACs

Some of the WAACs are stationed at Drake. At Grinnell, where there are seven Japanese, one of them an instructor, there is a training school for army officers.

President Roadman's reply was one of eight received from 23 college presidents asked by the union to respond to a 1942 resolution urging release of loyal Japanese-Americans from relocation centers, a name adopted as preferable to concentration camps.

Responses

Responses from other colleges indicated a total of about 15 Nisei students in addition to the 26 at Drake.

The only state school to reply was Iowa State Teachers college, Cedar Falls. President Malcolm Price wrote that of four students there, two had left to take Iowa jobs. He said "these students seem to be well-accepted by our student body and they have been good citizens."

No more Japanese-Americans are being accepted at Cedar Falls, however, or at Iowa State college, Ames, and the State University of Iowa, the union reports.

President John B. Magee, of Cornell, wrote that there are four students at Mount Vernon. He said he believed they should have the same treatment as other American citizens.

"Every Effort"

Saying that we must make every effort to correct" injustices to the Nisei, President Irwin J. Lubbers wrote that there is one at Central college at Pella.

President M. J. Martin of Loras college, Dubuque, reported one such student and President Erret T. Elliott of William Penn college, at Oskaloosa, reported one. The latter said he was "glad for groups being sensitive to such proceedings as the Japanese relocation."

President Edwin E. Voigt of Simpson college, at Indianola, said he was favorably impressed by the union's stand.

Drake Paper

The Drake student newspaper joined in the controversy earlier in the week, leveling its editorial guns at the legislature's resolution. "So far as we Drake students are concerned," Pat Cowan, editor, wrote, "the resolution stands protested."

The editorial accompanied interviews with four Japanese-American students at the university, two women and two men. All of them described difficulties of adjustment at the relocation centers, where they had lived for varying periods. They were agreed that Japanese born in America wanted to become better American citizens.

"Need Proper Start"

Betty Nakashima from a center at Poston, Ariz., said she believed the teen-age group is hardest-hit by camp life

and added, "The young people will be the next generation and it is important that they get a proper start in life if they are to become good citizens."

Masa Oki, from another Arizona center, said he likes Iowa and thinks "everybody at Drake is swell."

"In my opinion," he said, "the majority of Japanese-Americans want to become better acquainted with other Americans."

"Demoralizing"

Florence Takemura of Manzanar, Cal., described camp conditions as "demoralizing" but said that it might not be good to let everyone out because of the pro-Axis element.

"Some of the youth have been disappointed in the ideals of democracy," she observed, "although they are not pro-Axis. They want to be assured of the trust of Americans and that they can be a part of American life as they were before Pearl Harbor."

Isaac Iijima of the Topaz, Utah camp, said "the idea of being surrounded by barbed-wire and of being told what you can do and can't do when you're an American citizen is demoralizing."

"Like To Fight"

"All of the youth would like to fight for a true democracy, one which is a democracy for all people, he said.

On the other side of the question was comment in the current issue of the Iowa Legionaire by Dr. C. R. Logan of Keokuk, Americanism chairman of the Iowa department of the

American Legion.

Expressing disapproval of sending Japanese-Americans to Iowa colleges, he wrote, "I am not so sure we want them in Iowa. I am not so sure they can be trusted."

Reported to have been one of two members of the house who opposed the Iowa legislature's action, Representative Sam Orebaugh (Rep., Des Moines), Polk county representative, addressed the Civil Liberties union meeting Saturday. Representative Orebaugh's remarks, however, were not related to the Japanese question.

Fears Agencies.

Orebaugh declared that the "greatest threat" to civil liberties is the growth of federal administrative agencies. He said that many of the social ends sought by these agencies are worthy but warned that the powers exercised by them are "dangerous."

"Probably many of these are desirable in wartime," he said, "but already they are beating the drums to continue them after the war."

Orebaugh said that the dangers in these agencies "transcend politics" and were growing before the Democrats came to power. He said he considered the November election results to be "a mandate" against the dangers of these agencies.

Appeared in Des Moines, Iowa paper

NISEI PREFER YANKEE SIDE IN PLAY WAR

by
Leif Erickson

March, 1943

Granada, Colorado -----

Kids in the Japanese relocation center at Granada play commando. The unlucky "enemy" boys don't like it. They protest, "We don't wanna be damn Japs all the time."

This feeling of the Granada children, reported by School Superintendent Paul Terry, is akin to the expressed desire of the adult American-born Japanese to be "Americans in America."

These Nisei, constituting about two-thirds of the Granada center's 7,000 population, has recognized the peculiar problem of war their ancestry makes for the United States government.

Take It Cheerfully

So they have adjusted themselves with relative cheerfulness to life in one-room barrack-type apartments and community mess halls.

All but a few of the Issei, the alien-born and older Japanese, have been reconciled that close control over them is inevitable.

The relations between James G. Lindley, Project Director for the war relocation authority, and the center population have been amiable since the evacuees arrived from the Pacific coast last fall to make new homes in a barren, cactus-studded

site in southeastern Colorado.

Japanese Tradition

There have been arguments and problems between the Nisei and Issei, chiefly because only citizens were permitted places on the advisory council. The vesting of authority and responsibility in the younger Nisei clashed with the Japanese tradition that the elders should be rulers.

Masao Satow, advisory council chairman, agrees with Lindley, that morale has been high.

"That's because we let a lot of steam blow off in the council meetings," observes Lindley, a former mining engineer. Satow and a group of fellow council members grin agreement.

What the Nisei say they want is a chance to fight or work directly in the nation's war effort.

Commenting on the war department's decision to recruit Japanese-Americans in the army, the Granada Pioneer, mimeographed English-Japanese newspaper published in the center says:

"The future of the Japanese in America will rest in the hands of the Nisei.

"America has been the only home that the greater majority of the Nisei have known. After the war, America still will be their home.

"The war department is giving the Nisei a chance to defend that home and all it stands for."

Anxious to prove their loyalty, the Nisei leaders are

strongly conscious of criticism that they are being coddled.

Coddling Charge

In a Denver, Colorado, speech, J. H. Marsman, author of "Escape From Hong Kong" and a Philippine mining man, declared, "It is the height of folly for America to waste time and money coddling Japanese, native or foreign-born, in United States camps, because they do not understand such treatment."

In reply, Oski Taniwaki, publication director of the Pioneer, says: "I wish that Mr. Marsman could visit a center before making statements like that. He could see for himself there's no coddling here."

Tells Facts

Taniwaki, who was English section editor of a San Francisco, Cal., Japanese paper before Pearl Harbor, cited that each evacuee on arrival received a cot, a straw mattress and two blankets. Families were quartered in single rooms, mostly 18 by 25 feet in size and equipped with a coal heating stove.

Japanese carpenter crews finished the bare timber walls with wall board.

From the start, most of the Japanese families have made attractive and livable quarters with their own decorations and furniture made from scrap lumber left over from the camp construction. Housewives who had worked in fertile California gardens dug up cactus to plant outside their doors and windows.

Trim Apartments

The apartment of Saijiro Hinoki, who used to run a dry cleaning shop, and his wife, Miyako, is one of Granada's trimmest. Its newly-made pine furniture is modern American in style. But the little interior rock garden which Mrs. Hinoki fashioned of coal and clinkers contains a Japanese legend piece.

Constructed in the pattern of nine other centers in the western states, Granada has 29 blocks containing 12 barracks buildings each. Each block has a recreation building, a mess hall, and a laundry, toilet and bath building.

Mess Halls

All center residents eat in mess halls, which feed 250 to 300 persons at a meal and are staffed by Japanese cooks, waiters and dishwashers.

William Wells, Chief Project Steward, says the average cost of each meal is 13 cents.

Creamed or fried fish and rice are frequently served, Wells explains, "because that's what the old Japanese like. If the old folks are satisfied, they'll keep the young ones quiet."

Wells must be right. WRA staff members say the young Japanese come away from fish meals with wry faces, but they make no complaint. They save up their Americanized appetite for the next meal of meat loaf and mashed potatoes.

Barbed Wire Fence

A five-strand barbed wire fence surrounds the building area and no one can leave the camp without a permit signed by Director Lindley. Passes to Lamar, Colo., the nearest town, are limited to one a month for each resident.

A military police company checks all departures and admissions at the gates. MPs also are stationed in watch towers along the fences. Internal policing is handled by Japanese directed by H. M. Tomlinson, Internal Security Officer.

About 4,000 of the center's population work in jobs necessary to maintain the community. Wages are \$16 a month for unskilled jobs like garbage and coal hauling and \$19 a month for trained positions such as nurses and teachers.

Center residents agreeing to take farm, timber-cutting, shop work or domestic jobs on the outside must have leave clearances, which are granted only after checks with the federal bureau of investigation or navy or army intelligence.

The only permanent structure in the center is the well-equipped 150-bed hospital. It is staffed by Dr. G. A. Duffy, Chief Medical Officer, and three Japanese physicians.

A \$308,000 school construction program was attacked strongly as wasteful and unnecessary by newspapers and in congress and proposals for two grade school buildings to cost about \$173,000 were dropped. Work is going ahead on a \$135,000 high school structure, which includes an auditorium-gymnasium.

The school system has 35 Caucasian teachers, whose salaries range from \$1,260 to \$2,000. The others are Japanese who get the top WRA scale of \$19 a month.

A congressional investigation of the war relocation authority has been started and transfer of the relocation centers to army jurisdiction has been proposed by Representative Leroy Johnson (Rep., Cal.)

Satow, the Granada council chairman, prefers that the centers continue under the now established WRA policies, but Taniwaki disagrees. He believes the centers can stand investigation, and declares he would welcome army control.

"Then all our cards would be on the table," Taniwaki said, "and we would know where we stood."

Appeared in Des Moines, Iowa paper

SYNTHETIC JAPANESE EMPEROR-WORSHIP

March, 1943

Since the Japanese launched their whirlwind attack at Pearl Harbor and points southwest, we have heard a great deal about their fanatical nationalist religion. And the fact is that millions of Japanese believe in it unquestioningly. But that's no excuse for our being as gullible as the Japanese youngsters who are fed this stuff in schools dominated by the terroistic warlords.

It is true that an ancient Japanese chronicle quotes a semi-mythical emperor of 660 B.C. as decreeing that "hereafter the imperial rule shall be extended so as to embrace all the six quarters of the world, and the whole world shall be under one roof."

It is true that this ancient chronicle is now reversed as literal truth and this edict as an eternal command, by the fanatical army crowd that has been running the country for the last dozen years.

But it is utter nonsense to believe that the Japanese have been craftily working at this grandiose project throughout their history. The whole rigamarole of emperor worship and Shinto state shrines is new since Perry landed in Japan in 1854, and got its chief impetus during the two periods from 1889 to 1905, and from 1935 to present days.

Japanese aggression overseas has been confined to three periods when "everybody else was doing it"--the 1580s, intermittently from 1894 to about 1922, and 1931 to the present. The famous "whole world under one roof" stuff is pure myth as applied to 660 B.C. It is just rhetorical oriental floweriness. The whole passage is taken bodily from Chinese court writings of a much later period, and at the time meant little more than a polite compliment. For long periods it was ignored completely, notably during more than two centuries up to 1854 during which foreigners were rigorously excluded. At other times the maxim was interpreted to mean the brotherhood of mankind, instead of conquest.

It is true that Japan has the longest unbroken line of hereditary rulers in the world, always with a certain aura of the sacred about them. But the line has been broken by adoption, and at least half the time the sacred emperor has been a mere puppet ruler, while hereditary or occasional "shoguns" (generals) exercised the real power.

The Shinto religion was the primitive and highly localized nature worship of ancient Japan. It was never completely ousted by the Buddhism and Confucianism imported from China 15 centuries ago. The disgruntled clan chiefs who overthrew the last shogun in 1868, under the slogan of "restoring" the emperor, began strengthening the emperor-worship aspects of the ancient Shinto faith merely to serve their own ends. And in 1889 Shinto education was made compulsory in the schools.

To reconcile this with freedom of religion in the Japanese constitution, a distinction was made between "sectarian Shinto"--the existing forms of nature-and-ancestor worship--and "state Shinto" (or "shrine Shinto") which was declared not a religion but a patriotic cult.

Since 1900 the bureau of shrines in the home affairs department has systematically been trying to whip the bewildering mass of ancient practices into some kind of unified philosophy. The national shrines have been built up and the small local shrines have been pruned away, until there are only 110,000 instead of nearly 200,000 as in 1900.

Since 1935 the heat has been put on both Buddhist and Christian faiths in Japan to permit their faithful to worship also at the state Shinto shrines. And any tendency by Japanese scholars to treat the Shinto doctrines critically, or even to re-interpret them in any but approved army fashion, is punished severely.

But all this is part of the new cult of Japanese militarism and imperialism of this generation--not since 660 B.C.

Appeared in Des Moines, Iowa paper

THE SENSE TO CONTROL OUR EXCITED EMOTIONS

March, 1943

I can understand why members of the general assembly are so opposed to Japanese-American youths attending our colleges and universities. After all, our country is at war with Japan. Because of that, being very human, they are all emotionally stirred up. Let me admit it, sometimes I catch myself getting hysterically patriotic too. But then I remember that God gave me some sense to use, to control my excited feelings.

The little sense I have has enabled me to at least in a measure appreciate the heart of Americanism; that is a wonderful heart. One of the things written in that heart is this, "No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States." (I realize our legislators do not have the power to pass such a law, but by passing a resolution they can become party to the passing of such a law.) I am not a perfect American, but my appreciation of that heart has thus far given me a kind of sense that will not permit my war stirred emotions to freely run wild, to easily violate the essence of Americanism.

Also, the little sense I have at least dimly sees the legitimacy of discriminating judgment. Somewhere I read that according to reliable authorities only around 3 per cent of

Japanese-Americans are considered to be a threat to our country now. If that is so, why treat the whole 100 per cent as if they were all "snakes in the grass"? Really, I believe that seeing the legitimacy of discriminating judgment has helped me a little to a kind of sense that will not easily allow me to give vent to mass condemnation which is the fruit of stirred up emotions.

David Davids
First Congregational Church
Eldora, Ia.

A JAPANESE-AMERICAN HOPES TO HELP

March, 1943

Tells of Pledges of Loyalty in Hawaii. Asks for Unity in the U.S.

As a student of Simpson college, and of Japanese-American ancestry I would like to present to the public more about the Japanese Americans.

At one of the mass meetings back home in Hawaii, it was resolved that the Americans of Japanese ancestry under the auspices of the Oahu Citizens Committee for Home Defense in Honolulu, June 13, 1941, declaring to:

1. Reaffirm our unreserved loyalty to the United States of America;
2. Pledge ourselves to do all within our power, individually and collectively, to serve our country even at the sacrifice of our lives; and
3. Urge all fellow American to place implicit faith in our constituted authorities and work together to protect those democratic traditions which have made our country great.

This took place before Pearl Harbor was attacked. When a nation is at war there is no place for those citizens who are not wholeheartedly willing to do their part in the struggle for victory. If there be any who are not willing to give their unreserved loyalty to the United States in this instance, they should, in all honor, declare themselves and relinquish the citizenship they hold so lightly.

Would Forget Differences

When the pages of history covering the period of travail

which appears now to face this country are written, they will contain glowing accounts of the thorough welding into the national structure of America those sons and daughters whose blood stemmed from alien parentage.

Now has come the time for all Americans to forget all differences and forge their separate links into a chain of unity so strong as to resist the efforts of all who would destroy America and the American way of life. There is no place in the national life from this point on for dissenters, harping critics and deliberate agitators of confusion and doubt.

If our nation is to weather the looming crisis we must stand all together. Let no one ever point their finger in the future at any American whose blood is of Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Filipino or other races and say that there stands an American who failed his country!

Tied To The United States.

We know that this dishonor has been placed upon us, but with pride in our hearts, the growing surge of patriotic effort among us is a crystallization of those spiritual qualities that ties us rigidly and permanently to the United States, our nation, as thoroughly loyal citizens.

Stirring rallies like the one mentioned were carried on all over the Territory of Hawaii, California, Washington, and other provinces of the United States where Japanese Americans resided.

Army Officer Quoted.

Lt. Col. M. W. Marston, chief of military intelligence in

the Hawaiian department speaking frankly and constructively, expressed that, "In Hawaii there is no north, no south, no east nor west. We are Americans, regardless of racial descent, speaking one language, having one loyalty, loving one flag, having allegiance but to one country -- America."

* * * * *

As a loyal American I volunteered for the three branches of service, army, navy and marine. Thousands of others have done the same. Why shouldn't they? They were educated in your schools, and lived up to the democratic principles of our country, furthermore some of us may be of good use to our country with what little knowledge we know about the Japanese language. I've studied the Japanese language for 12 years and hope to be of some use to my country when I am called for military service.

Kenneth Takehara,
Indianola, Ia.

GIVE THE LOYAL ONES A CHANCE

In regard to loyal American citizens of foreign descent, I am reminded of the man who kept shouting at what he thought was a squirrel on a tree limb, only to discover that it was a louse on his own eyebrow.

It is inconceivable to me that one who has obtained the advantages which our country affords would run the risk of losing them. We grant that there may be many of foreign birth who may not have become Americanized as yet, but let us give those who have been proven loyal a chance.

There is good and bad in all races and we do not always have to leave our own communities to find the variation.

There is a leader for every herd and sometimes the herd is led in the wrong direction. It is our job to try and eliminate the leaders of our enemies so that their followers may see a better path to travel in world brotherhood.

Charles A. Dunn,
Lake City, Ia.

Appeared in Des Moines, Iowa paper

WEST BRANCH JAP PROGRAM DECISION DUE

by
Richard Wilson

March, 1943

Washington, D. C. -----

Homer Morris, Philadelphia, Penn., of the Friends Service Committee, expects to confer here soon with war relocation authority officials to reach a final decision on whether to proceed with establishment of a hostel for American citizens of Japanese extraction at West Branch, Ia.

Vigorous objections from some interests in the West Branch community have caused both the Friends committee and the war relocation authority to reconsider the plan to bring Japanese to West Branch, where they would be assigned as farm workers.

Recently in Iowa

Morris expects to confer here with Donald R. Sabin of the war relocation authority who recently has been in Iowa, to hear the objection raised against taking to West Branch Japanese who have been moved out of the west coast vital defense zone.

Morris said Monday that the principal objection comes from the American Legion, but that there are other elements in the community which favor the location of the Japanese there.

"I don't like to back down just because there is some opposition," said Morris. "The expressions of a few vociferous people do not represent the only opinion in the community. We have numerous signs that there is a strong body of opinion in favor."

One plan suggested is that the hostel idea be abandoned, and the Japanese be brought to the West Branch area individually. In these cases, investigations are made by the war relocation authority, to insure the loyalty of Japanese workers to the United States.

"Strong Prejudice"

War relocation officials have found what they describe as a "strong prejudice" among some local groups to the hostel idea. Personal disputes are said to have entered into the question, and there are objections to the general policies of the Society of Friends, it is reported, which extend back to the use of the hostel as a haven for European refugees.

The question of Quaker participation in the war effort also is raised by local objectors to the plan of moving the Japanese to West Branch, war relocation officials reported. Consequently, they report, a difficult situation has been created, and the war relocation authority is interested in the extent to which the community's reaction will go if the Japanese are moved in.

Appeared in Des Moines, Iowa paper

WOULD ACCEPT NISEI

Contributor Says Take The Risk, If There Be One

March, 1943

Two thousand years ago, a great lover of humanity said, "Forgive them for they know not what they do."

Surely, attackers of the Scattergood scheme to bring the Nisei to help us in Iowa are ignorant of the issues at stake.

These American Japanese, born and raised in this country, lovers of family life, proven law-abiding citizens for more than two decades, have had to leave their homes and possessions yet have understood enough to co-operate to the fullest extent with the authorities. The report of the chief of police at Honolulu at the time of Pearl Harbor was to the effect of a 100 per cent loyalty on the part of Japanese residents. Many volunteered for military service at the beginning of war.

Question of Manpower

There is no question of putting Iowa boys out of work. It is a question of needed manpower now, and the waste of manpower and taxpayers' money if these loyal people are not used. Manpower is as important as guns just now.

Iowa farmers engaged in a gigantic production effort

to preserve this grand democracy and spread its ethics world-wide, to confound intolerance wherever it may be, know that we are not fighting the common people of the countries of our enemies. We are fighting the systems, the systems that dwarf men so that they cannot grow to their full stature.

Co-operation Blocked

These farmers remember we said were fighting for democracy in the last war. The fighting men gloriously fought and won. But the stuffy, unimaginative, afraid-to-do-anything-new people on the home front choked every co-operative, friendly action the leaders tried to put through for world peace, thereby making every sacrifice of World War I futile. A dreadful waste. We now have another chance.

And Iowa has a special chance to show she understands the implications of a new world order. If we take these American Japanese, this much needed manpower, and use it to the best of our ability, the results could be only for incalculable good.

If there's a risk in it, risk it. It is a chance for pioneering on a twentieth century pattern. Failure to receive decently these American Japanese (who are themselves risking much in their willingness to help) would be retrogressive to the Allied cause.

Betty Bunce
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