

Of the 197 Washington cities answering our letter of inquiry, not one passed a resolution calling for evacuation.

The Association of Washington Cities apparently did not discuss

The Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Association, Mr. John E. Carroll, testified before the Tolan Committee Hearings (Page 11553) on March 2. He read a resolution supporting the activities of the F.B.I. in dealing with enemy aliens. This would seem to support the view that the Association did not at that time come out for evacuation.

424 Wheeler Hall
24 July 1949

Mr. Chester F. Biesen, Exec.Secy.
Association of Washington Cities
University of Washington, Seattle

Dear Mr. Biesen:

I wrote to you several weeks but not receiving a reply, I am writing again in the presumption that my letter went astray.

A colleague and I are making a study of the factors leading up to the evacuation of the Japanese from the West Coast after the attack on Pearl Harbor. We find that a considerable number of private as well as public organizations, including city councils, passed resolutions or went on record favoring the evacuation of enemy aliens.

Our correspondence with about 197 Washington cities shows that none of them passed such resolutions in the months just after Pearl Harbor. Do you happen to know of any of them did?

Did your organization take any part in discussing such a matter? Did you circulate to your member cities any memoranda calling their attention to the problem of enemy aliens?

I find, for instance, that in California, the League of California Cities was concerned with the problem and called for the evacuation of all enemy aliens and the care of their property.

Any information you can give me of the actions of your Association in regard to evacuation of enemy aliens would be very valuable to us. If reports or memoranda were drawn up, we would very much like to secure copies of them.

Thank you for your trouble.

Sincerely

Edward N. Barnhart
Assistant professor

ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON CITIES

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June 27, 1949

Professor Edward N. Barnhart
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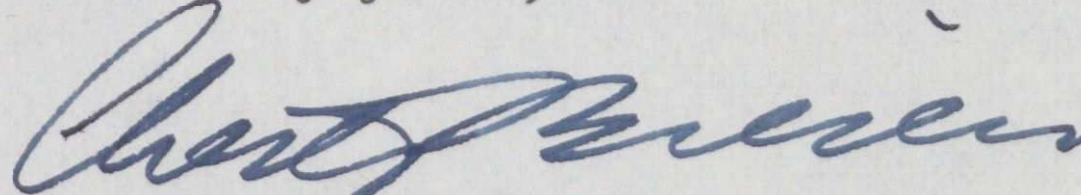
Dear Professor Barnhart:

In reply to your favor of June 24th received this morning, a check of the files finds no previous letter from you. It is apparent, therefore, that the letter went astray, as suggested.

Answering your question, I checked our files for resolutions relating to the evacuation of enemy aliens, and found but one. This was opposing the return of the Japanese since their evacuation, and was adopted in the State Convention of Washington cities held in Wenatchee on May 12, 1943. A copy is enclosed.

On checking the Convention programs for topics of discussion, while a great deal is found concerning civilian defense, etc., there seemed to be no special topic on the evacuation of enemy aliens. It is very possible, however, that the subject was discussed in various sectional meetings or round-tables, where incomplete records are maintained. I personally don't recall any extended consideration given the subject, and it appears most likely that the resolution enclosed is about the only official action taken. In general, the subject was no doubt considered more of a Federal than municipal problem.

Sincerely yours,



CHESTER BIESEN
Executive Secretary

CB:hrm
Enclosure.

COPY OF RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT ANNUAL STATE-WIDE CONVENTION OF THE

ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON CITIES

Held in Wenatchee, May 12, 1943

RESOLUTION OPPOSING RETURN OF JAPANESE TO PACIFIC COAST

WHEREAS, efforts are being made to defeat the order of General DeWitt in excluding Japs from Washington and other Pacific Coast areas and to permit the return of the Japs to such areas; and

WHEREAS, the return of the Japs to such areas would in case of invasion by the enemy add greatly to the danger of the coastal areas and might result in the Japs gaining a foothold in the United States which would otherwise be impossible;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Association of Washington Cities in annual session at Wenatchee in May 1943 that the order of General DeWitt be sustained and continued in force, and that for the duration of the war no Japs be allowed to return to any of the areas from which they were excluded by the order of General DeWitt;

RESOLVED FURTHER: That a copy of this resolution be sent to the President of the United States and to each member of Congress from the State of Washington.

424 Wheeler Hall
29 June 1949

Mr. Chester Biesen, Exec.Secy.
Association of Washington Cities
University of Washington, Seattle

Dear Mr. Biesen:

Thank you very much for your informative letter of June 27. I appreciate the trouble you have taken for us.

You may interested to learn that a book on the evacuation has just been published by the University of Chicago Press entitled "Americans Betrayed" by one Morton Grodzins. The theme of this work is that the evacuation was the product of public sentiment whipped up by "pressure groups" for selfish economic motives, aided by unscrupulous politicians.

A colleague and myself relying on much the same data as used by Grodzins have come to a diametrically opposite conclusion: we feel that the evacuation was brought about by public sentiment but that this was a fear of sabotage and Japanese attack and affected all sections of the population; it was not one or another group's work.

We are interested, therefore, to show clearly how widespread the feeling for "doing something about the enemy aliens" was and how the resolutions and actions taken by various groups was predicated on fears of attack, and the like. We are consequently looking for evidence of the nature of the concern of the various bodies, public and private, which came for out for the removal of the Japanese, enemy aliens, or whatever group appeared to be the danger spot. That is why I was interested in ascertaining from you whether the subject had been discussed and what the nature of the discussion was.

In this connection I note that the testimony of Carroll, former chairman of the Association in the Tolan Committee Hearings (Page 11553) mentions a meeting which was held in mid-February, 1942, at which a resolution was passed approving the activities of the F.B.I. Could you look through the minutes of this and somewhat earlier meetings to see if there was discussion of evacuation and what was said about it? It seems to me from Carroll's statement that this might have been brought up.

Thank you very much for your assistance. If you happen to read Grodzins' work and find any errors of misinterpretations--he deals with the whole coast--I would like to know of them. We hope to publish our book this coming winter.

Sincerely

Edward N. Barnhart

Asst. professor

424 Wheeler Hall
29 June 1949

Mr. Chester Biesen, Exec.Secy.
Association of Washington Cities
University of Washington, Seattle

Dear Mr. Biesen:

Thank you for your letter of June 27 and for its information. I appreciate the trouble you have taken in answering my request for information. Thank you for the copy of the May 12, 1943 resolution.

I note from your letter that at the Convention of May 12, 1943 there was no discussion of evacuation of Japanese or other enemy aliens.

I am not quite clear from your letter, however, with regard to activities of your Association in periods shortly after Pearl Harbor when evacuation was a livelier issue. I take it that there were no resolutions on the subject of evacuation then.

Tolan - 11553

Carrell

Serv Assoc. of Wash. Cities

1. Resolution Feb 19 - approving FBI handling of
aliens.

2. 9 of 10 people wanted Jap. removed from
coast

3. Exec. should reply to alien germ & Japs.