

1:8

COMMITTEE RECORDS

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP STATEMENTS

1943-44

GA

171

TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT NOVEMBER 25, 1943

As a Pacific Coast body which recognizes many of the difficulties in administering the Tulelake Segregation Center, difficulties due in part to the diversified groups within the center, in part to the unjustified political and journalistic exaggeration of the disturbances inevitable in such a center, we urge that the following facts be considered by any policy making bodies.

1. The War Department has repeatedly expressed reluctance to assume permanent control of any center.
2. The War Relocation Authority, while established primarily as a relocation agency, has worked out satisfactory techniques for administration of various types of centers.

Unless the War Department wishes to control and operate Tulelake may we respectfully submit the following proposals:

1. Continued operation of Relocation Centers by W.R.A. with emphasis upon resettlement of loyal evacuees.
2. Immediate separation of troublemakers in Tulelake from lawabiding members of the colony, and secure incarceration of aforementioned persons in areas established and secured by the War Department for that purpose.
3. War Department responsibility for external security of entire Tulelake Segregation Center.
4. Administration and operation of the Tulelake Center by W.R.A. whose authority and personnel shall be strengthened to meet local conditions.
5. Full public interpretation by the War Department of the local situation.
6. Full public interpretation by the State Department of the international implications involved, since segregees are not prisoners of war.

Most respectfully submitted,

PACIFIC COAST COMMITTEE ON AMERICAN PRINCIPLES AND FAIR PLAY

(signed)

Mrs. Ruth W. Kingman
Executive Secretary

April 1944

SUGGESTIONS FOR RESOLUTIONS ON
MINORITY PROBLEMS

(especially in regard to the Japanese evacuated from the West Coast)

1. Approving the decision of the Farm Security Administration to make loans to citizens of Japanese ancestry on the same basis as to other citizens; and expressing the hope that ways will be found to provide similar funds to alien evacuees who are declared to be loyal to this country, in order to enable them to resume normal life and make a much needed contribution to the national production, instead of being a continued expense to the public treasury.
2. Approving the Army's resumption of Selective Service for the Nisei, as for other citizens.
3. Approving the granting by the Army of permits to Nisei servicemen to visit the West Coast on furlough, and urging that, in view of the announced passing of danger of invasion of the Coast in force, similar rights be gradually given to other evacuees found to be loyal to this country.
4. Expressing opposition to the proposal to deport law-abiding persons of any nationality, whether citizens or aliens, except as they may be found by legal process to be hostile to the United States, or desirous of deportation.
5. Expressing appreciation of the facilities extended by the officials of the War Relocation Authority to the various national Christian agencies which are cooperating with the religious and social activities of the Christian groups in the Relocation Centers.
6. Assuring the President, the War Department, the Department of Justice, and the Department of the Interior of the readiness of our constituents to give cordial support to whatever policies looking toward restoration of constitutional liberties to the Japanese evacuees may be deemed consonant with national security and with the civil rights and liberties for which we are fighting.

[Apr. 22, 1942]

THE BOTTLE-NECK IN JAPANESE RESETTLEMENT

The evacuation of 110,000 residents of Japanese lineage from the West Coast will soon be history. It has required heroic sacrifices from innocent persons, two-thirds of them citizens, but it has been executed with exemplary consideration by both military and civil officials.

The pressing question now is: How can resettlement be carried out so as to make the utmost contribution to winning the war, and at the same time, do a minimum of violence to our democratic ideals? The answer must satisfy five conditions:

1. Enable the evacuees to make the largest possible contribution to national production and strength during the war.
2. Restore their self-respect and the respect for them of the general public.
3. Promote the Americanization of the evacuees, especially of the citizens.
4. Facilitate their reincorporation into American life after the war, and not intensify racial friction.
5. Exemplify democratic procedure in the resettlement process, so as to foster patriotism among citizen Japanese-Americans and respect for American principles among alien Japanese.

It is the conviction of the Army and the War Relocation Authority that the master policy to satisfy all these conditions is this: Distribute the bulk of the evacuees sparsely over inland states in many normal communities, provided that the inhabitants will extend to them the right hand of fellowship. The "bulk of the evacuees" refers primarily to the two-thirds who are citizens, and are already considerably assimilated to American life. This policy was in force until March 29, when widespread opposition to the "invasion" of Japanese evacuees compelled the Army to stop the "voluntary evacuation" which it had been encouraging, lest the evacuees suffer mob violence.

The bottle-neck in resettlement, therefore, is inland popular opposition to the policy of dispersal. Until the mass of Americans are convinced that such opposition is an unpatriotic impeding of the war effort and a violation of American ideals, that policy must remain in suspense, being replaced by segregation in colonies under military guard. That this would be artificial, wasteful, and un-American, is evident from the following considerations.

1. The labor shortage in many communities, caused by the draft and the rush to munitions industries, would be partially met if thirty or forty thousand adult evacuees were made available.

2. In normal communities, production by the evacuees could begin at once, whereas in settlements on unsubjugated, arid land, agricultural crops could not be harvested for many months. Furthermore, more than half of the evacuees are not farmers and it will be difficult to find productive non-agricultural work for all of them in the settlements.

3. Dispersed in normal communities, most of the evacuees would be self-maintaining from the first, whereas in the settlements, a Relocation Authority official has estimated that it would cost \$60,000 a day, plus the cost of military protection. To offset this, there would be a belated and uncertain income from the agricultural and manufacturing labor of the evacuees.

4. Segregation from normal contacts with white Americans will retard the Americanization of the evacuees, in fact, will tend to de-Americanize them - a fate which many of the young Japanese-Americans dread - whereas distribution of the evacuees in some such ratio as one to 500 of the general population would greatly accelerate Americanization.

5. Distribution and incorporation into normal American life would go far to restore self-respect, and also to remove the stigma of disloyalty and inferiority which is attached to the evacuees by many thoughtless or race-prejudiced white Americans. If forced to live herded in settlements, under guard, for the duration, it would be hard to regain self-respect or get free of the stigma.

6. Dispersal and opportunity for free enterprise and uninhibited participation in the effort to win the war would give play to the undoubted patriotism of most of the citizen evacuees, whose faith in the American dream has been rudely shaken by their evacuation.

7. Isolation and segregation will hinder reincorporation into normal life after the war: tension between whites and Japanese on the West Coast has been gradually diminishing, as the proportion of American-born and Americanized alien Japanese has increased; but tension is likely to be intensified if evacuees have been partially de-Americanized by segregation, and then return to their former homes on the Coast.

If these points are well taken, then our white fellow-citizens, who either through thoughtlessness or animus have blocked the policy of dispersal, have unwittingly placed prejudice or personal interest ahead of winning the war and sound national policy. It was comparatively easy for all of us to condone the uprooting of 70,000 citizens and 40,000 law-abiding aliens when we were told that military necessity required it. Shall we refuse to welcome the settling of a few Japanese in our communities when the same military authorities favor such settlement as an aid to winning the war?

HEARING BOARDS FOR GERMAN AND ITALIAN ALIENS

In line with the recommendations made by the Tolan Congressional Committee, we believe it is sound policy for the Wartime Civilian Control Agency to constitute a system of Hearing Boards to inquire into the loyalty of German and Italian aliens who wish to appear before them, and to recommend to the military authorities the issuance of certificates to such of them as may be found to be loyal beyond reasonable doubt. We would also express hearty approval of the recommendation that the Department of Justice should review the situation regarding enemy aliens who are awaiting their second papers, with a view to expediting their applications.

A 16.215

THE BOTTLE-NECK IN JAPANESE RESETTLEMENT

(Sent as a letter to N. Y. TIMES, by Galen Fisher, on April 22, 1942)

The evacuation of 110,000 persons of Japanese race from the West Coast will soon be history. The basic policy undeniably involved an infringement of constitutional rights, and the sudden uprooting itself inflicted bitter losses and hardships on persons, two-thirds of them citizens, against whom no legal offense had been even charged. But the execution of the policy, by both military and civil officials, has been marked by exemplary kindness and consideration. Criticism of the evacuation policy should not be hushed, but at the moment, the question is, How can resettlement be carried out effectively, that is, so as to make the utmost contribution to winning the war, and at the same time do a minimum of violence to our democratic ideals?

"Effective resettlement" thus defined involves attaining at least five objectives, namely:

1. Enabling the evacuees to make the largest possible contribution to national production and strength during the war.
2. Restoring their self-respect and the respect for them of the general public.
3. Promoting the Americanization of the evacuees, especially of the citizens.
4. Facilitating their reincorporation into American life after the war, and not intensifying racial friction.
5. Exemplifying democratic procedure in the resettlement process, so as to foster patriotism among the citizen Japanese-Americans and respect for American principles among the alien Japanese.

It is the conviction of the War Relocation Authority, as it is of the writer, that the master policy for attaining all these five objectives is this: Distribute the bulk of the evacuees widely over the interior states in many normal communities, provided that the inhabitants will extend to them the right hand of fellowship. The "bulk of the evacuees" refers primarily to the two-thirds who are citizens, and are already considerably assimilated to American life. This policy was in force until late in March, when widespread opposition to the "invasion" of Japanese evacuees compelled the Army to stop the "voluntary evacuation" which it had been encouraging, lest the evacuees suffer mob violence.

The bottle-neck in resettlement, therefore, is popular opposition to the policy of dispersal. Until the mass of Americans, as well as the leaders of opinion, are convinced that such opposition is an unpatriotic impeding of the war effort and a violation of American ideals, that policy must remain in suspense, being replaced by the artificial, and wasteful, and unamerican policy of segregation and concentration in colonies under military guard. That this would be artificial, wasteful, and unamerican, is evident from the following considerations stated with the utmost brevity.

1. The labor shortage in many communities, caused by the draft and the rush to munitions industries, would be partially met if thirty or forty thousand adult evacuees were made available.
2. In normal communities, production by the evacuees could begin at once, whereas in settlements on unsubjected, arid land, agricultural crops could not be harvested for many months. Furthermore, more than half of the evacuees are not farmers and it will be difficult to find productive non-agricultural work for all of them in the settlements.
3. Dispersed in normal communities, most of the evacuees would be self-maintaining from the first, whereas in the settlements, a Relocation Authority official told me it would cost \$60,000 a day, plus the cost of military protection, and to offset this, there would be a belated and uncertain income from the agricultural and manufacturing labor of the evacuees.

4. Segregation from normal contacts with white Americans will retard the Americanization of the evacuees, in fact, will tend to de-Americanize them - a fate which many of the young Japanese-Americans dread - whereas distribution of the evacuees in some such ratio as one to 500 of the general population would greatly accelerate Americanization.

5. Distribution and incorporation into normal American life would go far to restore self-respect, and also to remove the stigma of disloyalty and inferiority which is attached to the evacuees by many thoughtless or race-prejudiced white Americans. If forced to live herded in settlements, under guard, for the duration, it would be hard to regain self-respect or get free of the stigma.

6. Dispersal and opportunity for free enterprise and uninhibited participation in the effort to win the war would give play to the undoubted patriotism of most of the citizen evacuees, whose faith in the American dream has been rudely shaken by their evacuation.

7. Isolation and segregation will hinder reincorporation into normal life after the war, for it will tend to intensify the racial tension which has been gradually decreasing on the West Coast, and will prevent the maintenance of association with white friends and cooperation with them in educational, social, and civic activities.

That this is a formidable indictment of the policy of segregation and a strong argument for the policy of dispersal, would no doubt be agreed by most of those who read these words. But they are not the Opposition, whose animus or thoughtlessness is blocking what, from all considerations of national advantage and democratic principle, appears to be the sound and patriotic policy. The problem, therefore, is to convert that opposition into convinced support. To do this in time to make a contribution to the war effort will obviously be a stupendous task. But even if that should prove to be impossible, the long-range importance of adopting the dispersal policy at the earliest possible date is so great that the task of popular reeducation and conversion should be persistently undertaken. This will call for the vigorous effort of thousands of individual citizens and hundreds of public-spirited organizations. Since the policy of dispersal is supported by the War Relocation Authority and by the Government as a whole, and since it will conduce to winning the war, it ought to be possible to press the patriotic nerve hard enough to move even the most unregenerate heart.

Rationale and Importance
of the
Committee on American Principles and Fair Play

1. Its Primary Concern is for the integrity of the Bill of Rights, and not pity for an unfortunate and ill-used minority, the Japanese evacuees. Whenever that Bill is violated or weakened in treatment of any minority, no matter how unpopular and helpless, it is impaired for all of us, and sets an evil precedent which is likely to be turned against some other minority later. Wartime requires some sacrifice of ordinary rights for all of us, but the last point to be yielded is the Bill of Rights. Only proven need for Martial Law has hitherto justified suspending it, and then only by deliberate and conscious act. Our Committee believes we should all be lynx-eyed to prevent denying its protection to any and all persons, unless proven dangerous or subversive.

2. It promotes cool, clear thinking by the West Coast public, despite the abnormal passions and distortions of truth prevalent in wartime. This applies especially to the need of helping the public to discriminate sharply between our enemies in Japan, the military criminals, and persons of Japanese stock in America, about two-thirds of whom are as truly American citizens as any of us.

There is no more excuse for identifying the Japanese-Americans with the Japan militarists than for saddling the millions of German-Americans with the crimes of the Nazis, --in fact much less, since no Japanese-Americans nor even alien Japanese long resident here have been charged with sabotage whereas numbers of German-Americans have been convicted of it.

3. The Committee meets sweeping generalizations, and unsupported charges and prejudices with documented facts and appeals to fundamental constitutional principles. The threat is made that returned white servicemen from the Southwest Pacific front would murder all persons of Japanese stock who might dare to return to the Coast; and the Committee issues FIGHTING MEN SPEAK OUT, in which one Fresno State College alumnus now in service writes: "California and the city of Fresno owes a debt to our Japanese-American citizens in the service who are paying the price of our common freedom with their lives....Fresno owes these soldiers a monument and not a stab in the back!" And a Chinese-American service man, Captain Lui writes from Hawaii: "Have no fear that returning soldiers would desire to slit the throats of loyal Japanese at home....We'll do our fighting on the battlefields against our country's enemies, and not on the streets at home against our country's friends."

4. It confronts those who charge that few if any of the Nisei citizens are loyal with the extraordinary record of the 100th Battalion in Italy, composed entirely of Nisei privates and half the officers Nisei, all of them volunteers. That record shows 3 Distinguished Service Crosses, 21 Bronze stars, and 36 Silver stars, and 900 Purple Hearts, that is, 900 out of 1400 wounded in action at Salerno and Cassino, where they took the hardest assignments without a whimper. Similar heroism has been shown by the nisei in the Alaskan and South Pacific forces.

5. The Committee believes that in wartime it is sound to assume that the war Department deserves unstinted support on all military matters. We have found that policy sound thus far, although we have always reserved the liberty to question any Government action. After the Army decided that evacuation was required by military necessity, we made no further question on that point. We have found the heads of the War Department as eager as ourselves to restore full constitutional rights to the evacuees as soon as the military situation would allow. Since the Army ordered the evacuation, we believe that the Army should decide when to reverse the process and allow gradual recovery of civil rights to the evacuees. When the Army does decide that the time has come to take that step, and makes a pronouncement as clear as its original order for the evacuation, we stand ready to cooperate to the limit, and we believe that every patriot who prizes his own civil liberties should do the same.
6. The policy of dispersed relocation, adopted by the War Relocation Authority, commends itself to every sensible Californian. It will prevent the swarming of colonies of persons of one race which makes "little Tokyos", and separates them from the rest of the population. Fortunately, the evacuees themselves, of the American-born citizen majority, heartily approve this policy. They also are declaring that many of them will not return to this Coast even after the war, but will remain in the states east of the Sierras where they have found congenial new homes.

May 22, 1944

June 1944

SOLDIER AND CIVILIAN NISEI AND
GOVERNMENT POLICY TODAY AND TOMORROW

1. The heroic conduct of the Nisei in the 100th Battalion in Italy, and of the Nisei serving in the Pacific area has won special recognition from the War Department and public. The 1000 men in the 100th Battalion have made a record of awards of 3 Distinguished Service Crosses, 21 Bronze stars, 36 Silver stars and 900 Purple Hearts.
2. The War Department in January 1944, showed its confidence in the general loyalty of the Nisei by restoring their eligibility to the selective service draft.
3. The speech of Sgt. Ben Kuroki, of Ploesti bombing fame, before the Commonwealth Club of San Francisco on February 4, 1944, received a tremendous ovation. His later broadcast over NBC was equally well received.
4. The War Department has for some months been allowing Nisei men in the armed forces to visit the West Coast on furlough, and none of them have suffered violence or serious trouble at the hands of white residents.
5. No proven cases of espionage or sabotage have been recorded on the part of the 21,000 evacuees released for resettlement, nor against any of the 20,000 unevacuated persons of Japanese extraction living beyond the Sierras.
6. The transfer of the War Relocation Authority to the Department of the Interior, and Secretary Ickes' staunch defense of its record have apparently weakened the attacks upon the WRA. Secretary Ickes has emphasized the constitutional rights of American citizens of Japanese ancestry.
7. All cases involving actual or possible disloyalty (except cases of Japanese interned aliens) have been disposed of by sending persons concerned to Tule Lake. The active trouble makers in that center are being held in a specified area separate from the remaining 18,000, who are showing an orderly and cooperative spirit.
8. The Farm Security Administration has recently announced that it will make farm loans to Nisei evacuees who relocate on the same basis as to any other citizen. Their lack of funds is one of the chief obstacles to resettling some 60,000 evacuees still in the Relocation Centers.
9. No Court decision has yet been made to determine the constitutionality or unconstitutionality of ordinances adopted by some West Coast Boards of Supervisors, shortly after Pearl Harbor, in an attempt to prevent any eventual return of farmers of Japanese ancestry to the evacuated area.
10. Attorney General Biddle, in reply to inquiries by the House Committee on Immigration as to his opinion of proposed legislation wrote February 8, 1944:
"On the basis of exhaustive investigations conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, I have found that internal security required the internment of fewer than 2,000 Japanese aliens in the continental United States, and I am informed that

only about 700 Japanese aliens have been interned by the commanding general in the Territory of Hawaii.....A large proportion of the Japanese aliens in this country are law-abiding and loyal to the United States. They came here many years ago, in accordance with our laws and have raised families composed of citizens of the United States. Compulsory deportation of all Japanese nationals at the termination of hostilities appears to me to be objectionable.....Moreover, exile, which is what the deportation of such (citizens of Japanese ancestry) would constitute, is entirely foreign to our constitutional history. I do not know of any way in which the exile of citizens of the United States can be reconciled with the principles for which we are fighting this war."

11. Secretary Stimson's statement of January 1943, that "It is the inherent right of every faithful citizen, regardless of ancestry, to bear arms in the nation's battle", was amplified by the California State Commander of the American Legion, on February 15, 1944 in these words:

"Numerous persons of Japanese ancestry are now serving with the armed forces of our country on the battle fronts, and according to all reports, are serving valiantly and well..... Every person good enough to fight for us is entitled to our respect and equal protection under our constitution."

12. Admiral Nimitz declared last June at the University of California that all danger of an invasion in force of the West Coast had passed although he and General Emmons have recently stated that nuisance raids were still to be expected. The "military necessity" arising from danger of invasion was the reason given by the Army for the policy of exclusion of all persons of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast.

The Army's judgment in 1942 that military necessity required evacuation was generally accepted upon the West Coast. If it be a fact that such military necessity no longer exists, and if the War Department will state that fact now, such statement will go a long way to remove apprehensions aroused by the action taken by the Army in 1942, and will thus remove one of the chief obstacles to the restoration of the constitutional rights of the evacuees. An authoritative and definite statement on the subject by the Department of War will enable the large number of Californians who are interested in these constitutional rights to assert and defend them without danger of being met with the argument, whether made in good or bad faith, that they are not supporting the department of the government which is best informed on questions of national security and which originally ordered evacuation on that ground.

---ooo000ooo---

Pacific Coast Committee on American Principles and Fair Play

2234 Telegraph Ave.
Berkeley 4, Calif.

465 California St.
San Francisco, Calif.

Letter from Mrs. Peggy Hayes to Mrs. Ruth W. Kingman

Sorry this is so messy, but it is only a memo, isnt it... If an answering broadcast is given, I would suggest that it tell that the Army and Navy and FBI records are at the disposal of the WRA and that no one listed is even considered...that the exclusion order had provision for individuals, and no one returns here without express permission and such factual material all mixed together with the valorous exploits the Jap-Am troops in Italymake people feel how unfair it is to keep their families from their real homes.

I find that the technique of Mr. Smith is continuing. This A.M. he did not say Our men are mistreated in Japanese prison camps...but he conveyed that by saying "At least they could receive better treatment.... at least they could receive their Red Cross packages."(my impression is that the Red Cross reported they do).

I told him I would send him a copy of the War Department statement and would be obliged if he would give it over his broadcast....I havent done so yet....You had it a long time ago...want it again?

(signed) Peggy

July 1944

COMMENTS ON A BROADCAST given by LARRY SMITH over KPO
Monday, July 10, at 9:15 A.M.

.....

Mr. Smith in most alarmist tones announced that "Japs" not in uniform were back on the Pacific Coast. He asked WHY? repeatedly and then gave various data which created the impression that the nefarious WRA was solely responsible for this highly dangerous situation -- in the face of the opposition of Gov. Warren and of the people (Japanese-American) themselves.

He gave the feeling that the security of the nation was at stake. He gave evidence of their presence.....a divorce action in S.F. and some pupils seen on the street by their teacher.

He quoted from a speech which Governor Warren was said to have made before a Governor's Conference....which was "an appeal to security" and from something (he did not say whether a letter or what) which was said to be quotes from one who termed himself "a Japanese" when he had the qualifications for being an American citizen....This not only gave the feeling that all such people prefer to be Japanese and are therefore dangerous, but that they do not want to return to this area, as the man was quoted as saying something to the effect of "Who would want to come back to your old coast anyway?"

.....

I called the Broadcasting station and complained of the way this speech was given and the impression which it created, i.e. that we were sitting on a powder keg. I said that I thought the Western Defense command the FBI and other such law enforcing agencies could be trusted to handle the situation, but should vigilantistic troubles arise, I thought that such broadcasts would be to blame.

She said she would tell Mr. Smith and took my number etc.....

.....

Twenty minutes later Mr. Smith called. I asked him for a copy of the broadcast, after repeating much the same as I had told the girl....

He said that he had none available, but would read it to me.

I took some notes as he read, both on the speech and of some answers he made to me.

They run as follows.....

In the speech he said:as above.....also.....

These people are back on the Coast..NOT in uniform...they have been seen on the street, there is a divorce action in S.F. Quotes from "A Japanese" as indicated above and long quotes from Gov Warren who was represented as wanting to keep them out of this area by every legal means.....such a stand being for security reasons.

I reiterated that I had more confidence in the FBI, WDC, etc. than he and thought them not so incompetent.

To this he said that the Army, Navy Intelligence and FBI do not go over the heads of these agencies. That was the FBI, WDC and some other agency. I said that I had more confidence in the FBI, WDC, etc. than he and thought them not so incompetent.

over the names of those released. That once freed, "Japs" can come here without the knowledge of anyone, there is no check up, from such places as Utah, farther east, etc.

They (the Army and Navy Intelligence) had told him this repeatedly and also that many Japs returned in violation of exclusion order. That some had been arrested in the Los Angeles area.

The WRA does not report to the Western Defense Command and that they have therefore no way of checking up....

He asked if I favored their return. And I said that I thought those who were allowed to had a right to do so.

He said something about 125,000 of them would create great danger and I objected, saying that there was no such proposition that I had heard or suggested....that 60% of that 125,000 are kids and those sent to Tule Lake should be subtracted also.

He hesitated and said something about well, "25,000" ... and asked if I had ever heard of Votokuku...

I hadn't

So he told me some wild yarn...and I replied that somehow I wasn't much alarmed as it had proved signally ineffective. There had been no sabotage or incidents....

He exclaimed "well...that's because we are guarded and they were sent away! and now you want them back!"

I reminded him of Hawaii's record and said that I had a statement from the War Department to the effect that if a handful of these people could deliver over the western defenses, we didn't have much of an opinion of the War Dept!

There was a lot more as the conversation was about 40 minutes...some about Gov. Warren's attitude etc., which I don't know, but would hardly imagine a law enforcement official would advocate anything which is NOT legal!

I charged Mr. Smith with creating the impression that the WRA was ~~tamming~~ tamming this over the opposition of the people etc....and he said quickly "I didn't say that!" and I said NO, not directly but that is what you conveyed. He did not demurr.

I finally told him that I thought it useless to go round and round this way, but that I was grateful to him for calling me up and having the conversation and for allowing me to tell him that in my opinion such broadcasts render a distinct DIS-service to Democracy.

.....

COPY

Major General Charles H. Bonesteel
Western Defense Command
Presidio
San Francisco, Calif.

Dear Sir:

I have just heard a broadcast over KPO (9:15) by a Larry Smith which I wish to bring to your attention.

The news item of the broadcast was that "Japanese" not in uniform, have returned to the coast. The impression was conveyed that this highly dangerous situation was due to W.R.A. insistence on their return.

Mr. Smith did not state flatly that the WRA is putting this over, but by the use of quotations from someone described as a "Japanese", altho he possessed the qualifications for being an American, he conveyed the idea that the people themselves do not want to return (and also that they are not loyal), while quotes from Governor Warren were used to prove that he also is opposed.

I am bringing this to your attention, not because of the subject matter of the broadcast but because of the manner in which it was presented-----which was distinctly alarmist.

Had these same news items been presented objectively I should not be presuming on your time. But when they were arranged dramatically and delivered in quivering tones, the effect was distinctly "AWAKE, Citizens, the enemy is in your midst!".

Having the utmost confidence in the intelligence and ability of the various agencies such as the F.B.I. and services under your Command to handle the security of the coast, I feel no danger from the presence of American citizens of whatever ancestry who are allowed to return to this area.

I do, however, believe that should troubles of a vigilantistic nature arise, they will have been caused by such alarmist announcements which in my opinion, come dangerously near the definition of "inciting to riot".

Yours very truly,

Mrs. Margaret C. Hayes

117 Tamalpais Rd.
Berkeley 8, Calif.

Headquarters Western Defense Comman
office of the Commanding General
Presidio of San Francisco, California

17 July 1944

201 - Hayes, Margaret C. - CAD

Miss Margaret C. Hayes
117 Tamalpais Road
Berkeley, 8, Calif.

Dear Madam:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of 11 July 1944 addressed to Major General Charles H. Bonesteel, Western Defense Command, Presidio of San Francisco, regarding the broadcast by Mr. Larry Smith which you heard over Radio Station KPO.

The Commanding General has directed me to advise you that the contents of your letter have been noted and that your interest in this matter is appreciated.

Very truly yours,

H.W. SCHWEITZER
Lt. Col. J.A.G.D.
Actg. Asst. Adjutant General

SOLDIER AND CIVILIAN NISEI AND
GOVERNMENT POLICY TODAY AND TOMORROW

September 1944

1. The heroic conduct of the Nisei in the 100th Battalion in Italy, and of the Nisei serving in the Pacific area has won special recognition from the War Department and public. The 1300 men in the 100th Battalion have made a record of awards of 3 Distinguished Service Crosses, 21 Bronze stars, 36 Silver stars and over 1000 Purple Hearts.

2. The War Department in January 1944, showed its confidence in the general loyalty of the Nisei by restoring their eligibility to the selective service draft.

3. The speech of Sgt. Ben Kuroki, of Floesti bombing fame, before the Commonwealth Club of San Francisco on February 4, 1944, received a tremendous ovation. His later broadcast over NBC was equally well received.

4. The War Department has for some months been allowing Nisei men in the armed forces to visit the West Coast on furlough, and none of them has suffered violence or serious trouble at the hands of white residents.

5. No proven cases of espionage or sabotage have been recorded on the part of the 21,000 evacuees released for resettlement, nor against any of the 20,000 unevacuated persons of Japanese extraction living beyond the Sierras.

6. The transfer of the War Relocation Authority to the Department of the Interior, and Secretary Ickes' staunch defense of its record have apparently weakened the attacks upon the WRA. Secretary Ickes has emphasized the constitutional rights of American citizens of Japanese ancestry.

7. All cases involving actual or possible disloyalty (except cases of Japanese interned aliens) have been disposed of by sending persons concerned to Tule Lake. The active trouble makers in that center are being held in a specified area separate from the remaining 18,000, who are showing an orderly and cooperative spirit.

8. The Farm Security Administration has recently announced that it will make farm loans to Nisei evacuees who relocate on the same basis as to any other citizen. Their lack of funds is one of the chief obstacles to resettling some 60,000 evacuees still in the Relocation Centers.

9. No Court decision has yet been made to determine the constitutionality or unconstitutionality of ordinances adopted by some West Coast Boards of Supervisors, shortly after Pearl Harbor, in an attempt to prevent any eventual return of farmers or Japanese ancestry to the evacuated area.

10. Attorney General Biddle, in reply to inquiries by the House Committee on Immigration as to his opinion of proposed legislation wrote February 8, 1944;

"On the basis of exhaustive investigations conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, I have found that internal security required the internment of fewer than 2,000 Japanese aliens in the continental United States, and I am informed that only about 700 Japanese aliens have been interned by the commanding general in the Territory of Hawaii....A large proportion of the Japanese aliens in this country are law-abiding and loyal to the United States. They came here many years ago, in accordance with our laws and have raised families composed of citizens of the United States. Compulsory deportation of all Japanese nationals at the termination of hostilities appears to me to be objectionable....Moreover, exile, which is what the deportation of such (citizens of Japanese ancestry) would constitute, is entirely foreign to our constitutional history. I do not know of any way in which the exile of citizens of the United States can be reconciled with the principles for which we are fighting this war."

11. Secretary Stimson's statement of January 1943, that "It is the inherent right of every faithful citizen, regardless of ancestry, to bear arms in the nation's battle", was amplified by the California State Commander of the American Legion, on February 15, 1944 in these words:

"Numerous persons of Japanese ancestry are now serving with the armed forces of our country on the battle fronts, and according to all reports, are serving valiantly and well. . . . Every person good enough to fight for us is entitled to our respect and equal protection under our constitution."

12. Admiral Nimitz declared last June at the University of California that all danger of an invasion in force of the West Coast had passed although he and General Emmons have recently stated that nuisance raids were still to be expected. The "military necessity" arising from danger of invasion was the reason given by the Army for the policy of exclusion of all persons of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast.

The Army's judgment in 1942 that military necessity required evacuation was generally accepted upon the West Coast. If it be a fact that such military necessity no longer exists, and if the War Department will state that fact now, such statement will go a long way to remove apprehensions aroused by the action taken by the Army in 1942, and will thus remove one of the chief obstacles to the restoration of the constitutional rights of the evacuees. An authoritative and definite statement on the subject by the Department of War will enable the large number of Californians who are interested in these constitutional rights to assert and defend them without danger of being met with the argument, whether made in good or bad faith, that they are not supporting the department of the government which is best informed on questions of national security and which originally ordered evacuation on that ground.

* * * * *

Pacific Coast Committee on American Principles and Fair Play

2234 Telegraph Ave.
Berkeley 4, Calif.

465 California Street
San Francisco, Calif.

HOC

Pacific Coast Committee on American Principles and Fair Play

Remarks and informal discussion by Mr. Dillon S. Myer, National Director of War Relocation Authority, before members of the Executive Committee and the Advisory Board of the Committee.

October 2, 1944, 12:00 Noon. California Club.

Present: Mr. Homer D. Crotty, Mr. Ben R. Meyer, Mrs. Chauncey D. Clarke, Mr. Henry Duque, Mr. Joe Crail Jr., Mr. Harold A. Black, Mr. Samuel M. Haskins, Mr. Irving M. Walker, Mr. George C. Hjelte, Dr. Donald H. Tippet, Mrs. Maynard Force Thayer, Dr. E. C. Farnham, Mrs. Ruth W. Kingman, Mr. Robert Cozzens, Mrs. Robert Cozzens, Mr. Dillon S. Myer, Mrs. Dillon S. Myer, and Mrs. Kaplan, secry.

Mr. Myer commented that he does not believe that there will be great difficulties put in the way of the Japanese and Japanese-Americans when they are allowed to return to the Coast. He believes that the only ones who will create trouble will be the "demented" and fanatics. He remarked that the way will be definitely eased if the War Department gives its complete support.

When questioned as to whether or not the increased war activities in the Pacific would effect attitude here, Mr. Myer said he did not think the situation would get worse, but rather better as we seem definitely to have the Imperial Japanese on the run.

A question as to the act of treason committed by the three Shitara sisters was asked. Mr. Myer pointed out that even the press regarded it as a case of foolish girls falling in love. The fault was definitely with them as individuals and did not reflect on the integrity of other Japanese-Americans.

He said that the splendid termination of the Takei case in Pasadena showed that when official bodies are completely supported in their decisions by responsible and respected persons in the community they will render a fair decision, and in this case the School Board knew that it was supported by the leading Pasadena citizens.

Mr. Myer told of the amazing feats of the Japanese-American combat teams. He cited the role of the Japanese speaking Nisei soldiers had played in the Pacific and in tapping enemy lines and in one instance being able to countermand an order already given by a Japanese officer, this resulting to the splendid advantage of the American unit.

Mr. Crotty asked how the Committee on American Principles and Fair Play can help, in as much as the problems are not such as they were in 1942 and no sabotage since Pearl Harbor.

Mr. Myer said that he was very glad to have the cooperation of this group which is concerned with the constitutional rights of loyal Americans and the preservation of law and order. He is happy to have this group working and preparing to face the ultimate problems that will be presented if and when the evacuated Japanese are allowed to return to the coast. He said that some loyal Japanese-Americans are coming back; so we must be ready to help maintain law and order and see that constitutional rights are upheld.

In order to help carry out these ideals Mr. Myer said that two factors were important.

1. Be sure that all facts that are told are straight. Do not start rumors. Challenge all rumors that are heard and get the truth of the matter. He said that some people maliciously start rumors and that there are persons who are organized and in the business of creating vicious rumors about Japanese-Americans.

2. There is a great need for responsible citizens who are familiar with the problems of the loyal Americans of Japanese ancestry to let the public and certain citizens in strategic positions know how they feel in this matter and that they stand ready to support the Constitutional rights of all loyal Americans. A good example of how effective this is was demonstrated in the Takei case in Pasadena.

Mr. Myer said that many persons in public office often feel insecure in matters that have become so contraversial; so because of this, it is necessary to give support to public officials in order to help them make this stand firm.

Responsible citizens should quietly express their sentiments and endeavor to get county and city officials to be committed to maintain law and order in protection of returning loyal Japanese and Japanese-Americans.

Responsible citizens should let the men in the State and Federal Government who represent them also know their attitudes on these matters. Newspaper publishers and news commentators should also be advised as to the principles for which we stand.

Mr. Myer asked the group to help kill off the old cliches such as "A Jap is always a Jap," and "You can never trust a Jap." He said to tell about the 10-~~2~~,000 Japanese Americans in our Armed Forces and that you can't argue against Purple Hearts and Gold Star Mothers.

Mr. Myer said that the WRA only wants support when they are right. He told of a story that took place at Manzanar when Mr. Merritt, the director at Manzanar, was consulting with some of the older Isei as to the future program at this center; how

it could best help all Americans. The old gentleman said, "Continue to carry out the program that is good for the United States--that is best for us." Mr. Myer said that loyalty can not grow in restriction.

Mr. Myer summarized by giving a three point program.

1. Help disseminate the correct facts and get them to the people who can use them.
2. Tell your representatives how you stand, and then back them up when they come along with you.
3. Keep informed, so that accurate facts can always be presented.

Mr. Myer said that WRA is not trying to force all the Japanese back to the coast, but he believes that the sooner they are allowed to come back the better. This would help distribute them throughout the country.

QUESTIONS

Crotty: What is the present rate of redistribution?

Myer: About 425-450 a week, or 1600 to 1700 a month.

Walker: Is it mostly Nisei that are moving out?

Myer: At first 85% of those relocated were Nisei, but now more of the Isei are moving out. In many cases this is where the young people have moved first and settled in a satisfactory manner, then the older ones follow. There are about 800 on the Coast at the present time. Some of mixed marriages have been here since the evacuation order.

Walker: How many are not relocated, but are eligible to return?

Myer: There are 55 to 57000 in this category. There are 20000 not eligible to return. It is guessed that 60% may come back here, 40% go elsewhere. 32000 have been relocated on indefinite leave. As the manpower situation makes it possible for them to get work, they are more inclined to leave the Centers and relocate. Dispersion is a good thing so they won't pile up as they did before.

Hjelte: What does one do to get the Japanese back.

Mrs. Kingman: If there is an attractive offer for a job and housing, the chances are they will be able to get a military permit to come back.

Myer: All of the Japanese and Japanese-Americans except those at Tule Lake and those on a "Stop List" may relocate anywhere except on the Pacific Coast.

Ordinance depots in the Middle West are looking for munition handlers. Representatives from these depots are at the centers recruiting Japanese to do this ordinance depot work.

There are 1000 Japanese aliens in internment camps now. There were many placed in detention camps directly after Pearl Harbor who were later parolled. Every Japanese at Terminal Island was put in these camps at first. The largest number in internment camps was 2000 and 2100, there are now about 1000.

Crail: Are you trying to crystallize public opinion such as it was done in Pasadena?

Myer: No. The Pacific Coast problem is completely in military hands and WRA is not bringing pressure to bear. There is a family of 5 coming into Fresno and there are persons in the community who are trying to line up public opinion.

Mrs. Thayer: The role of the Fair Play Committee is to bring in people to help. The opposition in Pasadena did a lot of good in developing public opinion.

Crail: We should develop opposition to help crystallize public opinion in the right directions.

Myer: The whole matter of the return of the Japanese to the Pacific Coast is in the hands of the military.

Mrs. Kingman: We are trying to get the military to come out with a statement.

Mr. Crotty announced that Carey McWilliams new book "Prejudice" published by Little, Brown and company and dealing with the Japanese-American problems will be off the press October 16.

Meeting adjourned 2 p.m.

*News Release
for Dec. 28, 1944*

JOINT STATEMENT ON RETURN OF EVACUEES

The following is the statement jointly authorized and issued by:

Church Federation of Los Angeles
Committee on American Principles and Fair Play
(Pacific Coast, Los Angeles, and Pasadena Chapters)
Free World Association of Hollywood
Friends of the American Way
Inter-racial Council of Catholic Church
Negro Inter-denominational Pastor's Alliance of Pasadena
Pastor's Union of Pasadena
Southern California Council of Protestant Churches

We commend Governor Warren for urging all public officials to assist in bringing about cheerful and adequate compliance with the Army's revocation of its mass evacuation order directed against American citizens of Japanese ancestry and resident Japanese aliens.

We likewise commend and will support the position of all other public officials seeking to maintain the principles of democracy in this state.

This episode is a test of the people of this State. We are confident that by their American attitude and conduct they will demonstrate to all nations that democracy has validity and vitality, even in time of war, and will thereby contribute in a most important way to the ultimate success of our armed forces.

Names of those authorizing or reporting approval:

Church Federation of Los Angeles -- Clarence S. Gillett

Committee on American Principles and Fair Play --

Mr. Arthur C. McGiffert, Jr.; Chairman Exec. Committee

Mr. Homer D. Crotty; Chairman Los Angeles Chapter

Mrs. Maynard Force Thayer; Chairman Pasadena Chapter

Free World Association of Hollywood -- Miss Elsie Jensen

Friends of the American Way -- William C. Carr, Chairman

Inter-racial Council of Catholic Church -- Daniel G. Marshall, Chairman

Negro Inter-denominational Pastor's Alliance of Pasadena -- Mrs. Thayer

Pastor's Union of Pasadena -- Rev. Stephen C. Clark

Southern California Council of Protestant Churches -- Dr. O. Herschel Folger