

A16.07

SURVEY OF PUBLIC OPINION IN WESTERN STATES
ON JAPANESE EVACUATION

OREGON

Source: Portland Oregonian

Period: February 28 to April 21, 1942

CONTENTS

	Page
A. SUMMARY	1a
B. SURVEY ANALYSIS	2
I. Pattern of Press Opinion	2
II. Attitude of Official Political Groups	5
III. Attitude of Private Organizations ...	9
IV. Private Individuals	11
C. LISTING OF PRESS CLIPPINGS	13

Prepared by Norris James Information Service Staff,
War Relocation Authority

May 1, 1942

SURVEY OF PUBLIC OPINION IN WESTERN STATES
ON JAPANESE EVACUATION

OREGON

Portland Oregonian: February 28 to April 21

A. SUMMARY

Portland Oregonian's editorials show strong endorsement of evacuation program. News treatment of all local, state and regional developments is intensive. Sole inconsistency occurs on April 14 when newspaper flashes front page picture and accompanying article which features military police angle.

Federal government, represented by Tom C. Clark, and C. S. Birdwell, takes over prosecution of Minoru Yasui in "curfew law" test case.

Federal Social Security Administration regional director, Richard Neustadt rules that alien Japanese, released from employment owing to military orders affecting their businesses or occupations, are entitled to unemployment compensation.

At State level, Governor Sprague seems to have been well posted on developments in Oregon. When voluntary evacuees move into Vale, in eastern part of State, he wires State Senator J. L. Jones, that neither State nor Federal government can prevent Japanese-Americans from buying or leasing land.

Lineup of private organizations shows difference of opinion. AF of L boiler makers and shipbuilders draw color line, refuse to place Japanese on job placement list, although permitting qualified workmen of other races. Portland churches declare Federal government should pay total cost of moving and settling Japanese and should assume total responsibility for their movement.

Individual opinion, as expressed by sample letters in Oregonian, indicates strong emotional tides of prejudice.

B. Survey Analysis

I. Pattern of Press Opinion

The Portland Oregonian's editorial policies for the seven week period, March 1 to April 21, seem to follow two paths: (a) broad, sympathetic and cooperative editorials endorsing practically every phase of the U. S. Army's evacuation program; (b) intensive news coverage of all local, state and regional developments.

In only one instance is there an inconsistency in this newspaper's diplomatic treatment of Oregon and West Coast Japanese, aliens and native-born.

On April 14, there is a three-column picture on the front page showing an armed military guard standing before the International Livestock Pavilion, the accompanying headline reads "Military Police Take Over Guard Duty at Portland Evacuation Center", and the entire story, which is by-lined by Reporter "Stub" Nelson, is slanted from the Army angle.

The difficult "Yasui" test case makes Page One on March 31, but is handled temperately. This incident, involving an Oregon-born Japanese who deliberately violated the so-called "curfew law", will be dealt with at length in Section II.

That the Oregonian quickly saw and appreciated the regional consequences of the evacuation problem is shown in the paper's editorial on March 4, "Salute to Colorado". Governor Ralph Carr is congratulated for his endorsement of "controlled residence" of evacuated Japanese in his State. Of other Western states, the Oregonian comments:

"In some instances the promptness and vigor of their refusals suggests apprehension lest they catch measles. Their grandmothers would have said to them sensibly: 'It won't rub off.' And their grandmothers would have been right."

When rumors and misstatements over purported wages for evacuees swept the West Coast on March 30-31, the Oregonian sought to immediately clarify public opinion in an April 1 editorial which shows a good measure of staff research. Titled "Pay for Evacuees", the newspaper commented that "from radio news statements and from wide circulation of false rumors, the impression has been given that alien and American born Japanese "are to be maintained in idleness" at \$50 a month plus housing, food and clothing.

"...The fact is that it was tentatively proposed to pay evacuees \$50 a month, less \$15 for subsistence, as unskilled labor. This formula has now been changed to \$21 a month, plus housing and subsistence for those employed on projects paid for out of public funds.

"...It ought to be clear to Americans, without having been stated, that treatment of prisoners of war (and enemy aliens) is a reciprocal proposition."

The Oregonian editorial said that the newspaper had received a number of letters on this subject but included only

one in its forum column. This communication, signed by Walter J. Perry, Lakeview, said "...I won't buy any more bonds just to give every Jap \$50 a month while our soldiers are only getting \$21."

On March 9, in comment titled "Rising and Objecting", the Oregonian takes issue with the American Civil Liberties Union:

"...Just now they are in the news as a result of arguments, submitted to Mr. Roosevelt in person, urging modification of the treatment to aliens and ex-aliens on the Pacific Coast. They point out for one thing that the Congressional committee known as the 'Tolman Committee' and which recently has been holding hearings on the Coast, has recommended boards of review to pass upon the individual cases in this area, particularly where German and Italian aliens are concerned. Why, asks the Civil Liberties Union, shouldn't Japanese be included in such a plan--especially Japanese-Americans?"

"It is unnecessary to answer that question here on the Coast where the problem centers. All of us know that the incidence of errors in such hearings would be very great indeed--would be sufficiently great to endanger the defense of the Coast in case of attack. That has been the Army's decision in issuing the evacuation orders, and by the haste with which the Union rises to its feet and objects, it weakens whatever reputation it has maintained for judiciousness..."

The "Front Door Ballot Box", an Oregonian feature which from time to time offers polls of opinion on questions pertinent to Portlanders and Oregonians, twice during this seven-week period reveals community views on questions akin to the evacuation problem.

On March 5, the Ballot Box reveals that Portlanders regard Germany and Japan almost equally as American enemies. The poll of votes disclosed 43% believed Germany is the more formidable foe, 36% Japan, 20% regarded both nations equally formidable.

Again, on March 19, Portlanders were polled on the question: Should Portland stores, which still have on hand a supply of Japanese-made goods, be permitted to sell them?

The expressions of opinion, with percentages follow:

	<u>All</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
Should sell like any other goods	45%	54%	34%
Destroy goods	11	11	11
Should sell goods, but invest proceeds in War Bonds	36	31	42

II. Attitude of Official Political Groups

1. Federal

There were three important news stories which developed in Oregon during the period March 1 to April 21 as a direct result of Federal action: (a) the variety of testimony given before the Tolson committee which met in Portland late in February; (b) the Minoru Yasui "curfew violation" test case; (c) the decision given on March 9 by Richard Neustadt, regional director for the Federal Social Security Administration, that alien Japanese, released from employment owing to military orders affecting their particular businesses or occupations, could continue to draw unemployment compensation unless taken into custody.

Appearing at the Tolan hearings were three Japanese: Hita Okada, national secretary-treasurer of the Japanese-American Citizens' League; Dr. Newton Ugesugi, of the Portland chapter of JACL; and Mamoru Wakasugi, Banks, Oregon, Farmer. Speaking for their groups they said the Japanese of Oregon were ready to be evacuated. Two other important witnesses were:

Mayor Earl Riley, of Portland, who pointed out that no distinction should be made between US-born and alien Japanese, that for "mutual protection, all should be removed."

Joseph K. Carson, ex-mayor, and commander of the Oregon American Legion, who declared the state's 125 Legion posts believed "it is prudent and merciful" to "intern" aliens, particularly Japanese.

Hood River Valley business men and orchardists, headed by J. E. Klahre, recommended that the valley's 500-600 Japanese--occupying 98 tracts. 15% of the orchard land--be evacuated in plenty of time so that proper management "can take over the properties and run them efficiently, which will not imperil crops."

Speaking for the B. E. Maling Co., food processors Barclay Henderson told the committee that at least 50% of the 14,000 tons of food processed at the company's Hillsboro plant were grown by Japanese, particularly in the Gresham and Troutdale areas.

The "curfew violation case" occurred on March 30 when Minoru Yasui, 26, Hood River was cited by U. S. Attorney C. C. Donough for deliberately violating the U. S. Army's curfew laws for Japanese with a view to testing their validity in court. Donough, in a Page One article in the Oregonian of March 31, said Yasui held a lieutenant's reserve commission in the Army.

The U. S. Attorney further revealed that Yasui, a graduate of the University of Oregon, is the son of Masuo Yasui, a Japanese alien of Hood River, now in the Fort Missoula, Montana, detention camp.

Prior to Pearl Harbor, according to Donough, Minoru Yasui was registered with the State Department in Washington, D. C. as a press relations man for the Japanese Consulate General in Chicago. He was said to have resigned on December 7 and returned to Hood River.

Through his attorney, Earl F. Barnard, Yasui filed a demurrer, and in the hearing before Federal Judge Alger Fee on April 16, Barnard said that the facts stated in information filed by Donough did not constitute a crime. Barnard explained to the court that his argument would be based on the fact that Yasui is an American citizen.

Judge Fee, however, over-ruled the demurrer on the grounds that the information filed against Yasui merely referred to him as a person of Japanese ancestry. Because of the court

ruling, Barnard said he would submit testimony on Yasui's citizenship later in the case and bring up his contention at that time. Donough advised the court that the government was not contesting the contention of Yasui that he was American-born.

Tom C. Clark, chief of WCCA, and C. S. Burdell, special assistant to the Attorney General, were admitted to Federal practice by Judge Fee for the purpose of assisting Donough in prosecuting the case.

There were at least two other arrests in Portland for curfew violation. On April 9, Shiinoru Nagae and Henry Nagae, both Japanese-Americans, were arrested and subsequently released on \$1000 bail.

The ruling that alien Japanese removed from employment at request of military authorities, could draw unemployment compensation, was made on March 9. It immediately affected some 12 Japanese fishermen who had been employed by a Columbia River packing firm at Astoria.

2. State authorities

Governor Sprague seems to have been continuously posted on developments throughout the state as Oregon's Japanese population was preparing to move toward reception centers.

During the voluntary evacuation period when a number of Japanese-Americans were attempting to re-locate in State areas outside the military zone, Governor Sprague wired State Senator

J. N. Jones of Vale that "Japanese-Americans cannot be prevented from buying or leasing land by either the State or the Federal government.

3. Local authorities

Sources of friction developed in several areas of the State during the period of voluntary evacuation, particularly in Vale, previously mentioned, and at Klamath Falls. In this latter city on March 31, six Japanese, including a woman and a baby, were taken into "protective custody" by Sheriff Lloyd Low, pending receipt of a travel permit which would permit the evacuees to return to their original place of residence, Tacoma.

Sheriff Low apparently took the Japanese into custody while evacuation officers in Portland, Tacoma, Salem and San Francisco delayed a ruling on the case.

III. Attitude of Private Organizations

Early endorsement for removal of enemy aliens (including Japanese) from the West Coast came on March 9 from the Rainier Commercial Club and the Rainier Women's Club. That there was already some opposition, particularly in vegetable and truck gardening areas, was shown by a resolution passed February 28 by the Association of Valley Cities of southern Washington and northern Oregon. This asserted that mass evacuation of Japanese aliens "would create havoc in the produce markets."

Touching on one side of the problem was the action of the Portland American Federation of Labor boilermakers' and iron shipbuilders' union which on March 13 voted to permit job placement for qualified workmen, regardless of race, except "we don't want Japanese."

Another private organization to step into the picture was the Portland Council of Churches, which, through its executive secretary, Dr. George Nace, on March 19, declared the Federal government should pay the total cost of moving and settling alien Japanese (and other enemy aliens) and should assume total responsibility for their movement.

Local organizations quickly assumed leadership in Vale, Oregon, after a number of Japanese entered that area on travel permits. The Chamber of Commerce of Vale on March 20 opposed by resolution the further location of Japanese in Malheur County unless under Army supervision. On April 4, a community-wide committee of ten men, said to represent "300 business men and farmers" was appointed to engage in publicity against "unrestricted" Japanese migration to the country.

IV. Private Individuals

Letters appearing in the Oregonian reveal strong emotional tides dividing public opinion.

A minor controversy is started by I. Owen Thompson of Camp Sherman, Oregon, on March 11, when he writes:

"I would sooner starve than eat vegetables raised by the Japs. Our forefathers got along very well without the Japs...I have nephews over there fighting for our country...Believe me, they don't eat Japanese vegetables."

Robert Iwata, Mulnomah Hospital:

"Mr. Thompson doesn't seem to realize that other people who do not have vegetable gardens of their own...need vegetables too...I am a Japanese-American citizen and have a cousin in the Army who is just as anxious to see nazified Japan defeated as any good American is. In a recent letter to me he wrote: 'I'll help lick _____ Japs as soon as possible.'"

The same day, March 13, Salvador C. Santos, Gresham, contributed his personal views:

"I have been working for so many different Japanese farmers myself since 1930 until war broke out. I just planted the stuff and did all the work...why don't some associations lease or buy these Japanese farms and just put the Filipinos and Chinese in charge of planting and harvesting the crops?"

On March 18, Mrs. H. O'Neel, Millsboro, has this to say in her communication to the Oregonian:

"I feel so ashamed of the American people and their ideas sometimes. I hear a few--and read many--slur and despicable remarks made about the Japanese. All Japanese, in general. They who are citizens must feel pretty badly to find that people in the supposedly Christian nations can turn upon them in the twinkling of an eye, with such hate and feeling of repulsion that they would rather 'die or starve' than accept from them or their labors. They might have to do both."

An American woman of Finnish descent, Selma R. Richardson, Rainier, offers this letter contribution on March 23:

"I can sympathize with the loyal Japanese-Americans. They have grown up with the ideals and customs of the land of their birth and probably feel toward Japan as a person would toward a criminal relative... After all, it is what we know of our own experience that we understand the best.

"There is the circumstances of the Pilgrims. They left Holland because their children were growing up Dutch instead of English.

"So these second generation Japanese-Americans should be given a chance to prove their loyalty, or at least given the benefit of the doubt."

On April 19, a letter from K. A. Yoshinari, Route 2, Box 163, Hood River, raises the "inferior citizenship" issue. Yoshinari starts his communication with appreciation for an Oregonian editorial taking issue with Columnist Henry McLemore who stated that there are few men in the U. S. Army who can speak Japanese. Writes Yoshinari:

"As a matter of fact there are nearly 5000 American born Japanese in the service here on the mainland alone, and the number is increasing daily. Out of the 5000 there are definitely more than 15 who can speak Japanese fluently.

"The Americans of Japanese lineage are proud to perform the supreme duty as citizens by enlisting their whole services in the armed forces to complete the downfall of the axis powers. Many have voluntarily enlisted before and since the attack on Pearl Harbor.

"In spite of our sincere devotion of loyalty to our nation--why are we classified in the same category as enemy aliens and treated as such? This I cannot understand. If we are good enough to fight for Uncle Sam, why isn't Uncle Sam good enough to fight for our rights as citizens for those of us who are still civilians?"

The following Editorial Note is appended to Yoshinari's letter by the Oregonian editors:

"A succinct explanation of the removal of Japanese-Americans from defense areas is given in the preliminary report of the congressional committee appointed to investigate defense migration:

"The prime consideration governing the evacuation procedure is that most of the evacuees are loyal to this country; that they are being moved because of government inability to separate those who are loyal from those who are not; that they are being moved in the interests of national security; and that they would not be moved if the government were in a position to fulfill its obligation of discriminating between the innocent and guilty."

C. LISTING OF PRESS CLIPPINGS

- Feb. 28 Pg. 1 Jap aliens of Portland ready to go; give testimony before Tolson committee. Suggestion made that 304 Jap farms in Oregon be placed in "protective custody." Witnesses: Hita Okada, Dr. Newton Ugesuki, Mamoru Wakasugi.
- Pg. 10 Twin Falls (AP) South Central Idaho farmers at mass meeting voted 305 to 205 for using friendly aliens (Mexicans) as farm labor, and 41 for 371 against, using enemy aliens.
- Pg. 11 Federal grand jury urges removal of persons of questionable loyalty from strategic areas of Coast. Places of internment unspecified.
- Pg. 13 Buckley, Wash. (AP) Association of Valley Cities opposes mass evacuation of enemy aliens because "it would create havoc in produce market."
- Mar. 3 Pg. 6 SF (AP) General DeWitt forms civilian staff (WCCA) to handle Japanese evacuation.
- Mar. 4 Pg. 1 SF (AP) West Oregon put in tri-State alien zone; even U.S. born Japanese must be evacuated.

LISTING OF PRESS CLIPPINGS (Cont'd)

- Pg. 10 EDITORIAL "Salute to Colorado" congratulates Governor Ralph Carr on his attitude.
- Mar. 5 Pg. 1 Front door Ballot Box reveals Germany and Japan almost equally regarded by Portlanders as American enemies. Poll: 43% Germans, 36% Japanese; 20% both nationals equally; 1% no opinion.
- Mar. 6 Pg. 9 LA (INS) Ten inland military districts planned for Jap evacuees says Tom C. Clark.
- Mar. 7 Pg. 3 SF (INS) Jap secret society files raided by FBI.
- Mar. 9 Pg. 3 Sec. III - Rainier Commercial Club and Rainier Women's Club endorse removal of enemy aliens from West Coast.
- Pg. 3 Sec. III - Astoria (AP) Alien Japanese released by local fishing firms are drawing unemployment compensation and can continue to do so unless taken into custody, says Richard Neustadt, regional director for Federal Social Security Administration.
- Mar. 11 Pg. 4 SF (INS) Jap exodus from West Coast to start in 10 days.
- Pg. 8 Letter from I. Owen Thompson, Camp Sherman, Oregon, "I would sooner starve than eat vegetables raised by Japs."
- Mar. 12 Pg. 4 Wash. D.C. (INS) 766 of 5856 aliens rounded up by FBI are ordered interned. Of this total number 3536 were Japs.
- Mar. 13 Pg. 1 Portland AFL boilermakers and iron shipbuilders union votes to permit placing qualified workmen, regardless of race, except "we don't want Japanese."
- Pg. 8 Letter from Robert Iwata, Multnomah Hospital replying to March 11 letter from Owen Thompson. "I am a Japanese-American citizen and have a cousin in the army who is just as anxious to see nazified Japan defeated as any good American is."

LISTING OF PRESS CLIPPINGS (Cont'd)

- Letter from Salvador C. Santos, Gresham.
"I've been working for Japanese farmers myself since 1930 ... I just planted the stuff and did all the work."
- Mar. 17 Pg. 1 SF (AP) Dewitt expands military zones.
- Pg. 5 One column picture showing "Charles Yoshi, Portland native, believed to be Japanese radio broadcaster from Tokio. Attended Glencoe school, Franklin high school (graduated 1927) and University of Oregon.
- Mar. 18 Pg. 1 Boulder City (INS) Boy Scouts wage battle with "Little Brown Men" in isolated Colorado River Canyon below Boulder Dam; Scoutmaster says gunmen definitely not Japanese.
- Pg. 8 Letter from Mrs. R. O'Neel, Hillsboro. "I hear a few--and read many slurry and despicable remarks about the Japanese. All Japanese in general."
- Mar. 19 Pg. 1 Japanese products made in Japan, now stocked in Portland should sell like any other product. Front Door Ballot Box shows.
- Pg. 4 LA (INS) Japs leaving California at rate of 150-300 a day.
- Pg. 8 Portland Council of Churches, through Dr. George Nace, says government should pay total cost of moving and settling enemy aliens and should assume total responsibility for movement.
- Mar. 20 Pg. 4 Sec. III by L. B. Bakewell, financial editor. People who deal with Japanese, about to be evacuated, should not procrastinate in "setting" their houses in order. Some 4400 Oregon Japanese will have financial problems cleared through the Federal Reserve Bank.
- Pg.14 Vale (special). Vale Chamber of Commerce opposes location of Japanese in Malheur County unless under Army supervision.

LISTING OF PRESS CLIPPINGS (Cont'd)

Salem (Special). State officials said any influx of Japs into Malheur County was voluntary. C. P. Bray, superintendent of police, said he would investigate seriousness of situation.

- Mar. 21 Pg. 5 SF (INS) Japs to be held at Santa Anita race track.
- Pg. 9 Bonneville Post No. 84, American Legion, passes resolution favoring internment of all enemy aliens in the United States for the duration.
- Mar. 23 Pg. 1 SF (AP) Evacuation of 300 Japs from Rainbridge Island, opposite Bremerton, Wash., ordered by DeWitt.
- Pg.6 Letter from Selma R. Richardson, Rainier. (apparently of Finnish descent) "...these second generation of Japanese-Americans should be given a chance to prove their loyalty, or at least given the benefit of the doubt."
- Mar. 24 Pg.1 LA (AP) California. Japanese begin trek to Manzanar.
- Pg.14 Salem (AP) Governor Sprague wires State Sen. J. N. Jones of Vale, that Japanese-Americans cannot be prevented from buying or leasing land by either the State or Federal government.
- Mar. 25 Pg. 1 Portland. Japanese start moving.
- Pg. 6 SF (INS) Curfew sounds for Japs in West's military zones.
- Pg.13 Boise (AP) Idaho, studies alien camps; Governor Clark sees possibilities in Black Canyon site.
- Mar. 26 Pg. 4 Letter from Governor Ralph Carr Colorado, thanking Oregonian for its editorial "Salute to Colorado."
- Mar. 28 Pg. 6 Curfew for Jap-Americans to sound at 8 p.m.

LISTING OF PRESS CLIPPINGS (Cont'd)

- Mar. 30 Pg. 1 Army assumes full control over Japanese; voluntary evacuation periods ends; Pacific Livestock Pavilion to serve as reception center.
- Mar. 31 Pg. 1 Minori Yasui, 26, Hood River, accused of deliberately violating curfew regulations with a view to testing their validity in court. Yasui, Oregon born, charged with being a paid agent of the Japanese Government.
- Pg. 6 LA (INS) M.S. Eisenhower says that Japanese evacuees will receive \$21 net cash wage if employed on federal projects.
- Pg. 10 Curfew for Japanese upsets schedules of wholesale markets.
- Apr. 1 Pg. 1 Klamath Falls (AP) Sheriff Lloyd Low of Klamath Falls takes 3 Jap men, a woman, and a baby into protective custody.
- Pg. 4 EDITORIAL: Pay for Evacuees. Corrects misinformation that Japs were to be paid \$50 a month.
- Pg. 4 Letter from Walter J. Perry, Lakeview. "I won't buy any more bonds just to give every Jap \$50 a month while our soldiers are getting only \$21.
- Apr. 4 Pg. 6 Vale (AP) Community-wide committee of 10 selected from 300 "business men and farmers" to engage in publicity against "unrestricted" Japanese migration to Malheur county.
- Apr. 6 Pg. 8 3-column picture of David Lee buying \$10,000 Portland grocery store from James K. Kida through Attorney E. H. Nye.
- Apr. 7 Pg. 6 SF (AP) 660 Bay City Japs moved.
- Pg.14 Lieut. D. E. Downhard, representative of sector command, Northwest, says influx of incorrectly filled applications for exemptions from military regulations and curfew law.

LISTING OF PRESS CLIPPINGS (Cont'd)

- Pg.16 Shiginoru Nagae and Henry Nagae arrested as curfew law violators.
- Apr. 9 Pg.12 Editorial "Rising and Objecting". Takes issue with activities of American Civil Liberties Union and their assertion that treatment of aliens, particularly Japanese should be modified.
- Pg.16 Nagae brothers post \$1000 bonds as curfew violators.
- Apr. 6 Pg.14 Four evacuation sites fixed by Army; three in California, one near Toppenish, Wash., in Yakima Valley.
- Pg. 16 Hearing for two Jap curfew violators set for next Monday.
- Apr.11 Pg. 1 SF (AP) Japs to exchange 1000 Americans and other nationals including diplomats during May, says report from Japan.
- Pg. 5 Army names 20 evacuation centers for 120,000 Coast Japs.
- Apr.12 Pg. 5 Seattle (INS) 16 inland colleges offer to take Jap student evacuees from Coast after May 20. Colleges listed.
- Pg.10 Boise (AP) Governor Clark says War Department will locate 10,000 Japs in Idaho.
- Pg. 8 Sec. IV Loans ready for Mexicans and Filipinos eligible to operate evacuated Jap farms.
- Pg. 8 "Travel rules for Japs, and other aliens, being prepared by Army," says U.S. Attorney C. C. Donough, returning from San Francisco trip.
- Apr. 13 Pg. 1 First Japanese due at International Livestock Pavilion on Wednesday.
- Pg. 4 SF (AP) Mothers and babies among Japanese evacuees will be given adequate care says Army.

LISTING OF PRESS CLIPPINGS (Cont'd)

- Apr. 14 Pg. 1 3-column story with three column picture showing armed guard before Pavilion and barbed wire fence. Military police take over guard duty at Portland evacuation center.
- Apr.15 Pg. 6 Japs involved in curfew violation, S. Nagae, 23, and H. Nagae, 20, are held to answer.
- Apr.17 Demurrer entered by E. F. Barnard, attorney for Minor Yasuru, Jap curfew violator who is making test case, is overruled by Federal Judge Alger Fee.
- Apr.19 Pg. 8 Sec. III. FSA issues rules covering use and disposal of 80 farms owned by American-Japanese.
- Apr.20 Pg. 5 Anchorage (UP) Japanese must leave Alaska by April 20.
- Apr. 19 Pg.21 Letter from K. A. Yoshinari. "If we are good enough to fight for Uncle Sam, why isn't Uncle Sam good enough to fight for our rights as citizens for those of us who are still civilians?"
- Apr.19 Pg.17 "Any plan for making use of Japanese evacuated from West Coast for working beet fields in Boise Valley area have been abandoned for time being, says L. C. Stell, Oregon employment director.

SURVEY OF PUBLIC OPINION IN WESTERN STATES ON JAPANESE EVACUATION

OREGON

Source: Portland Oregonian

Period: February 28 to April 21, 1942

Prepared by Norris James, Information Service Staff, WRA
Briefed by Grodzins ~~xxxx~~ with additional data from clippings.

PATTERN OF PRESS OPINION

The Portland Oregonian's editorial policies for the seven week period seem to follow two paths: a) broad, sympathetic and cooperative editorials endorsing practically every phase of the U. S. Army's evacuation program; b) intensive news coverage of all local, state, and regional developments. Only one stance of inconsistency in this paper's diplomatic treatment of coast Japanese, and this on April 14, three column pic. on front page showing armed guard before Assembly center and entire story ~~xx~~ has army slant.

The difficult Yasui case makes page 1 on March 31 but is handled temperately.

Oregonian quickly saw and appreciated regional consequences of evacuation problem -- shown in paper's editorial of March 4, p. 10, ~~xxx~~ headed "Salute to Colorado." Governor Carr is congratulated for his enforcement of the controlled residence of Japanese evacuated from other states. Carr's statement was "so reasonably and loyally phrased that we join unhesitatingly with General DeWitt . . . in both thanking and congratulating Colorado and its chief executive." Editorial hits attitude of other states. "It is inconceivable that, rather than accept a condition of temporary inconvenience, more fanciful than otherwise, any suitable state would refuse lodging and lands to these unfortunate nationals of the enemy. What is the substance of refusal? It is the delay of an effective defense program. What have our inland neighbors, secure from such a threat, to complain of in their security?"

The second fact to remember is that other states won't get dangerous aliens. "It should be remembered that before evacuation occurs the alien elements shall have been scrupulously weeded for fifth columnists, firebrands, and saboteurs. . . . it can be said that in the main the evacuated elements will be innocent of intent to harm, and certainly, in any instance, of ability to execute such intent.~~xx~~

"Correlated to the second fact, that of relative innocuousness, is the reassurance that, having neither horns nor tails, the evacuated Japanese will be found by their more or less unwilling hosts to be in the main reasonable people, eager to do the right thing and eager to be friendly"

When rumors and misstatements over purported wages for evacuees swept the West Coast on March 30-31, the Oregonian sought immediately to clarify public opinion on April 1 with an editorial which showed a good measure of staff research. Titled "Pay for Evacuees", the newspaper commented that "from radio news statements and from wide circulation of false rumors, the impression has been given that alien and American born Japanese ~~xxx~~ "are to be maintained in

idleness" ~~xx~~ at \$50 a month ~~whilixbxbxbxbxbxbxbxbxbxbxbxbxbxbxb~~ plus housing food and clothing." . . . "The fact is that it was tentatively proposed to pay evacuees \$50 a month, less \$15 for subsistence, as unskilled labor. This formula has now been changed to \$21 a month, plus housing and subsistence for those employed on projects paid for out of public funds.

" . . . it ought to be clear to Americans, without having been stated, that treatment of prisoners of war (and enemy aliens) is a reciprocal proposition . . ." Discussion of Geneva convention re: treatment of prisoners, etc. but certainly some confusion in this editorial re: ~~xx~~ Japanese-American citizens!

This Oregonian editorial said that the newspaper had received a number of letters on this subject but included only one in its forum column. This communication, signed by Walter J. Perry, Lakeview, said ". . . I won't buy any more bonds to give every Jap \$50 a month while our soldiers are only getting \$21."

On March 9, in comment titled "Rising and Objecting", the Oregonian takes issue with the American Civil Liberties Union:

" . . . Just now they are in the news as a result of arguments, submitted to Mr. Roosevelt in person, urging modification of the treatment to aliens and ex-aliens on the Pacific Coast. They point out for one thing that the Congressional Committee known as the 'Tolan Committee' and which recently has been holding hearings on the Coast, has recommended boards of review to pass upon the individual cases in this area, particularly where German and Italian aliens are concerned. Why, asks the Civil Liberties Union, shouldn't Japanese be included in such a plan -- especially Japanese-Americans?

"It is unnecessary to answer that question here on the Coast where the problem centers. All of us know that the incidence of errors in such hearings would be very great indeed --- would be sufficiently great to endanger the defense of the coast in case of attack. That has been the army's decision in issuing the evacuation orders, and by the haste with which the Union rises to its feet and objects, it weakens whatever reputation it has maintained for judiciousness . . ."

The "Front Door Ballot Box", an ~~xx~~ Oregonian feature which from time to time offers polls of opinion on questions pertinent to residents of the district, twice during this seven week period reveals community views akin to the evacuation problem. On March ~~xx~~ 5, the Ballot Box reveals that Portlanders regard Germany and Japan almost equally as American enemies. The poll disclosed ~~xx~~ 43% believed Germany a more formidable foe, 36% Japan, 20% regarded both nations as equally formidable. On March 19 a poll showed that ~~xxxx~~ a large minority (45%) believed that stores should sell the Japanese goods they had on hand like any other merchandise; 11% thought the Jap goods should be destroyed; 36% that goods should be sold, but the proceeds should be invested in War Bonds.

ATTITUDE OF OFFICIAL POLITICAL GROUPS

FEDERAL

Stories important re: Tolson Committee hearings. Japanese representatives of the JACL and independent farmer all testified that the Japanese were ready to be evacuated. Major Earl Riley of Portland pointed out that no distinction should be made between US born Japanese and aliens and that for "mutual protection, all should be removed." Joseph K. Carson, ex-mayor, and commander of the Oregon AMERICAN LEGION declared that the state's 125 Legion posts believed "it is prudent and merciful" to "intern" aliens, particularly Japanese. Hood River farmers, represented by J. E. Klahre,