

File analysis

THE WESTERN GROWERS ASSOCIATION
AND JAPANESE EVACUATION

The Western Grower and Shipper is the monthly publication of the Western Growers Association, formerly known as the Western Growers Protective Association. The Western Growers Association is composed of large-scale operators who produce vegetables primarily for the Eastern markets. The publication was examined from December, 1941 through September, 1943 to determine the attitude of the Western Growers Association to the evacuation of Japanese from California. The magazine carried many news items in regard to evacuation including the preliminary announcements of the army; the progress of evacuation, relocation, and resettlement; and announcements in regard to Japanese-grown crops, land, and farm equipment which would be of business interest to members of the Association.

There was no evidence in the Western Grower and Shipper that the Western Growers Association took an official stand on evacuation. There were many editorials and articles, beginning as early as the February, 1942 issue, whose theme was that the Japanese were not important factors in the vegetable production in California, particularly in production for the Eastern market. Variations on this theme recur constantly from February, 1942 through July, 1943. In the Spring and Summer of 1943, two items appeared which reported opposition to the return of the Japanese to the western states.

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Passel.

The first news item concerning Japanese evacuation appeared in the March, 1942 issue under the title of "Army Takes Over". It declared that the land included in Military Zone I produced 85% of California vegetables exclusive of potatoes and that Military Zones I and II included land on which practically 100% of California vegetables were produced. Despite these facts, the article continued: "Californians who are well advised as to the economics of the California vegetable industry and yet feel that the removal of persons of Japanese blood from coastal and even inland areas is a military necessity, hailed the Army's announcement as the first step taken toward a sound solution of the alien problem on the West Coast." The article concluded by urging Japanese about to be moved to deal with the new tenants for the sale of their equipment and animals as production would be delayed if the new tenant were to take over and find essential equipment lacking. (WG&S, 3/42, p.7, c.3)

The April 1942 WG&S gave a chart of the acreage of various vegetables grown in Los Angeles County and estimated acreage of those vegetables grown by Japanese in order that members contemplating looking for outlets in the Los Angeles market might know where shortages were likely to exist. The figures given for the most important vegetables are given below:

| | Total Acreage | Japanese Controlled Acreage |
|------------|---------------|-----------------------------|
| Snap Beans | 2,100 | 2,000 |
| Cabbage | 3,700 | 2,800 |
| Carrots | 4,000 | 3,000 |
| Peas | 700 | 700 |

| Vegetable | Total Acreage | Japanese Controlled Acreage |
|-----------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|
| Market Tomatoes | 4,000 | 2,500 |
| Beets | 700 | 700 |
| Broccoli | 700 | 700 |
| Celery | 3,000 | 3,000 |
| Cauliflower | 4,000 | 4,000 |
| Corn | 5,300 | 800 |
| Lima Beans | 2,000 | 1,800 |
| Lettuce | 1,200 | 1,000 |
| Potatoes | 1,400 | 200 |
| Asparagus | 1,600 | 400 |
| Spinach | 1,300 | 1,200 |
| Canning Tomatoes | 3,500 | 1,500 |
| (WG&S, 4/42, p.8, c. 1 & 2) | | |

Land owners leasing farms to Japanese and farmers wanting to operate Japanese farms, and Japanese now operating farms, were urged in the April, 1942 issue to report to the WCCA to see the Farm Security Agent who would help in fair dispositions of farm land. (WG&S, 4/42, p.8, c. 3, and p.16, c.1)

Beginning with the July, 1942 WG&S there were news items concerning the progress of ~~xxxxxxx~~ relocation, particularly the agricultural activities in the relocation centers. The July, 1942 issue reported that 10,000 acres of Mississippi Delta land in south eastern Arkansas would be cleared, drained and put into cultivation by Japanese evacuees. Emphasis at this relocation center, located fifteen miles north of Arkansas City, would be put on the production of food for the evacuees and crops to meet national needs. (WG&S, 7/42, p.10, c. 2 & 3) The August issue reported that a second Arkansas relocation center consisting of 8,000 acres of potentially productive Mississippi delta land had been secured by the WRA. (WG&S, 8/42, p.5, c.1)

Another item in the July, 1942 issue was to the effect that evacuees to Heart Mountain Relocation Area near Cody, Wyoming would develop land for irrigation and produce needed crops. They would carry forward irrigation and land development work already begun by the Reclamation Bureau. (WG&S, 7/42, p.4)

That American citizens of Japanese ancestry who had never lived nor attended school in Japan could obtain permits to leave relocation centers and accept jobs outside of the Western Defense Command was reported in the September, 1942 issue.

(WG&S, 9/42, p. 21, c.3) The November, 1942 issue announced that the Army had concluded its task of moving Japanese from all West Coast strategic military areas by November 1. (WG&S, p.22, c.3) The results of a survey made at the Rivers Center were also reported in the November number. That survey showed that evacuees in that Center would not be available for work in Arizona outside the relocation center because all were needed on the project for agricultural work or for work in "a plant for essential wartime operation". (WG&S, 11/42, p.15, c.2)

In April, 1943, the WG&S announced that negotiations had been started to permit moving some Japanese from the Gila Center for work in Arizona dairies. These people would get "indefinite leaves" from the relocation center. The news item added that the records of all such applicants will be thoroughly examined by the military authorities and that the Japanese must have jobs waiting for them before they may leave the centers. (WG&S, 4/43, p.6, c.2)

The April, 1943 issue carried an appeal to "cut red tape" in order to make it possible for farmers to obtain badly needed farm machinery which had been stored by Japanese who were then in relocation centers. The OWI had said that a "limited quantity" was stored. Said the WG&S:

"Later investigation disproved the statement and showed a reported total of 267 tractors stored in Los Angeles and Orange Counties alone...If the government can take the farmer's spare tire, it should be able to take the idle Japanese-owned farm machiner, he (Frank H. Kramer, Calif. Dept. Agric. supervising inspector) said, an opinion held also by John M. Gault, chairman of the war advisory committee of the Los Angeles County Council, and by the American Legion, the State Chamber of Commerce, and numerous farm groups and legislators. It was reported by Mr. Kramer that many Japanese evacuees had been requested to sell their equipment but that most had refused and many had written insolent answers to the request." (W.G.&S. 4/43, p.12, c.3)

A discussion of this question is continued in the June issue which reported much agitation for the use of this machinery. Federal agencies, according to the article, merely made surveys which disagreed as to the amount and number of machines and implements owned by the Japanese, or made promises to investigate the legal aspects of purchasing or seizing the equipment. At the time of the writing, Fresno's District Attorney, Thuesen had started preparations to seize the equipment and put it to use. Thuesen acted under a recently enacted California law which gave the state the right to condemn the machinery. An appropriation of \$150,000 had been made to financed the purchase and the State Director of Finance was to obtain the machinery by the payment of just compensation. (WG&S; 6/43, p.13, c.2)

There was an item in the February, 1943 issue in regard to a suit filed by Nobuo Hiramatsu and Noburu Iriyama, representing the General Farming Company of Guadalupe against L.R. Phillips, T. Paul Dalzell, and P. R. F. Marshall who had been in charge of the General Farming Company. The plaintiffs claimed that since trusts were executed in March of 1942, no returns had been received for the operation of the General Farming Company. (WG&S, 2/43, p.15, c. 1 & 2)

Practically all of the editorials and articles written on landholding and removal of Japanese were designed to prove that the Japanese were a negligible factor in the California produce business. Reported in the February, 1942 WG&S was a survey made by an unnamed "responsible agency" which showed the following percentage of vegetables produced by Japanese: Imperial Valley 5%, Salinas area under 1%, Arizona under 1%, other sections of California 3%. The largest concentrations of Japanese growers were said to be in the coastal areas of San Diego, Orange, Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo Counties all of whom produced for the Southern California market. (WG&S, 2/42, p.19, c.1) The figures of Japanese controlled acreage in Los Angeles County quoted on pages 2 and 3 would indicate that other counties of the state must have had an almost 0% of Japanese produced vegetables to obtain the figure of 3% for California exclusive of Imperial Valley and the Salinas areas--assuming both sets of figures to be correct.

Also in the February, 1942 issue was an editorial entitled "Elimination of Japanese Aliens from Coastal Lands Will Not Affect Production of Vegetables for Eastern Ship-

ment". After announcing the order for the evacuation of aliens from certain areas, the WG&S continued:

"It should be said here, and at this time, that the action of the Justice Department in removing aliens from coastal California was not the result of the pressure of civilian groups within the state, but came in due course after a thoro investigation of conditions by the Army, Navy, and FBI, with certain cooperating but vocally silent civilian help. Unfortunately, the efforts of some selfish land holding individuals to keep aliens on lands where they never have been(???), and the obviously commercial motives of certain others to get rid of them, added greatly to the problem of orderly investigation and planned evacuation."

In regard to American born Japanese, the editorial stated that they would give up their farming operations willingly if asked to do so because as citizens they felt that no sacrifice would be too great. Then followed this amazing statement: (Italics mine) "Few own their own homes, due to California's Anti-Alien Land Laws... For this reason, evacuation will not work the same hardship as would be the case with other citizen-groups." The Japanese, according to the editorial, grow vegetables for local markets and not for shipment. "There are practically no Japanese in the production of vegetables for canning and processing." But around Los Angeles and in the Santa Maria-Guadalupe districts a large percentage of the operators are Japanese. This will be a matter of dislocation rather than permanent curtailment of the vegetable supply as other areas will grow what had been grown around Los Angeles. The WG&S added: "Incidentally, the alien Japanese element are going out of the wholesale produce trade in Los Angeles, and many of the large firms are on the market for a few cents on the dollar."

The editorial concluded by stating that many people overlook the facts that a great deal of the Japanese-grown coastal vegetables are out of season ones for the winter market-- peas, string beans, summer squash. Under war conditions, people can do without these. Also, the Japanese themselves have not by any means done all the labor but have been hirers of Mexican and Filipino labor. (WG&S, 2/42, p.7, c.3; p.8, c.1; and p. 17, c.1-3)

The March, 1942 issue carried an editorial on the Tolán Committee hearings on proposed Japanese evacuation. Said WG&S: "The Committee is concerned only with the economic effects of such a severe dislocation of population and the consequent problem of re-settling such a group." The Committee had heard much testimony on the part which Japanese play in California agriculture. The WG&S wished to point out to the Tolán Committee that such a study requires analysis of already published data rather than testimony from people who might not have the background to give their testimony value. (WG&S, 3/42, p.7, c.1)

"Evacuation Speeded" is the title of an article in the April, 1942 WG&S. The only shortages likely to occur due to this speedup in the last days of March will be in the Los Angeles and Santa Maria-Guadalupe districts where ^{operators of} already planted acreage may not be able to make satisfactory arrangements for continuance. An advisory Office of Agricultural Coordinator had been set up for the purpose of replacing production on lands vacated by Japanese farmers. The FSA had been given supervision of securing operators for evacuated

The June, 1942 issue contained an editorial entitled "Time to Clean House?" It stated that evacuation had been completed, but that there was no shortage of vegetables for the local markets. Labor would be the big item if shortages did occur. But the public would blame them on the absence of Japanese rather than on the general labor shortage. "Japanese farmers never contributed more than 25% of the labor needed on their own farms; Mexicans and Filipinos were hired." Some of the people who had taken over Japanese lands had been doing more harvesting than planting and therefore shortages were ahead. The editorial continued on the theme that some of the land which had been farmed by Japanese was usable only thru subsidies--the "subsidy of an un-American standard of living". These lands should be eliminated. The price increases so far had gone exclusively to the retailer. "...on the date of this writing, the wholesale price range on vegetables in Los Angeles is no higher than last year, yet retail prices are up." The editorial concluded with the now familiar theme that the Japanese had always been a minor factor in the state vegetable industry. "There were but 6,000 Japanese farmers of all kinds in the State; even if 5,000 of them farmed the 225,000 acres of vegetables credited to Japanese control, the average would be 45 acres per farmer, and this is high, the average would be nearer 20." The Los Angeles market is now contacting shippers to make up the deficit created by the departure of the Japanese. "The evacuation of Japanese from such sections

of California as Salinas, Imperial Valley, the Delta, etc. where large scale mechanized vegetable production has long existed under white American control, has scarcely caused a ruffle." (WG&S, p.8, c.3; p.9, c.1; p.17, c.1)

The cover of the June issue was an attractive photograph of rolling, cultivated land. Inside it was explained that it was a section of San Luis Obispo County now unplanted due to the removal of the Japanese. The explanation concluded:

"While this lack of planting in this and certain other areas might worry the layman, those who really get about physically and mentally in the state's vegetable industry know that if one section is not dropped to commodities known to be in demand, other sections will take up the burden. Our well established, white American farmers, who have long been the backbone of the western vegetable industry, do not often overlook an opportunity for profit.

"As a matter of fact, it is just about time we began to realize that a great deal of the land farmed by Japanese is submarginal unless subsidized--either in money or lowered standards of living. They should have given way years ago to lands where production under American standards in agriculture was possible."

(WG&S, 6/42, p.7, c.2)

H. J. Ryan, County Agricultural Commissioner for Los Angeles County is quoted in the September, 1942 WG&S to the effect that of 25,000 acres of vegetable land left with operators in Los Angeles County when the Japanese were removed, only 200 acres were not at that time back in production.

(WG&S, 9/42, p.4, c.3)

The editor of Colliers had apparently written an editorial saying that California growers were "bellyachers" who cried for help in their harvests "simply because the Japs

who used to do it are in internment camps". Countered the editor of the WG&S: "It is surprising, of course, that a member of the editorial staff of one of the Nation's greatest publications should have swallowed the clever Japanese-inspired propaganda that Japanese were indispensable in California agriculture, and has helped them in using this propaganda to curtail food production." Collier's editor, he continued, could have learned that Japanese were minor factors in Western agriculture, and that they performed little labor themselves, employing Mexicans whenever possible. (WG&S, p. 23, c. 2 & 3)

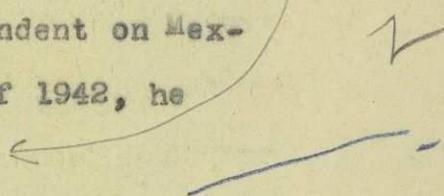
The December, 1942 issue carried a yearly report by the managing secretary of the Western Growers Association as well as a general review of the year. The managers report stated that a dislocation in the industry occurred when Japanese were evacuated from Military Zones I and II. This dislocation did not affect shipping groups so much, but it did affect prices in cities near which there had been large Japanese operated truck farms. Prices skyrocketed, and the secretary warns retailers to keep their prices "within reason," or OPA ceilings will be placed on the industry. (WG&S, p. 45, c. 1&2) *every community which had one - send to the Community rels*

The editorial this month is a backward glance over 1942.

This review stated that altho the Japanese had produced mostly for the local markets, their removal to Relocation Centers did affect seriously the food production picture in California. It made necessary the production for large cities of vegetables by "shipping growers" which were formerly grown by Japanese.

The first step was to have "white Americans" take over properties evacuated by Japanese. Although these people were sometimes not as experienced as Japanese "And most properties relinquished by Japanese were continued at a loss, the result has been many new and strong white American truck men and market growers". The review concluded: "It may be said, however, that the impact of the sudden removal of the Japanese (there were only 6,000 farmers among them) has already been absorbed and our food production program adjusted to meet the new conditions." (WG&S? p.7, c.3 & p.8, c.1)

The labor picture is black, but the removal of the Japanese is not the cause. The Japanese farmer was dependent on Mexican labor, and if he were farming at the end of 1942, he would have the same labor troubles as others.



In July, 1943 the Santa Barbara County Agricultural Commissioner reported that the total vegetable crop acreage planted for harvest in the county in the fall of 1942 was 10,508 acres against 10,629 in 1941. This, says the WG&S, refutes "the general opinion strongly held in many quarters that evacuation of Japanese from the Pacific Coast would result in a drastic reduction in vegetable acreage with a consequent shortage of production". (WG&S, p.10, c.2)

The issue of April, 1943 reported:

"...Arizona Farm Bureau Federation...went on record as opposing allowing Japs within the area and expressed fear that both the Phoenix and Salt River valleys may become over-populated with Japanese.

"The Federation committee recommended that Japanese should be confined to relocation centers and made self-supporting if possible; that the Army should have jurisdiction over all Japanese, and that a group should be organized to create a program for the care of the Japanese after the war. "O.D. Miller, Arizona grower-shipper, reported to the group results of similar action in the Arkansas valley of Colorado which is now being populated by Japanese owners and operators."

(WG&S, 4/43, p.23, c.2)

The June, 1943 number reported increased feeling against allowing Japanese to return to the western states. "... strong pressure is being put on government officials by western factors to prevent their return, at least for the duration." A Senate Committee recommended application of the draft to all Japanese, internment of disloyal Japanese, and placement of the loyal in a working area where military authorities consider it safe for them to go. The article continued:

"Of a total of 19,963 male Japanese citizens of the United States in draft age, only 6% said they would volunteer if permitted for service in this country's armed forces.

"Westerners point out that it is almost impossible to discern a so-called loyal Japanese from one disloyal. Present requirements merely call for a statement under oath vowing loyalty to the United States.

"Obviously, the point out, such an oath could be taken to satisfy governmental regulations yet their sincerity could be questioned at any time."

(WG&S, 6/43, p.18, c.3 and p.20, c.3)

Western Growers Protective Association

THE VEGETABLE AND MELON INDUSTRY OF CALIFORNIA AND ARIZONA

1231 EAST SEVENTH STREET

MICHIGAN 9441

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

7466 JAN 7 42 B. MOORE, Managing Secretary

WG.2



EARL WARREN ATTORNEY GENERAL
SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE
ASSIGNED TO: Salinas, California
January 3, 1942

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EARL WARREN ATTORNEY GENERAL
SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE
ASSIGNED TO: General

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Mr. Earl Warren
Attorney General
State of California
Sacramento, California

WG.1

Dear Mr. Warren:

The enclosed statement made at the request of the Monterey County Defense Committee is being forwarded you herewith.

We know that you have interested yourself in this Japanese situation both from a patriotic standpoint and from the point of view of enforcing the long dormant Alien Land Law. We trust that your office will make a sincere effort to eliminate as many of these undesirable aliens from the lands of California as is possible at this time. Let me assure you that our entire Organization, composed of some 125 members shipping approximately 75,000 carloads of vegetables annually from the States of California and Arizona, is behind you squarely in any action you see fit to take in this matter, looking toward the elimination of these alien enemies in our midst.

Yours very truly,

S. V. CHRISTIERSON
President

SVC:BT
Encl.

Western Growers Protective Association

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THE VEGETABLE AND MELON INDUSTRY OF CALIFORNIA AND ARIZONA

1231 EAST SEVENTH STREET

MICHIGAN 9441

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

C. B. MOORE, *Managing Secretary*

Salinas, California

January 3, 1942

Mr. L. W. Wing, Chairman
Monterey County Defense Committee
United States Department of Agriculture
Salinas, California

Dear Mr. Wing:

Complying with your request for a statement regarding the importance of Japanese vegetable growers in the vegetable production outlook for 1942, the following is submitted:

From data obtained from Secretary C. B. Moore of the Western Growers Protective Association with headquarters at Los Angeles, from Secretary Austin E. Anson of the Grower-Shipper Vegetable Association of Central California at Salinas, and from investigations made by the Santa Barbara County Farm Bureau, rather appalling figures appear which you will note on the enclosed chart.

The Santa Barbara County Farm Bureau does not report the number of growers in that district, but judging from the averages in the other districts of about 300 acres per grower, it would be fairly safe to say that there are between 575 and 600 growers in the Santa Maria Valley, Lompoc, Santa Barbara County, and San Luis Obispo County, or approximately 1,200 growers engaged in vegetable production in California and Arizona.

I am going to take the liberty of quoting in part from the statement of the Santa Barbara County Farm Bureau which is applicable to conditions throughout California and Arizona:

"Japanese farmers are very abusive to the land and farming operations with relation to proper crop rotation, proper fertilization, and particularly do not take the proper steps to conserve the soil. The acreages operated by the Japanese farmers are the choice acreages in both valleys; for the reason that American farmers have not been able to compete with them due to their low standards of living and the long hours which the Japanese work, not only themselves, but their families. Any land which is out of production because of the cancellation of Japanese leases can and will be readily taken up by the white farmers of these districts."

Mr. L. W. Wing--January 3, 1942--Page 2

In the Imperial Valley about 4,000 of the 9,000 acres are involved in shipping deals--that is shipments in carload lots to Eastern markets, principally of lettuce, carrots, and cantaloupes. Possibly the other 5,000 acres are involved in truck movement, such as early squash and tomatoes for local markets.

It is our considered opinion that no dislocation of food commodities which might cause shortage would evolve from immediate freezing of these acreages if the proper control conservator is placed in charge to see that crops are harvested. The only possibility of loss would be lack of labor to handle this acreage if lessee alien were removed. It is possibly true that we would be short of certain luxury commodities such as romaine, radishes, parsley, and possibly a few early tomatoes handled under hotcap. By the time crops now in the ground are harvested, American growers could and would have planted sufficient produce to not only meet fresh food requirements, but also canning needs.

I feel that the danger of possible food shortage (vegetables) by reason of elimination of Japanese growers has been unduly magnified, although the total as shown by these preliminary and possibly not entirely accurate figures is staggering, yet, I do not believe that any serious dislocation will occur if these alien Japanese growers are promptly eliminated.

Yours very truly,

S. V. CHRISTIERNSON
President

SVC:BT
Encl.

| | <u>No. of Japanese Growers</u> | <u>Acreage Leased By Japanese</u> | <u>Acreage Owned By Japanese</u> |
|---|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Salinas | 190 | 5,386 | 833 |
| Santa Maria Valley) Santa Barbara County) | | 11,755 | 150 |
| Lompoc (Santa Barbara County) | | 3,200 | 140 |
| Oxnard (Santa Barbara County) | 27 | 1,500 | |
| San Luis Obispo County | 565 | 2,000 | |
| Imperial Valley | 250-300 | 9,000 | |
| Yuma, Arizona | 1 | 150 | |
| Salt River Valley, Arizona | 125 | <u>3,000</u> | |
| | | 35,971 | |

1208

833

150

140

37,094

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HOLME & SEIFERT

California Vegetables

Salinas, California
January 10, 1942

Mr. William Cecil, Director of Agriculture
State Department of Agriculture
Sacramento, California

Dear Sir:

Sam Hayes on his Sperry breakfast program, John B. Hughes on his program, and over International News Service, there was released information they state came from you to the effect that from thirty-seven to forty percent of the fresh vegetables grown in California are grown by Japanese and that you asked the army to restrain from any action against Japanese growers that would in any wise affect our fresh vegetable food production.

In substance the above is the information that comes to us, and we are hereby very forcibly protesting against any such information being broadcasted by anybody through any source, even if it were true.

We are in war, and we are not shooting marbles and to say the least, we are astounded that one in your position would release any such information and we are going to take the necessary steps to see that it does not reoccur.

The actual percentage of fresh vegetables grown by Japanese and shipped in Interstate Commerce can be carefully calculated but only by actual check of carlot and truck shipments of those commodities grown by Japanese farmers, both alien and citizen Japanese.

We know that in round numbers, Los Angeles county is supplied to the total of around seventy-five percent of the fresh vegetables they use by Japanese operating small garden farms in Los Angeles county. We also know that a certain percentage of the fresh vegetables consumed in other California cities is produced by local gardeners adjacent to those towns, some of whom are Japanese. We don't believe anybody knows the exact percentage.

We who have been in the industry a long time and know every fresh vegetable deal in the State, make this positive statement that if all the Japanese gardeners regardless of nationality or citizenship, were taken completely out of the state, to look at it from the very worst angle would mean that a complete readjustment would occur in not to exceed a five months period when not only as much goods would be produced but undoubtedly, more goods and generally speaking as far as vegetables are concerned, better goods.

Again employing round numbers, there are approximately 70,000 acres in the Salinas-Watsonville district being farmed to fresh vegetables, of which less than 6000 are farmed by Japanese. In the Imperial Valley shippers

there who know, state that not over ten percent of the vegetables grown and shipped in Interstate Commerce are produced by Japanese. In Yuma, Arizona, which is a heavy producer of carrots and lettuce, the percentage is even much smaller; and in Phoenix, Arizona, another heavy producer of lettuce and carrots, the percentage is approximately like that of the Imperial Valley.

In the Guadalupe district, up to now the Japanese have controlled the production and distribution, and because of the tremendous leverage they have on the Los Angeles market, have been able to control that market, but as an actual matter of fact, the proration which has been employed by and with the sanction of the State Department has resulted in only about half of the production of lettuce being harvested and consumed, the balance has been thrown away or disced under in order to hold up prices and control the movement of lettuce and other commodities on the Los Angeles market.

If the Guadalupe Japanese acreage were eliminated the control of the Los Angeles market without exploitation would go back into the hands of real American citizens and the natural flow of production of the Guadalupe Valley would go into California and Interstate markets without regulation and control.

As you very well know, it would take only a maximum of five months, at the outside, six months, to completely revolutionize the operation of ranches that are now farmed by Japanese if the Japanese were removed.

And furthermore, a balanced rotation of crops could be inaugurated, which is not now generally practiced by Japanese, who take out of the soil all they can get in the period of their three-year leases, which present system of bleeding the soil of all that it has in it eventually results in the depletion of the land to a point where it becomes less productive than marginal land.

It was not our intent to publicize any part of this whole situation on the grounds that if the information got to the public it would very easily result in a boycott all over the United States on the part of housewives as well as retailers and wholesalers of California vegetables because it would be assumed by them that most California vegetables are grown by Japanese but since you have started it, it is now going to be necessary for you to release statements which will be accurate and which will avoid any possibility of boycotting or misleading the army restraining its important action against enemy aliens for which we could very well at a later date be extremely sorry.

Further, no information should be released by any public official about any business which would be detrimental to that business, without first conferring with either Associations or groups of individuals interested in that business.

As we see it, your job is to serve all the people and the producers of fresh vegetables are part of the people. Your job is not to promiscuously disseminate information and there should be no occasion for publishing any information unless it would be of benefit.

We therefore make this specific request on you that in collaboration with out Association, the Western Growers Protective Association, the Los Angeles Market Association and any other Association interested in perishables, you obtain the information that should be released to counteract the detrimental information that has already been released and published.

Very truly yours,

/s/E. M. Seifert, Jr.

GROWER-SHIPPER VEGETABLE ASS'N
E. M. SEIFERT, JR.,

Copy

CONFIDENTIAL!

File. Jap. Social 'WS.3
phenomenon file
Jap. Soc.

WESTERN GROWERS PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION
The Vegetable and Melon Industry of California and Arizona

1231 East Seventh Street

Los Angeles, California

Michigan 9441

C. B. Moore, Managing Secretary

Salinas, California

January 10, 1942

Mr. William Cecil, Director
State Department of Agriculture
Sacramento, California

Dear Mr. Cecil:

Yesterday morning I was driving from San Francisco to San Jose when to my horror and amazement John B. Hughes quoted you as saying that 40% of the vegetables in California were grown by Japanese and that it behooved us to keep these Japanese working so as not to cause any serious mal-adjustment of vegetable production.

I can only hope that he mis-quoted you because a statement of that sort coming from the State Director of Agriculture would be rather unfortunate for the vegetable industry of California, particularly as the vegetable industry ever since December 7 has joined in every movement to eliminate Japanese growers from the vegetable picture and to move them at least 300 miles East from the Pacific Coast line or preferably, in my opinion, 300 miles due West.

It is almost impossible for me to believe that you would have made such a statement particularly without at least as far as I know, consulting with the two vegetable growers' associations in California--the Western Growers Protective Association at Los Angeles, and the Grower-Shipper Vegetable Association of Central California at Salinas.

I am enclosing herewith a copy of a statement I made to Mr. L. W. Wing, Chairman of the Monterey County Defense Committee, United States Department of Agriculture, which covers the situation quite thoroughly. I have yet to talk with anybody in the vegetable industry that did not agree with the statements that I made, and may I point this out to you, that everyone is fearful of the reaction that just such a statement as yours would produce in Eastern markets. As you well know, propoganda is being disseminated throughout the East to the effect that the vegetable business of California is Japanese controlled and for that reason should be boycotted. Your statement has certainly added fuel to their fire, no matter how innocently it was made, and it is entirely possible that your statement may produce a boycott of California vegetables in Eastern markets. I certainly hope this was not your intention, but I also hope that in the future before making such vital statements affecting our industry, you will consult with our Associations or with the industry in general.

Yours very truly,

/s/S. V. Christerson
S. V. Christerson
President

WESTERN GROWERS PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION

1231 East Seventh Street

Los Angeles, California

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S. V. CHRISTIERSON
California Vegetables
Salinas, California

January 22, 1942

Congressman John Z. Anderson
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Jack:

I notice by this morning's San Francisco Examiner that Congressman Leland M. Ford of Santa Monica being thoroughly ~~also~~ alarmed over the seriousness of the Japanese situation on the Pacific Coast, announced yesterday that he would urge government officials to move all Japanese, native born and alien, to concentration camps.

Washington is too far removed from California to fully realize the potential danger of 96,000 Japanese in our midst. Particularly when it is not far-fetched or beyond the realm of possibility that at least 25,000 of these Japanese, in the event of invasion, by exchanging civilian clothing for uniforms are full fledged members of the Japanese armed forces.

At present Japanese are allowed to go about and conduct their business as loyal American citizens. Are they allowing our nationals in the Philippines and Japan to do this? Certainly not. But with usual American complacency and the "It can't happen here" attitude, we allow these yellow termites to keep burrowing and preparing for "Der Tag" when the Japanese, as they have proclaimed, will dictate peace terms to the United States of America from our capitol in Washington.

As a Californian and red-blooded American citizen, isn't it time that serious representations be made by you to our government, of which you are a part, to curtail Japanese activities on the Pacific Coast?

I suggest:

1. That all Japanese, whether national or ~~nt~~ native born, be required to register, producing birth certificates, and all those who cannot produce American birth certificates, immediately be placed in concentration camps at least 300 miles West of the Pacific Coast line.
2. That all American born Japanese be required to report to local police authorities at least once a week.
3. That no Japanese be permitted to leave the community where residing without a police permit, and no Japanese be permitted to work in defense industries.

*President
Wash. Bureau
Upper Pacific
Assoc*

H. J. Squire



Congressman John Z. Anderson--January 22, 1942--Page 2

4. That all Japanese be requested to move inland at least 300 miles, and no Japanese be permitted within 300 miles of the Pacific Coast line under death penalty.

5. That the possession of firearms or ammunition of any kind by Japanese be prohibited under death penalty.

6. That all Japanese funds and properties be immediately frozen and placed under control of alien custodian. Financial interests, notably banks (who have funds loaned to Japanese) and canneries have by insidious propaganda been able to influence and soften the original Treasury restrictions on Japanese funds and properties to a point where today the Japanese operate just as if we were not at war with their government. Their representation that the removal of Japanese from California would cause a serious dislocation of food supplies is false. Although in some sections they control a large portion of the vegetable industry, their so-called domination of the industry in California actually amounts to less than 10% of the total.

I am enclosing herewith some excerpts from "News & Views by John B. Hughes", broadcasts of January 5 to 16, inclusive. They should prove interesting, instructive, and the ~~basis~~ basis of necessary action to remove all Japanese from the vital coastal section of California.

We must fight fire with fire. We are dealing with an unscrupulous, treacherous, blood-thirsty enemy whose only desire is the conquest of the Pacific Coast of the United States as well as the subjugation of the entire United States.

Sincerely yours,

S. V. Christerson (s)

SVC:BT
Encl.

GROWER-SHIPPER VEGETABLE ASSOCIATION
of CENTRAL CALIFORNIA

Room 407 Salinas National Bank Bldg., Salinas, California
Telephone 3941

GS.2

January 15, 1942

Incl. the
Filipinos

Mr. F. B. Sun, Secretary
Filipino Labor Supply Association, Inc.
c/o Caballeros de Mas Along, Inc.
116 Weller Street
Los Angeles, California

My dear Mr. Sun:

The Filipinos and the Americans, not to mention other nationalities, are now faced with the necessity of successfully prosecuting the war against the Axis, and especially the Japanese. We are sure that you and your associates fully realize that every act in each of our lives is either for or against our present main objective.

We know how all of you feel, and when we say all, we include the officials of your organizations and the prominent men of your country, down to the lowliest worker in whatever job he may have. All true Americans feel just like you do, and that is, that we want the Japanese taken out of our midst as completely as possible.

The question is, how can this be best accomplished?

In any action that we contemplate, we must take into consideration the ~~laws~~ laws of our country. These laws must be complied with, but let us not forget that they can be changed, and during emergencies many times are completely abrogated.

Most Americans and most, if not all Filipinos are refusing to do business with Japanese on any basis. Leases are being cancelled, deals with shippers cancelled, shippers are refusing to buy from Japanese or sell to them, and generally in the case of your Filipino workers, they are ~~refusing~~ refusing to work with Japanese. All of which action apparently is justified, but does not accomplish what we are after.

Those Japanese nationals and American born Japanese, who are loyal to ~~the~~ the United States must be taken into consideration, but who is there among us who can tell which are loyal and which are not. Therefore, for the protection of the loyal Japanese, and for the protection of American citizens, especially those on the Pacific Coast, all Japanese, regardless of nationality, should be placed somewhere in the interior of the United States, either interned or equally effective supervision so that they would be powerless to take any action against American lives or property.

This war has been full of surprises, of most unusual and unexpected action. Anything seems possible. While we have utmost confidence in our Army, Navy, and Air Force, we have a tremendous coast line to guard, and in the event that even a small surprise landing party were successful, at any point along the Coast, those enemy Japanese, now at large in our midst, could and undoubtedly would join forces with the invaders and cause tremendous

loss of lives and property, which could be avoided if they were all interned or empounded where they would be powerless.

It would be far better to injure those Japanese who are loyal to the United States than to find out too late that we made the mistake of not interning the Japanese.

It is suggested that if it meets with your approval in your deliberations at your Convention, that you frame resolutions along the lines outlined in this letter and send them to your representatives in Washington and other parts of the United States, to the President of the United States, to the President of the Phillipine Islands, to all of the congressmen and senators in Washington from California, Arizona, and any other states from which your people have come and are now in Convention. Also send similar resolutions to the governors of the interested states, senators, assemblymen, and perhaps a similar resolution could be sent to Lieutenant General John L. DeWitt, Commander of the Fourth Army, Presidio of San Francisco.

May we suggest again that you do not take any action which might be in violation of our laws.

We bespeak a most successful Convention for you, and assure you of our heartiest support of all constructive activities directed by yourselves in the future.

Sincerely yours,

GROWER-SHIPPER VEGETABLE ASSOCIATION

EMS:M

E. M. Seifert, Jr.
President

GROWER-SHIPPER VEGETABLE ASSN
of Central California

Room 407
Salinas National Bank Bldg.
Salinas, California

Telephone 3941

GS.3 Ag square
M

January 16, 1942

Congressman John Z. Anderson
House Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Jack:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter we have just sent to a convention of an organization of Filipinos throughout the state, it may include several states. The letter is almost self-explanatory, but does not show the real reason for the letter, which is to stop, if possible, a general boycott, which we do not feel would be productive of good and might defeat our immediate objective, which is the complete removal of Japanese from California,

We are not going to try to tell you what to do about this. We know that you know better than we do, and we also know you are going to take the necessary action to make California safe for Americans.

Believe me, when I say that this letter and the letter to the Filipinos in Convention is not prompted in any way with the thought of using the present emergency as a means of eliminating Japanese competition. We believe, however, for the protection of future generations of Californians and Americans, no Japanese even though he be born in America, should be permitted to own land. Why? Because who is there to tell which if any Japanese are at all loyal to the United States, but who instead are undoubtedly loyal to Japan. We may go so far as to say fanatically loyal to Japan, and we believe you will find that the history of any piece of land that has passed into the hands of the Japanese, has never again been transferred into the hands of any White.

We feel sure that you will agree that if the laws of our land ~~are~~ such that Japanese, American born, can own land; eventually there will be sufficiently large number of American born to secure an increasingly large number of acres, until finally our entire state would be in the same category as we now find Guadalupe.

These people, you know, do not think like we do, nor do we think like they do. They cannot be assimilated. They will not blend with our people, and since that is true, they should be restricted forever from owning any land or property in our country.

I cannot give you the source, but it is more than a rumor, Jack, that in the Imperial Valley, a group of Filipinos met and were drawing names of individual Japanese out of a box to be "taken care of" by those drawing the name. This action was stopped, only by the prompt and intelligent interference of one of our law enforcement officers.

Congressman J. Z. Anderson
Washington, D. C.

- 2 -

January 16, 1942

What do you suppose is going to happen, Jack, when the casualty lists from the Phillipine Islands start coming into the Filipinos in the United States, and the letters that will come along with them or follow them, telling of the atrocities and the death of brothers, sisters, mothers, and fathers, etc. It ~~will~~ will be a tremendous surprise to all those who know Filipinos and Japanese, and you are among them, if some definite action is not immediately taken, as soon as the extent of the devastation in the Phillipine Islands becomes known to the Filipinos here.

To avoid that very thing, as well as for definite safety measures as outlined in our letter to the Filipinos, all Japanese should be empounded or interned, restricted, confined or have something done with them, that will make them absolutely powerless and take them out of the reach of those who might seek to destroy them for revenge.

Undoubtedly, J. Edgar Hoover and his assistants and his officers do have a pretty good idea of the California situation, but they would absolutely have to be super-men could they pick and separate all the Japanese, both American born and foreign born, who could be depended on to be loyal to the United States and those who could not.

Feeling is running higher and higher here, more especially among the Filipinos than the Americans, but it would not take very much of a "match" to start a terrific conflagration.

I am fully aware that the American born Japanese has just as much rights under the Constitution as I have or you have, but certainly something can be done to remove the threat that hangs over our heads and also, to protect that same Japanese who has American citizens' rights.

What can we do to help you to get fast action through the Congress, if necessary, to interne all Japanese?

With best personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

GROWER-SHIPPER VEGETABLE ASSOCIATION
E. M. Seifert, Jr. (M.) (s)
President

EMS:M

(Above underscoring and markings penciled in red)

Alarie

San Francisco,
January 27, 1942.

Mr. S. V. Christerson,
President, Western Growers
Protective Association,
1231 East Seventh Street,
Los Angeles, California.

Dear Mr. Christerson:

I desire to personally thank you for your letter of January 23rd, with enclosures, expressing the interest of the Western Growers Protective Association in the Japanese situation in this State.

For the purpose of investigating possible violations of our Alien Land Law by Japanese in California and considering procedures to deal with such violations as may be found to exist, I have called a meeting of District Attorneys and Sheriffs of the counties where the problem exists for Monday, February 2nd, at my San Francisco office.

In accordance with your offer of cooperation, I would appreciate having your organization present in writing any information it may have as to such violations, and also suggestions concerning desirable procedures in handling the situation, for the consideration of the law enforcement officers at the meeting next Monday.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Attorney General.

EW:JM
HRM

Western Growers Protective Association

WG.5
✓

THE VEGETABLE AND MELON INDUSTRY OF CALIFORNIA AND ARIZONA

1231 EAST SEVENTH STREET

MICHIGAN 9441

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

C. B. MOORE, Managing Secretary

8915 FEB 4 42

EARL WARREN ATTORNEY GENERAL
SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE
ASSIGNED TO:Salinas, California
January 30, 1942*General*STATE OF CALIFORNIA
LEGAL DEPARTMENT

FEB 2 - 1942

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Mr. Earl Warren, Attorney General
Legal Department
State of California
Sacramento, California

Dear Mr. Warren:

Replying to your letter of January 27 I have endeavored to secure certain information from other districts, which you desired, particularly regarding Santa Maria-Guadalupe-Lompoc in Santa Barbara County which, however, I understand has been transmitted in full by the County Agricultural Commissioner, Mr. Kellog, to the District Attorney of Santa Barbara County and which doubtlessly will be available for your meeting on Monday. I have also attempted to secure this information from Imperial County through our Los Angeles office but at this writing have not received any pertinent information.

I am forwarding you under separate cover a map showing the location of various Japanese controlled areas in the vicinity of Salinas. I am also enclosing a duplicate copy of Japanese leasing land in the vicinity of Salinas. Full credit for this report and map should be given to Mr. Clarence Nielsen, 232 Acacia Street, Salinas, and Mr. Henry Pennington, Salesman with Cornell Tractor Company at Salinas. I believe that both of these men can give you a great deal more information than can be transmitted in a written report. I am also enclosing a summary of sugar beet acreage grown in the Spreckels District, including Santa Clara County, San Benito County, Santa Cruz County, and Monterey County. The first column gives the number of Japanese growers in these various Counties. The second column gives the total acreage grown, the third column gives the total acreage farmed by Japanese, and the fourth column the percentage of acreage farmed by the Japanese. We do not know whether these Japanese are aliens or American born Japanese.

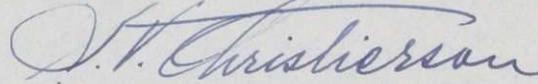
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Mr. Earl Warren, Attorney General-1/30/42-Page 2

Realizing that this report is extremely inadequate due to the shortness of notice, I hope that it might be of some small value.

I want you to feel free to call on our Organization at any time that we can be of any assistance.

Sincerely yours,



S. V. CHRISTIERSON
President

SVC:BT
Encls.

SUMMARY OF SANTA CRUZ, SANTA CLARA, SAN BENITO, AND MONTEREY COUNTIES FOR 1941 SEASON

SUGAR BEETS

| <u>County</u> | <u>Growers</u> | <u>Acres Farmed Total Acreage</u> | <u>Acreage Farmed By Japanese</u> | <u>Percentage Farmed By Japanese</u> |
|--------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Santa Clara County | 11 | 2181.9 Acres | 704.0 Acres | 32% |
| San Benito County | 30 | 3730.1 | 1036.9 | 28% |
| Santa Cruz County | 7 | 892.5 | 176.0 | 19% |
| Monterey County | <u>31</u> | <u>12,966.2</u> | <u>719.1</u> | <u>6%</u> |
| TOTAL | 79 | 19,770.7 | 2,636.0 | 13% |

As of August 5, 1941.

E. Higashi, Rt. 2 Box 1111, farms land owned by Mitsuo Ikeda at Togo's Shoe Store in Carr Flat.

E. and N. A. Holaday leases from Y. Yamashita, East Market Street.

Albert Ikeda, 2270 Alisal Road, leasing from Stanley Sherwood in Carr Flat.

May Rubota Ikeda, wife of Albert Ikeda and sister of Seiso Kabota, leasing from Stirling Carr in Carr Flat.

Harry M. Yamamoto leasing from Mrs. Emma Stirling on old Strawberry Farm head of Carr flat.

Ray Yamamoto leases from A. Ferrasci near Army Air Port.

Hermit Panziera leases to a Jap near Camp Ord. (K. Hirimoto)

M. Ickikawa leases from Bill Olsen on Harkins Road.

Albert Ikeda leases Gilman Huston Place in old lake bottom where pear orchard used to be at the Spence Underpass near Airport.

Monterey County Bank trustee for property Niski Farms Co. leases from Mary Harkins on Romie Lane.

M. Yokayama leasing from G. W. Hunter on Monterey Highway. Yokayama lives on old San Juan Road opposite Albertson.

Yoshida leasing from Spreckels Sugar Company.

I. Shingai leasing from Estate of Iva May Martin near twin bridges.

Yoshio J. Abe, Rt. 4 Box 150, Hitchcock Road, owns land.

Shigeru Higashioka, 10 McFadden Road, leasing from Mrs. Viola Gearhart and Josephine Tayler near Garin's Shed.

Yone Kojima, P.O. Box 726, leasing from J.A. Day, Monterey Road.

Y. Matano, P.O. Box 874, leasing from M. & E. Archer, end of Central Avenue on Davis Road.

Miyako Otsuki and Okio Tabuchi, Rt. 4 Box 130, leasing from Chris Machado, Blanco Road.

Itania Bros. have purchased a place somewhere west of town in the area from city limits to Legion Airport.

C. Taguni, 50 Monterey Highway, leasing from George Olsen.

P. Yamaguchi, 190 Monterey Highway, leasing from Mrs. Chapman Tostio.

A. Yamashita, Rt. 4 Box 170, Blanco Road, leasing from James Dolan.

Yoshio Hanazoni, Rt. 2 Box 535, Sherwood Road, owns land in Carr Flat.

San Francisco, February 16, 1942

Mr. S. V. Christerson
President, Western Growers Protective Ass'n.
1231 East Seventh Street
Los Angeles, California

Dear Sir:

Thank you very much for your letter of January 30th. The information contained therein and shown on the map which you kindly forwarded is very enlightening and I am extremely glad to have it here in my office.

We are continuing our investigation of the alien problem here in the State of California so naturally I am very glad to get any information that I can on this subject.

If at any time in the future your attention should be directed to any specific violations of the Alien Land Law or in fact any statute applying to aliens, I will be very glad if you will submit complete details of the alleged violations, naming persons and places.

Very truly yours,

EARL WARREN, Attorney General

By

SHERRILL HALBERT
Deputy Attorney General

SH:H

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January 24, 1942



427 7

Hon. Fletcher Bowron, Mayor
 City Hall
 Los Angeles, Calif.

Dear Sir:

We, here in the Wholesale Produce Terminal, are in direct and daily contact with the Japanese problem. We constantly see Japanese aliens doing "business as usual" with the blessing of our Government when a ruthless war is being waged by their Government against us.

It is a bitter pill to see the licenses of these aliens renewed, while they carry on their faces a smirking smile at what they definitely consider American weakness. When their licenses come up for renewal you are in a position to wield tremendous influence. We assure you that you will be representing the feelings of the vast majority here if you will fight these renewals to the finish.

By today's papers, we notice the matter of reopening Japanese schools is currently before you. The importance of preventing this cannot be overemphasised. When they are studying the Japanese language, especially under present war conditions, they are inescapably being taught allegiance to Japan. The use of the Japanese language should be entirely prohibited; it is used, under our very noses, in their negotiations among themselves as a weapon to thwart us. We see this done over and over here on the market.

Yours very truly,

RAY D. WALL

2/5/42 Answered by telephone
 BC:b *Suggested listening to Mayor Bowron's speech*
N.K.C.A. 6:30 this date.

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PRESIDENT

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MEMBER OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

Send the following telegram, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

1942, Feb. 4 AM

WESTERN, WASH.

ATTN: LEWIS B. LAWLER

WE THE MEMBERS OF THE LAKE VALLEY URGE THAT YOU USE YOUR INFLUENCE WITH THE DISTRICT GENERAL IN HAVING THE ENEMY ALIENS OF THIS VALLEY REMOVED FROM THE DESIGNATED WAR ZONE. ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS WE HAVE HAD RACE TROUBLES IN THIS VALLEY AND AS MANY OF OUR BOYS ARE NOW ON THE JAPANESE BATTLE FRONT, THE TENSION HERE IS GETTING TO BE VERY TENSE. IF THE JAPANESE WERE TO BOMB SOME OF OUR COAST CITIES IT WOULD SURELY LEAD TO A RACE WAR IN THIS DISTRICT.

EASTERN WASHINGTON BEET GROWERS ASS'N.
LEW EVANS, PRESIDENT
HARVE W. HART, SECRETARY AND TREASURER.

B

Western Growers Protective Association

WG.7

THE VEGETABLE AND MELON INDUSTRY OF CALIFORNIA AND ARIZONA

1231 EAST SEVENTH STREET

MICHIGAN 9441

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

C. B. MOORE, Managing Secretary



February 15, 1942

9771 FEB 19 42

EARL WARREN ATTORNEY GENERAL
SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE
CALIF. STATE

Warren

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Mr. Earl Warren,
Attorney General,
San Francisco, Calif.

Atten: Mr. Warren Oaley

My dear Sir:

At the request of Mr. S. V. Christiersen of Salinas, I am enclosing herewith recommendations of the Western Growers Protective Association, covering the Japanese situation in California and Arizona, recommended by the Board of Directors of this Association and passed as a resolution at its meeting on February 5th, 1942.

I trust this will be of some value to you in your negotiations with Federal officials covering this situation.

Yours very truly,

C. B. Moore

C. B. MOORE
Managing Secretary

CBM:K

Interview with Chester Moore, Secretary Manager and lobbyist for the Western Growers' and Shippers' Protective Association. I met Mr. Moore at his hotel room at 10:00 A.M. He is a large, genial man with a fine facility for dealing in glib generalities. I confronted him in the course of our conversation with three specific questions:

1- What did the Association do, as an organization, to further evacuation?

8 Answer: "The board of directors of the Association simply passed a resolution in favor of evacuation (copy of which he will send me) but did not circulate this resolution among congressmen and did not advertise it widely in California. The Association simply took the stand because some action was demanded by the circumstances. That was all there was to it."

Comment: That, of course, was not all there was to it. ~~In other~~ ~~places~~ I have seen reference to the resolution in several of the congressmen's files as well as in a telegram to Attorney General Warren from Mr. Moore himself, in which it is stated that the resolution was being sent to Warren as "an aid in his fight."

2- Did the members of the Association individually favor evacuation for commercial purposes? (The question, of course, was not put so bluntly.)

Answer: "Of course not. Farmers of our group had no commercial motive in urging evacuation because they had practically no competition from Japanese. We represent large growers and shippers. The Japanese are small growers and small shippers. The competitive factor was exceedingly small. The reason our members actively pushed evacuation is because they have had closest contact with the Japanese and they, more than anyone else, knew the danger of having the Japanese in California."

3- How about the story that farmers in Salinas incited ~~ed~~ Filipinos to take extra-legal action against Japanese?

GR #11 Oct. 8 1942

Answer: "As a matter of fact, the opposite is true. Farmers in Salinas kept the Filipinos working seven days a week so that they would have no opportunity to go to town, get drunk, and go after the Japanese. But it was a mighty ticklish situation. Several dozen Salinas boys were on Bataan and even the whites were mighty jumpy. This accounts for the fact that Salinas farmers, by and large, were the most active in advocating evacuation. At the same time, they did everything in their power to head off violence."

The Protective Association offices in Los Angeles are at 1231 East 7th St. One agricultural group that opposed evacuation was connected with the Puritan Ice Company, Santa Barbara, who had farming interest in Guadaloupe. Their representative is Leo McMahon in Santa Barbara. Moore does not like McMahon and he might be a good man for us to see.

* * *

FA.1

REPORT ON JAPANESE ACTIVITIES IN THE CUT FLOWER INDUSTRY IN SO. CALIFORNIA

Prepared by: J. S. Whyte)

: 746 Wall St., Los Angeles Cal. Feb. 26, 1942

John Brown)

A short history of the Southern California Floral Association and a breakdown of its membership and their activities will cover the activities of all Japanese and other aliens engaged in the growing and selling of cut flowers in Southern California. The location of the farms of the Japanese are in so many of the "strategic areas" as named by the United States Army that it is impossible to ignore their significance. The cut flower industry and its sister industry, the nursery business is one of the important sources of income to the Japanese population in Southern California. ←

1. SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FLORAL ASSOCIATION, INC:

This Association was organized in May of 1933 under the N R A Act and was reorganized in October of 1933 as a trade association. The Board of Directors has at all times until the present been made up of approximately the same number of Japanese and Americans. The compilation of extensive statistics covering sales and business activities of all members has given us a very complete record of our members for the past nine years.

2. MEMBERSHIP:

420 growers (Japanese 220, Italian 24, German 22, others 153)
26 truck routes (Japanese 4, Italian 4, German 1, others 17)
9 shippers (Japanese 1, others 8)
905 retailers (Japanese 208, others 697)

3. NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES:

Growing: approximately 2400
Retailing: approximately 5000

224
1
208
453

4. LOCALE:

90 % of the growing fields and greenhouses are concentrated in Los Angeles County, the balance being located in San Diego County in the vicinity of Encinitas and Oceanside. Climatic and soil conditions in Los Angeles County are such that acreage in production is concentrated in a few areas. The Japanese, growing field flowers and seed crops, are located in the San Fernando Valley, with Whittier, Montebello, Dominguez Hill and Redondo Beach also having large numbers of Japanese growers.

5. MARKETS:

Retail stores are naturally scattered throughout the various business districts in Southern California. The entire wholesale industry and distributing point for all flowers grown in this area is located on Wall Street in Los Angeles, between 7th & 8th sts. There are two major markets and various smaller wholesale establishments. The largest of the wholesale markets is Japanese owned and operated. Land and buildings of this market are owned by the Blue Sky Investment Corporation, a holding company whose stock is owned by three Nisei. This corporation leases to the Southern California Flower Market, Inc., a non-profit corporation consisting of 160 Japanese members, (150 alien, 10 Nisei). The lessee corporation holds large notes from the lessor.

The other large market is the American Florists Exchange, Ltd., located at 754 Wall St., with 67 members, none of which are Japanese.

6. ACREAGE AND VALUATION:

There are 3290 acres devoted to cut flower growing of which 2140 acres are operated by Japanese whose principal crop is field flowers. While the annual sales amount to approximately \$4,800,000, the Japanese in growing the cheaper crops are able to do only about one-half of the total business or \$2,400,000.

7. MARKET TRENDS:

Since about 1935 the comparative volume of sales by Japanese has been on the increase. While in the retail field not only has there been an increase in the volume sold by the Japanese retailers, there has also been a substantial increase in the ratio of Japanese to Americans engaged in the Retail field. In the wholesale branch of the industry the Japanese have

7. MARKET TRENDS (cont'd):

not only increased in numbers but have slowly taken over several outlets formerly enjoyed by Americans.

It appears that there has been a planned attempt to accomplish in the cut flower industry what they successfully did some years ago in the vegetable field, namely through close cooperation growers and retailers by price control and competitive measures they have practically frozen out the American grower and retailer. Inter-related acts of various Japanese Associations (a tremendously important part of Japanese life) have forestalled all attempts of American growers to protect themselves when in competition with Japanese. All Japanese through their membership in the various associations have at one time or another contributed toward the breaking of markets and prices in the vegetable industry. Growers have been subsidized by their associations and the expense borne by other members in entirely different sections. While American Flower growers have so far been able to combat these activities with some success, they have been forced in many cases to lower their standard of living in order to meet this competition.

Detailed information on any of the above subjects can be furnished from the files of the Southern California Floral Association, 746 Wall St., Los Angeles by J. S. Whyte, manager or John Brown, statistician, either of whom may be reached at Trinity 4677.

Attached to this report are copies of various bulletins and maps which have been made from time to time by the above men.

(Tolan 11610)

FA.2

Exhibit 15 -- Statement by Asahel Curtis, Jr., Exec Secy, Seattle Retail Florists' Assn., Inc. March 2, 1942

The membership of the Seattle Retail Florists' Assn., Inc., comprised of Occidental and Nipponese, represent approximately 75 percent of the purchases of flowers for sale at retail within greater Seattle. Membership has always been open to Japanese, American or alien born, and every right extended to any other member has been granted those who have joined.

For the past 3 years we have had extensive negotiations with Japanese retailers, wholesalers, and growers, and spasmodic negotiations extending over the past 30 years.

The following remarks are predicated entirely upon these negotiations. We find ourselves entirely out of sympathy with this "holier than thou" attitude suddenly assumed since "Pearl Harbor."

We have not forgotten the remarks of Francis X. Chiujo, for the past 2 years president of the Japanese Retail Florists' Assn and now participating as the directing head in the activities of the Japanese American Civic League, when he said "We big now, we fight." Again we have not forgotten the remarks of the general chairman of the league, Mr. James Y. Sakamoto, when he said "the Japanese do not understand your American ways; half of them don't even speak English; it will take time, at least 2 years, for them to understand." Are we to assume that they have suddenly learned "overnight" since "Pearl Harbor?"

Mr. Thomas Matsuda and principally Mr. Kenji Ito, who spoke so eloquently in past negotiations in behalf of the Japanese and their American standards, even trying on one occasion to make us believe they introduced our methods of operation, need no comment; they are both under \$25,000 bond pending trial.

The Japanese infiltration into the floral industry is one of economic penetration with all its many ramifications, and indifference to all laws--Federal, State and city. This is accomplished with the bland expression "Me, no understand." Policing them becomes a problem of personally policing each and every individual.

We sincerely believe that leaving the Japanese, both American and alien born, on the coast during the present emergency would necessitate individual policing of every last one of them. Their leaders will tell you, as they told us 2 years ago, "We will police the Japanese for you." Unfortunately, we admit, we were chumps enough to believe that 2 years ago. Today we know better; we even have to police the ones who were going to do the policing, and that still holds true since Pearl Harbor, when of all times, you would expect them to avoid any possibility of difficulties.

There are a few Japanese who are truly loyal Americans and they have been our source of information regarding Japanese activity and sincerity before and since Pearl Harbor. We are quoting them when we make the following statements, and proof of their expressions may be had if so desired. "Many of the Japanese occupying greenhouses have expressed the loyalty of themselves and their American-born children to Japan, and the resistance of many others to being fifth columnists is being severely strained because of their unsettled status and severe drop in business, which is getting worse every day."

Right in the face of it all we wish to call your attention to the formation of the Japanese-American Civic League; it is the same old Japanese trait. It was formed for only one purpose--to protect the Japanese, the same as every other Japanese society. The Japanese in this case formed their own group, but did anybody else do it? Is there a German or Italian Civic League? No! If there were we would run them out of the country. Our experience has shown us that the majority of Japanese, American or alien born, are not American citizens in the true sense of the word and we wholeheartedly endorse any program of evacuation.

Following the declaration of war we secured from the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco Bulletin No. 168 and immediately called an emergency meeting of the association to explain to the members of the basis upon which they could do business with Japanese.

After careful consideration of the hardships we might expect from the lack of certain

certain flowers, the members, as individuals, stated that the future of the industry did not depend upon Japanese-grown flowers and many of the members have already put this position into practice. Subsequent meetings have brought forth these same statements.

This letter is sent you with the full approval of the entire membership of the board of directors, and its entire contents have been carefully considered by them.

(Tacoma 11523)

FA. 3

Resolutions adopted by Valley Protective Assn at meeting held in Auburn, Wash.,
February 28, 1942

Whereas we have a large percentage of Japanese in our population, and a considerable number of industries and timber resources necessary for the successful conduct of the war; and

Whereas we believe these Japanese are a menace to the continuous operation of our factories and the conservation of our timber resources; and

Whereas we believe these Japanese are all of the same race and physical characteristics so that no line can be drawn between citizen and alien, or between loyal and disloyal; and

Whereas we believe that the rising tide of feeling among our people will make it unsafe to leave the Japanese here and in view of the fact that any action on our part would only invite reprisal against Americans in Japan: therefore be it

Resolved, That it would serve the best interests of all concerned to remove, at the earliest possible moment, all members of the Japanese race to a place distant enough to insure the safety of our war industries.

And we recommend that a decision be made at once, in order that no delay may be made in placing white tenant farmers in the valley.

Two of the main crops, lettuce and peas, were a surplus last year and did not bring a profitable return to the grower. California, Idaho, and Colorado can, and does, supply the market for these commodities. Utah supplies the celery, and ~~white tenant farms~~ white tenant farms brought in from the outside can do general farming and truck gardening on a profitable basis, if brought in soon.

We have through the valley, both Bonneville and Grand Coulee high-tension lines and substations, costing millions of dollars. Both the water supplies ~~of Tacoma and Seattle~~ of Tacoma and Seattle pass through the valley and would be easy targets for sabotage, as well as our four main-line transcontinental railroads and terminals, with their seventy trains per day through the valley.

Thos. G. Sutherland, President

(Tolan)

FA.7

Exhibit 26--Correspondence from T.M. Bunn, Salinas Valley Vegetable Exchange
Salinas, Calif., on Evacuation and the farm labor problem.

Salinas Valley Vegetable Exch., Salinas, 3-5-42

Congressman John H. Tolan, Los Angeles

Dear Mr. Tolan: Please allow me to apologize for calling you personally on the phone, but the newspapers did not give us a clear-cut picture of what is intended of Japanese aliens and citizens that are supposedly to leave this area; and are citizens to liquidate their land investments?

These people want to know where they can settle and what are the economic possibilities in the different States. If other States will allow Japanese to own and farm lands and will accept them, we want to make plans to open up new deals and will liquidate our investments here and pull out of California.

The partnership owns outright 700 acres of land in Salinas and has approximately 5,000 acres under lease altogether in Arizona and California. It will take some time to liquidate some of our investments here.

I have enclosed a copy of my letter to General DeWitt simply explaining just what we could do here locally to help the labor situation. Unless we can use oriental help we cannot farm these lands economically and efficiently.

We are fighting this war to hold and further secure cheap labor. So if we can't secure it in California, we will commence to look elsewhere.

If we are unable to use Japanese in our labor camps, could we be allowed the use of our key Japanese-American foremen and to operate them under a Government licensing system and we to supply guards if that becomes necessary?

Please be kind enough to see that these thoughts are conveyed to the proper and interested parties.

Very truly yours, Salinas Valley Veg. Exch., by T.M. Bunn

S.V.V.E. Salinas, February 27, 1942

Gen. John L. DeWitt, Presidio of S.F., S.F.

Dear Sir: Please pardon me for taking the liberty of writing to you but I feel that the situation is of such urgency that a clear understanding of our labor picture should be presented to you immediately.

As I was unable to talk to you by phone, I explained the situation to Colonel McGill, so I am now mailing this letter to him and requesting him to see that it gets to you.

The above company is a partnership and is controlled and owned by Takeo Yuki, an American-born Japanese, and myself, also an American citizen. At the present time we are engaged in farming operations in the Imperial Valley, Calif., the Salt River Valley, Ariz., and here in the Salinas Valley, and own and lease land that is being farmed to lettuce, onions, spinach, celery, cantaloupes, wheat, and barley. Our deal comprises approximately 7,000 acres of land in all three districts.

In addition to employing Japanese foremen on these ranches (aliens and citizens), we had on our pay roll up to January 1 approximately 150 Japanese packingshed workers who were mostly citizens. Due to a Filipino shooting on New Year's Eve on Broadway Street, El Centro, Calif., a couple of our men were wounded. The district attorney and the sheriff there advised us that they heard rumors that the Congress of Indus. Org. was going to clean out our Jap crew and that the Filipinos might be dangerous and, for the safety of all, advised us to move these men. We complied their wishes and removed these men. I arrived in El Centro on the following Monday. Everything was quiet then so I just decided to keep the Japanese truck drivers on the job. We have 15 drivers, and they are all citizens and have been with us every since just before the big strike in Salinas in 1936.

The shed workers were all from Salinas and returned here to their home. Along with these men there are 50 to 100 more Japanese available who have since lost their lands. At the present time we are working about 100 Japanese at various jobs and are at present planting onions and lettuce.

We are about to complete our labor camp which we commenced constructing in November. It is located on the Finch Road in the Blanco District, Salinas. Built at a cost of \$25,000, it is strictly modern in every respect, and has complete facilities to accommodate 200 men. We had planned on putting Filipinos in this camp but due to the shortage of this kind of help and in view of the present surplus of Japanese labor, we would like to locate Japanese in this camp.

In case this camp comes within a restricted area or prohibited zone, we could arrange for guards and these men would be taken direct from the camp to our various fields in the Salinas Valley, comprising the area from Gonzales to Watsonville. In order to guarantee further protection, we could confine their work particularly to our Salinas area and take care of our Gonzales and Watsonville acreage with Filipinos who are not located in little camps on these ranches.

These Japanese are skilled for just such work as growing and harvesting of onions and garlic. The E.H. Spiegl Co. camp at Chular and the H.P. Garin Co. camp at Castroville house and feed Japanese and use them for this type of work.

We have a considerable bit of the finest land in the Salinas Valley and with this efficient Japanese help, we feel we can be of great assistance to the Government in producing of food stuffs during this national emergency, providing, of course, that this set-up is such that militarily it will not be inimical to national defense.

There is considerable thought on the part of our own resident farmers to take advantage of this situation and attempt to colonize farming areas in Idaho, New Mexico, and Nevada. I know of three such plans.

We realize economic problems are secondary to military defense, but, if during the next few days, further boundaries are established and the status of the Japanese in Salinas will become affected, we would appreciate it if you would consider allowing us the use of this camp for purposes mentioned.

Very truly yours, SVVE by T.M. Bunn

Mr. Tom C. Clark, Justice Dept., US Post Office Bldg., San Francisco

Dear Mr. Clark: At the request of Congressman John H. Tolan, chairman of Defense Migration Committee, I have been asked to forward a copy of this letter on to you.

We never figured that the status of a Japanese-American citizen would ever be upset. Now that this has happened, all we want to know is what is the Government or Army going to do about this situation?

If the Japanese all have to leave, this company will be able to cooperate effectively if we know whether or not their investments are to be liquidated, and if licensing privileges will be granted to one found to be loyal. We would also like to know if migration localities will be established for future private farming enterprises.

Very truly yours, SVVE by T.M. Bunn

House Committee Investigating National Defense Migration, Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Cullen: We wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter and galley proof of my testimony presented in San Francisco to the House Committee Investigating National Defense Migration. Corrections on the testimony are noted in the margin column of letters.

At the time these various letters were written, everyone was very upset and did not realize the gravity of the situation. The original orders from General DeWitt left our organization completely "up in the air" as to what the future plans would be. So in order to cooperate effectively in national defense and at the same time not to impair maximum productivity and efficiency of this company which was thought also important to national defense, we have sought to learn ways and means to cooperate with these orders so as to facilitate the transition and, if possible, to help locate these Japanese-American citizens in new work in other than defense proclamation areas--at all times bearing in mind a set-up that would not be inimical to national defense.

Now that the issue has been clarified and a definite order for evacuation has been issued, we realize that we cannot look elsewhere for economic development and the situation is completely in the hands of the Army and the Japanese are now awaiting Army orders requiring them to depart for reception centers. The testimony presented in my letters represented the situation at the time it was presented, but now that the evacuation order has been given the above statements are irrelevant to the present status of affairs. Please make this "additional material" a part of the original testimony and, if published in pamphlet form, please send me a copy.

Vty, SVVE by T.M. Bunn

Testimony of Floyd Oles, Manager, Washington Produce Shippers Association, Seattle, Washington

Statement (prepared; pages 11422-25)

1. Number of aliens in Washington
2. If Japanese evacuated, effect on crop production serious.
3. Credit to Japanese is being restricted
4. Crops affected: lettuce, peas, cauliflower, cabbage.
5. Japanese uncertain what prospects for them; plant or not?
6. The writer, manager of the WPSA, has encouraged aliens to remain on the soil.

"I believe this action on the writer's part has had a large measure of effect in stabilizing the situation and in keeping these people busy. It is becoming increasingly difficult to keep them at work in view of the hysteria and fear psychosis which seems to have gripped the people of the coast, concentrating their attention more on our local aliens and their children than on the war itself."

7. "It is the writer's belief that these aliens, supervised as they are by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, or as they may be by additional administrative provisions, are certainly no detriment to the public security when they are digging in the soil in agricultural areas. "
8. Approves plan of setting up defense zone and licensing loyal and essential persons to work within it. Wholesale evacuation of aliens would be, quoting Biddle, "an economic waste and a stupid error."
9. Tribute to good work of F.B.I.

Testimony summarized page 11425-11432

1. Oles is manager of the Washington Produce Shippers Association an overall cooperative group engaged in marketing in eastern markets of produce grown in ~~western~~ Washington, especially western. A cooperative, one-half being Japanese organization; 3/4's of the 2,500 farmers involved are Japanese..
2. Major national source of supply for peas; cauliflower important;
3. Japanese are curtailing production, uncertainly, less credit.
4. Supervision of alien's is possible; have been combed over by FBI. "If those evacuated from defense areas...were put on the soil in places such as we are discussing, in the agricultural areas... I havent the slightest doubt it could be done."
5. Battle of morale: Japs want to make us bring back forces to defense coast.
6. Widespread lack of confidence in Government. "Statement of February 14 by the Secretary of War and the Attorney General assuring the people on the west coast that the public security was well in hand

OVER

was not given any space whatsoever in any Seattle newspaper. We have been pushed around by a public hysteria which I seriously fear may not be emanating wholly from friendly sources. I refer, for example, to a person calling himself a Korean superspy."

7. Dangerous aliens: "It seems to me they certainly should be removed to a distance where there would be no possible connection between and defense plants. I am not meaning only Japanese when I say this at all--because our preoccupation with the Japanese is another evidence that we seem to regard our enemies as being extremely stupid people, which they probably are not....Any move made..(should be made) with respect to any person under suspicion or doubtful in any way."

8. Separate loyal from disloyal Japanese: "I think we can do it with the Japanese to precisely the same extent that we can do it with any other citizen, and no more. I...believe that it is going to be extremely difficult to separate loyal from disloyal citizens, quite aside from their racial characteristics or background."

9. Dangerous to Japanese not to evacuate? "There is that possibility..." Mentions possibility of invasion; cant distinguish local Japanese from invaders or Filipinos and Chinese. Cant distinguish Chinese or Filipinos from Japanese under those or normal conditions.

10. Many disloyal Americans, not necessarily German/ Italians

11. Commercial motive: "There is another angle of this thing that I must call to your attention, and I didnt mention it in my written statement. I have been approached by quite a number of interests who have a commercial motive in seeking the evacuation of the Japanese. In this area, farming is done...by small individual farmers...In our largest competing area in California, the major portion of the production is in the hands of farming corporations who do business on a grand scale. As one of them explained it to me on the phone the other day, "You people have been a pin prick in our back for a long time up there with your small production, and we think now we can get rid of you." Whether that is a large or small issue, or activating motive, I think that it should not be overlooked, because I receive in the mail every day ~~not~~, from these people in California, considerable volumes of propaganda on this point, eagerly seeking evacuation for commercial reasons."

12. Need to balance public security against agricultural production.

(Tolan 11283)

FA. 6

Exhibit 25 -- The Japanese and the Oyster Industry

Report by J. Burton Bowman, Olympia Oyster Growers Protective Assn., Shelton, Wash.

There has been so much clamor for the removal of all Japanese from the coastal area that we have hesitated to ask for the privilege of appearing before your committee in behalf of our employees. However, the problem of securing other help here and of finding localities which are willing to receive the Japanese evacuees seems to be so great that we now feel we should state our case and ask your consideration of our problem.

The oyster industry in the upper Puget Sound area around Olympia has had to depend upon Japanese labor almost entirely for many years and some of the men have worked for the same companies or individuals year after year. Others have come here more recently but have proven very satisfactory. Their removal will practically paralyze the industry just at the time of year when it is necessary, in addition to marketing the oysters, to move seed and to shell the ground to catch this year's spat.

The employees on the oyster beds live in floathouses anchored out in the water over the beds. Would it be possible to group these houses, have white men run the boats (rowboats with outboard motors, for the most part) and superintend all operations? We could arrange for their supplies so there would be no occasion for them to leave their houses except to work on the beds, under supervision as outlined above. I believe the men would gladly comply with all such regulations.

We have found the Japanese very satisfactory help in years of association with them. They are good workers, dependable and thoroughly law abiding. White men will not do the work on the beds. We have tried them many times in the past. Now there are none available. We should like to work out some arrangement whereby our employees could remain with us, if possible.

If it is necessary for the protection of the country that all Japanese be removed, we shall meet the situation as best we can, of course. If they are removed, however, we hope that they will be given full protection of person and property and treated kindly, as their conduct in the years we have known them surely merits better treatment than many of our people would give them.

Testimony of H.L. Strobel, Farmer, Monterey County

"I represent (in this particular instance) the vegetable interests of Monterey County more than any other particular group."

Removal of Japanese would not affect production of vegetables. "There will be no appreciable lessening of the flow to the eastern markets and to those canning and processing agencies which have formerly carried on their operations with some Japanese production."

"I think that it would be a mistake to evacuate the Japanese from California, and then turn them loose without any supervision of their activities in some other location or some other State....if there are areas within the State of California which are acceptable to the military authorities where these people might be evacuated and for their own protection where they might be put under restraint of one kind or another...their services could be utilized under proper supervision. They might be taken out to work...in the morning and brought back at night. Their labor could be utilized."

quod.
lend.

Participation of Japanese in canning situation over-emphasized. American farmers could take up part of the acreage, given tomato plants.

Matter of taking over Japanese farms. Not intent to take advantage of or exploit the Japanese.

Loyalty: "I would say that it would be almost impossible for any man or for any agency to determine the extent of the loyalty of any Japanese to our country when you take into consideration ~~many of the statements~~...the fact that the Japanese children in my particular area and throughout practically the entire State of California and perhaps the United States...attend our schools for a certain time and then they in turn attend a Japanese language school...that the Japanese religion enters into, and that they have in many cases been taught that the Japanese emperor is their Emperor no matter if they...happen to be born in California or any other part of the world.

In a different category from German and Italian. "I believe that you have a better opportunity to determine whether a German or an Italian is loyal to this country than you would have with the Japanese. The Japanese have a racial similarity so that is very hard for the average man to note any difference between them when he sees them just occasionally. Unless they are all under restraint you will have no way of knowing who is who and ascertaining unless you stop each and every one of them, and by very minute inspection of permit...know what he was doing in a particular area.

Citizens should not object to infringement of civil rights; now at war.

Assoc. Produce Dealers and
Brokers of Los Angeles
L.A. February 18

Hon. Earl Warren:

Dear Sir: I have been asked to give you a summary of what might be expected to happen in the Los Angeles market with respect ~~to~~ to feeding the metropolitan area if all Japanese were removed from the producing, wholesaling, and retailing of fresh fruits and vegetables. Incidentally, might I say this is now an academic question, because if the proper authorities do not take prompt steps to ~~rm~~ remove all Japanese, whether alien or citizens, from the coastal areas of this State, it seems inevitable that they will be removed in the near future by the public at large either through violence or insistent popular demand. I say this because the general public are much more apprehensive of the continued presence of Japanese running at large, with the most nominal supervision, than the people in this industry, who know the Japanese characteristics and traits much more than the general public and on the basis of this information should be more apprehensive than the general public.

(disc. of markets in L.A. area)

It is my considered opinion... that the removal of all Japanese from southern California will not cause any serious dislocation in the feeding of this community.

(analysis of vegetables, etc.)

Yours truly

H.A. Harris, Secy-Mgr.

Tolan 11005

WGPA

WESTERN GROWERS PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION

Los Angeles, California

The following recommendation was adopted by the board of directors of the Western Growers Protective Association, at its regular stated directors' meeting on February 8, 1942:

The West. Gro Pro. Assn, whose membership is comprised of approximately 85% of the vegetable movement from California and Arizona, feeling that its experience with Japanese labor--both alien and American citizens of Japanese parentage--places it in a position to recognize the California agricultural situation better than any other body, calls to your attention the following facts:

California fresh vegetables and melons, as grown for shipment to the entire US, are grown by white growers in about 94%. The WGPA hereby goes on record as stating that the flow of California vegetables to the entire country would not be affected should either or both the alien Japanese or the American citizens of Japanese parentage be removed from the vegetable industry.

The WGPA and its members, through their assn. with Japanese aliens and American citizens of Japanese parentage, both as employers and farmers, feel that they are in a position to better know the character and feelings of such Japanese than any other group of men. It is the consensus of opinion of the WGPA and its members that "no individual alien Japanese, or that no individual American citizen of Japanese parentage, can be judged as to his loyalty solely by past experience." It is the opinion of said Assn. and its members that a good proportion of both alien Japanese and American citizens of Japanese parentage are loyal to the US of America, yet that some percentage of both aliens and citizens of Japanese parentage may be more loyal to Japan. Consequently, said WGPA and its members, realizing that both alien Japanese and American citizens of Japanese parentage who are loyal to the US would be willing to endure any hardship to eliminate the possibility of any disloyal action on the part of any of their group--petition that all alien Japanese and American citizens of Japanese parentage be removed to a point here, in the opinion of the Army and Navy, there may be no possibility of such disloyal action affecting the security of the US.

And, in conjunction with the recommendations of the LA County Defense Committee, the WGPA concur in the following recommendations of the said LA County Def Committee:

That Japanese in the following classifications be moved to points in the Rocky Mtn sugar-beet areas, or other areas deemed safe by the military authorities where housing facilities are available, regardless of whether their labor can immediately be used.

All Japanese who reside within 50 miles of the Pacific coast and Mexican border, or who reside in other areas within a 10-mile radius of munition plants or military camps; including--

- (a) Alien Japanese of all ages.
- (b) Nonalien Japanese under 18 years of age living with alien parents.
- (c) All other Japanese who have American citizenship, this to be attempted at first by an appeal that they remove themselves on their own volition. If this voluntary action is not immediate and fully effective the necessary Federal action should be undertaken.

Federal Security Administration should be charged with the responsibility of developing housing facilities. They should use wherever possible, the present facilities pending construction of other housing units.

The US Dept of Agric. should be charged with the responsibility of utilizing this labor to the fullest extent in the newly located regions.

The services of the State dept of agric. and the county agricultural commissioners be utilized to assist landlords and farm operators in finding new farmers to take over leased lands for harvesting of crops now planted and planting of new crops.

These recommendations are made with encouragement that action be complete and immediate.

over

STATEMENT

A substantial part of the Japanese population in southern California is located in rural areas. Farming operations particularly in the vegetable field are retarded pending definite and detailed instructions as to their disposition. The Japanese population is hesitating to prepare land and plant crops, fearing that they will shortly be removed from their present properties and other farmers are not making definite plans not knowing what the production from Japanese-tilled farms will be.

Vegetable production is on the "must list" of the Dept of Agric and must not only be maintained but increased during the current season.

It is fully recognized that there is at present some difficulty in connection with obtaining farm labor, and while the removal of Japanese will further accentuate this problem temporarily, it will give a base for developing labor plans which can be used during the war emergency period.

This recommendation is based upon the fact that they would be completely removed from coastal areas and that their labor could eventually be utilized to an advantage. They could probably relieve other labor in California from the necessity of migrating to those districts during the peak-load periods which are the spring and fall months.

Land vacated by Japanese removed as hereinabove outlined would probably amount to 15,000 acres in Los Angeles County. No official figures from other counties are not available to this committee. It is believed, however, that the total will exceed 40,000 acres in the counties from and including San Luis Obispo southward, some of which is not being planted and will not be in all probability if present conditions are continued. Under the supervision as outlined in the above if handled promptly and before the season is further advanced the land can be put to proper use and severe additional losses avoided. It may result in changing of some crops inasmuch as experienced labor would not be available to produce such items as celery. Other crops required by the Dept. of Agric would be substituted.

~~Associated Produce Dealers and Brokers of Los Angeles,
Los Angeles, Calif., February 18, 1942~~

Jan 1942 - o on Japanese or evacuation

Feb 1942 - Editorial (page 7)

(Realistic thinking vital)

Realistic thinking is needed in our relations with Axis peoples in this country, too. They should be handled just as our people would be handled if they were in the same situation as we find thousands here. They expect it; many of the Japanese nationals, for instance, are on lands close to military objectives. That they will be removed is a foregone conclusion, though the how and when is a matter for military rather than civilian decision. They must be removed for anyone who thinks they will 'just foolin'' in case of invasion still believes in fairies."

Japanese (page 7)

Removal of Japanese aliens from certain sections of California is announced as we go to press. All districts affected have not as yet been designated but it is expected that practically all of the coastal growing areas will eventually be included in the restrictions imposed by the United States Department of Justice, and certainly those adjacent to military objectives.

Obviously this news will be somewhat confusing to the trade who have been fed a great deal of misinformation during the past month as regards the status of the Japanese in the vegetable growing industry of California and Arizona. We had even local newspapers giving them credit for producing anywhere from all to none of our vegetables. ...

It should be said here, and at this time, that the action of the Justice Department in removing aliens from coastal California was not the result of the pressure of civilian groups within the state, but came in due course after a thorough investigation of conditions by the Army, Navy, and FBI, with certain cooperating but vocally silent civilian help. Unfortunately the efforts of some selfish land holding individuals and organizations to keep aliens on lands where they never have been, and the obviously commercial motives of certain others to get rid of them, added greatly to the problem of orderly investigation and planned evacuation.

What will be the status of American born Japanese in these sections remains to be seen, but in all probability they will be asked to give up their operations in certain, if not all restricted zones. It is a foregone conclusion that they will comply willingly for as citizens they feel, as we all do, that no sacrifice is too great in the interests of national security. Few own their own homes, due to California's Anti-Asian Land Laws, and most of them move frequently from district to district... For this reason evacuation will not work the same hardship as would be the case with other citizen-groups.

(Analysis of effect on the vegetable industry of the removal of aliens from the several districts). No effect on production of vegetables for canning or for eastern shipment.

However, the market garden story is considerably different. Here the percentage of Japanese operators is ~~very~~ large...

It is the ~~possible~~ possible curtailment of acreage in market garden sections, that is the districts which are now producing for the local markets,

Western Grouse & Chisels -

Jan '42 - nothing

Feb '42 - Edelon

which will most seriously affect the vegetable supply of the state. But this does not concern the Eastern operators, and as a matter of fact, it will not remain a problem long for local people. Certainly city folks have no reason to worry; their vitamin ration may be unbalanced for a while, but if the military authorities feel that this sacrifice is a necessary one, then its up to the citizenry to abide by their decision.

There is every reason to believe that they know what is best. War is a business for those trained in war.

Furthermore, it will be a matter of dislocation rather than permanent curtailment of acreage...

Incidentally, the alien Japanese element are going out of the wholesale produce trade in Los Angeles, and many of the large firms are on the market for a few cents on the dollar. It is reported that a syndicate of produce operators in the East, representing about the worst element on the New York and Chicago markets, sent representatives out to buy up a number of these houses. Displaying good judgment the market companies refused to lease them the facilities.

(Large percentage of 'strictly shore-line farming' represents out of season vegetables, exotic, not missed).

Still another point~~ix~~ that is over-looked is the fact that Japanese have mainly been principals of recent years, hiring Mexian or Filipino labor. True, they are hard workers and still do much of their own work, but the fact remains tht the old fable that now one but a Japanese, born in the old country where he was taught to work hard, can grow vegetables is erroneous. Their own sons have disproved this story. In recent years, many of the American born ~~works~~ have shown themselves tobe harder workers than their fathers, and certainly more progressive and intelligent. There will be plenty of real talent to take up vegetable growing in this area when restrictions are fully imposed.

All in all, should the present restrictions be extended to coastal lands, as most people feel they will be, and should these restrictions include all Japanese, alien or native, vegetable growing growing for eastern markets will not suffer, and while the supply of certain vegetables for the local markets might be affected for a while, the situation will soon right itself. It will soon be forgotten too, because the sacrifices it will impose will pale in significance to others we must necessarily make.

XX

March. Editorial (P.7)

Head: Congressional investigating committee wants to know what effect removal of Japanese will have on Calif. agric.

Congressman Tolan's National Migration Committee, which last year made such a splendid contribution to public understanding of the problems of the migratory worker in American agriculture by emphasizing the fact that California alone was not concerned in this matter, is now taking testimony of any major movement of Japanese people from Western land.

(shouãd make careful study of published data rather than rely on useless testimony.)

Army takes over (p.7)

Head: Army program will result in gradual removal of Japanese from practically all California and Arizona vegetable districts

In the most drastic step yet taken toward alien control, the Army, given sole charge of the alien situation on the P.C., declared the western half of Washington, Oregon and California, and the southern half of Arizona a military area as of March 3...

...a hasty study of the extent of the military area... indicates that military zone No. 1 encompasses lands which produce 85 percent of California's vegetables.

(DeWitt's statement on not removing them from interior)

California who are well advised as to the economics of the California vegetable industry and yet feel that the removal of persons of Japanese blood from coastal and even inland areas is a military necessity, hailed the Army's announcement as the first step taken toward a sound solution of the alien problem on the West Coast.

Until general DeWitt's announcement of March 3, general confusion existed in the public mind as to just what is going to occur in the fields and without a doubt certain groups were taking advantage of this situation. In fact...Cecil publically asked second hand dealers as their patriotic duty to cease buying farm equipment from Japanese being evacuated from their farms..The Director implied that the Japanese be first given an opportunity to deal for the sale of their implements or animals with the new tenant or owner. He suggested that the new tenants offer a fair purchase price for all equipment. When the new tenants move on the property to farm it and find it lacking in essential equipment, the result is that farm production is reduced or seriously delayed, Cecil said.

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April 1942. Editorial (p.7)

The evacuation of Japanese from vegetable districts of the Los Angeles basin and the Guadalupe-Santa Maria section may result in a considerable change in the source of supply of certain vegetables for the Los Angeles market....inasmuch as the Los Angeles wholesale trade pretty much handles the distribution of fruits and vegetables for the ~~xx~~ ten southern counties.

(where getting stuff)

Evacuation speeded (p.7)

While the orderly removal of people of the Japanese race from military areas of the West is being carried forward by the Army and its civiliancooperating agencies, vegetable growers are proceeding with usual spring planting and harvesting with prospects of normal production of most crops in most areas. Only in L.A. County, where from 1,200 to 1,500 Japanese farmers plant around 33,000 acres of vegetables and berries annually for the Los Angeles market and the Guadalupe-Santa Maria district, another producing section for vegetables for consumption in Southern

(over)

California, has there been any delay in planting. Production in the Los Angeles County areas is expected to show a drop during a couple months of summer, but as other operators are taking up where evacuated Japanese leave off, any shortage of supplies for L.A., it is believed will be confined only to a few crops and then for but a short period this summer.

(some of already planted acreage may not produce expected yields.)

Salinas-Watsonville district, Imperial valley, Arizona, and other sections where the bulk of California vegetables are produced are taking the evacuation program in their stride. Because the majority of plantings in these areas were under white American operations with the latter either in full control or hiring Japanese as labor orrnach foremen only, the Army program will not have any material effect on the shipping vegetable crops of the state.

((Japanese under curfew laws; will be housed in communities in 4-5 weeks)

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New Farmers (p. 8)

(services offered by Farm Security; assist Japanese to sell; new farmers to take up