

FB.1

February 7, 1942.

Honorable A. J. Elliott  
United States Representative  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

In reply to your wire of February 6, the Board of Directors of the Kern County Farm Bureau have instructed me to inform you that white farmers can produce anything better than the Japs and it was the consensus of opinion that the sooner the Japanese are removed from the Pacific Coast, the better it will be for all of us.

We anticipate a shortage of agricultural labor in California for the coming year, but will have to take other means of adding to our labor supply. I will write you a fuller account of our plans in that regard in the near future.

Very truly yours,

FRANK R. STOCKTON, President  
Kern County Farm Bureau

FB.2

POSTAL TELEGRAPH & CABLE COMPANY

T E L E G R A M

FEBRUARY 9, 1942

ALFRED J ELLIOTT  
UNITED STATES CONGRESS  
WASHINGTON D C

CONCENSUS OF OPINION OF COUNTY WIDE COMMITTEE ORGANIZED FOR PURPOSE OF  
STUDYING AGRICULTURAL LABOR NEEDS FOR 1942 IS THAT ALL JAPANESE INCLUDING  
CITIZENS SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM WEST COAST AREA STOP ONE JAPANESE BY  
DESTROYING POWER OR WATER FACILITIES COULD DESTROY MORE CROPS THAN ALL  
JAPANESE GROW

FRANK STOCKTON, PRESIDENT  
KERN COUNTY FARM BUREAU

# CARAYAN BOND

FB 3

COPY

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS TAKE ALL ACTION NECESSARY TO PROTECT THE PACIFIC COAST FROM SABOTAGE AND TO ENFORCE THE CALIFORNIA ALIEN LAND LAW.

WHEREAS, it is common knowledge that thousands of acres of farm lands in California are occupied and farmed by Japanese of the first and second generation, and present information is that there are approximately 17,000 acres farmed by Japanese in Imperial County, California, and

WHEREAS, Senate Resolution No. 30 was adopted by the California State Senate setting forth that the California alien land law was adopted to prevent aliens ineligible to citizenship from directly or indirectly acquiring any interest in or dominion over land used or to be used for agricultural purposes, and that through subterfuge and device the Alien Land Law has been circumvented and that American-born Japanese have been substituted for their alien parents as owners or lessors, and that great areas of land over which such aliens exercise all the rights of ownership are situated along the shore lines of this State and in many other places equally vital to the military, political and economic welfare of this State, and said Senate Resolution recommended that the Attorney General and other proper law enforcement officers of this State investigate and prosecute all evasions of the alien land law, and

WHEREAS, certain State agencies are recommending that American farmers continue to lease their lands to American born Japanese, whose loyalty is assured, and

WHEREAS, it is impossible to determine the loyalty of any Japanese, whether alien or American born, until the test comes, and in most cases that would be fatal,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that it is for the best interests of the people of California, to the United States and to our boys in the service who are fighting for us so that we may remain safe at home, that every possible step be taken to remove all Japanese from the Pacific coast area for the duration of the war, and that public agencies cease from advocating the leasing of California farm lands to Japanese, either American or foreign born for the duration of the war, and further, that our law enforcement agencies take immediate steps to enforce the California alien land law.

(Adopted at Regional Meeting, El Centro, February 7, 1942. Endorsed by San Bernardino County Farm Bureau at Board of Directors' Meeting at San Bernardino, February 11, 1942.)

# San Joaquin Farm Bureau Federation

145 S. AMERICAN STREET PHONE 2-6306

ROBERT BALLANCE, PRESIDENT  
ROUTE 1, BOX 135, ESCALON, CAL.

STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA

GEORGE  
ROUTE 5

HARVEY S. VAN VLEAR  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

February 14, 1942

FB.4

OFFICE OF FBI  
RECEIVED  
FEB 20 1942  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
MAR 17

To the Honorable Francis Biddle  
Attorney General of the United States  
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

The Directors of the San Joaquin Farm Bureau Federation in their regular monthly meeting today in Stockton, California, unanimously went on record as follows on the Japanese Situation:

"That the San Joaquin Farm Bureau Federation takes the stand that Japanese farmers are not essential in the production of food and fiber for our national policy."

"That the San Joaquin Farm Bureau Federation favors the strict enforcement of the Alien Land Law."

"That the San Joaquin Farm Bureau Federation condemns the practice of land owners aiding or assisting in the making of leases or the transfer of title to land to alien Japanese."

"That the San Joaquin Farm Bureau Federation petitions the Governor and Federal authorities to declare martial law in California."

We trust that you will give this action by our Directors serious consideration.

Very truly yours,

San Joaquin Farm Bureau Federation

*H. S. Van Vlear*

H. S. Van Vlear,  
Executive Secretary

*778 file*

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146-13-2-0

FEB 21 1942

RECEIVED  
FEB 21 1942  
E. J. J.

Charge to the account of \_\_\_\_\_ \$

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
DOMESTIC	CABLE
TELEGRAM	ORDINARY
DAY LETTER	URGENT RATE
SERIAL	DEFERRED
OVERNIGHT TELEGRAM	NIGHT LETTER
SPECIAL SERVICE	SHIP RADIOGRAM

Patrons should check class of service desired; otherwise the message will be transmitted as a telegram or ordinary radiogram.

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# WESTERN UNION

1206-B

R. B. WHITE  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

CHECK
ACCOUNTING INFORMATION
TIME FILED

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

TO THE ATTACHED LIST:

Berkeley, California. February 18, 1942.

HAS YOUR COUNTY FACILITIES FOR HOUSING IN A CAMP UNDER DIRECT STATE OR FEDERAL CONTROL, ONE HUNDRED OR MORE JAPANESE EVACUATED FROM FORBIDDEN ZONES, AND CAPABLE OF PERFORMING AGRICULTURAL LABOR? DO FARMERS DESIRE SUCH CAMP? DO FARMERS IN YOUR COUNTY WISH TO EMPLOY OR PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT FOR SUCH LABOR AND TO WHAT EXTENT? SPECIAL HOUSE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE MIGRATION MEETS SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, IN SAN FRANCISCO TO STUDY PROBLEM. FARM BUREAU COMMITTEE ON JAPANESE MATTER DESIRE TO PLACE ABOVE INFORMATION IN HANDS OF HOUSE DEFENSE COMMITTEE AND ATTORNEY GENERAL EARL WARREN. IMMEDIATE AND FULL INFORMATION IS NECESSARY. WIRE COLLECT, THIS OFFICE BEFORE NOON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20.

RAY B. WISER.

Charge to the account of \_\_\_\_\_

TYPE OF SERVICE DESIRED	
DOMESTIC	CABLE
TELEGRAM	ORDINARY
DAY LETTER	URGENT RATE
SERIAL	DEFERRED
OVERNIGHT TELEGRAM	NIGHT LETTER
SPECIAL SERVICE	SHIP RADIOGRAM

Patrons should check class of service desired; otherwise the message will be transmitted as a telegram or ordinary cablegram.

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# WESTERN UNION

1206-B

R. B. WHITE  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

CHECK
ACCOUNTING INFORMATION
TIME FILED

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

Send Attached Day-Letter to:

- 1 Secretary, Butte County Farm Bureau, Federal Building, Oroville, California.
- 2 Secretary, Fresno County Farm Bureau, 106 Court House, Fresno, California.
- 3 Secretary, Imperial County Farm Bureau, Court House, El Centro, California.
- 4 Secretary, Kern County Farm Bureau, 2610 "M" Street, Bakersfield, California.
- 5 Secretary, Los Angeles County Farm Bureau, 129 West 2nd Street, Los Angeles, California.
- 6 Secretary, Merced County Farm Bureau, County Library Building, Merced, California.
- 7 Secretary, Orange County Farm Bureau, 353 South Main Street, Orange, California.
- 8 Secretary, Riverside County Farm Bureau, 3937 Orange Street, Riverside, California.
- 9 Secretary, Sacramento County Farm Bureau, Federal Building, Sacramento, California.
- 10 Secretary, San Bernardino County Farm Bureau, 302 Court Street, San Bernardino, California.
- 11 Secretary, San Joaquin County Farm Bureau, 145 South American Street, Stockton, California.
- 12 Secretary, Santa Clara County Farm Bureau, 2271 The Alameda, Santa Clara, California.
- 13 Secretary, Siskiyou County Farm Bureau, Court House, Yreka, California.
- 14 Secretary, Solano County Farm Bureau, County Library Building, Fairfield, California.
- 15 Secretary, Sonoma County Farm Bureau, Court House, Santa Rosa, California.
- 16 Secretary, Stanislaus County Farm Bureau, Federal Building, Modesto, California.
- 17 Secretary, Sutter County Farm Bureau, P. O. Bldg., Yuba City, California.
- 18 Secretary, Tulare County Farm Bureau, P. O. Bldg., Visalia, California.
- 19 Secretary, Yolo County Farm Bureau, Court House, Woodland, California.
- 20 Secretary, Yuba County Farm Bureau, P. O. Bldg., Marysville, California.

to the account of

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CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
DOMESTIC	CABLE
TELEGRAM	ORDINARY
DAY LETTER	URGENT RATE
SERIAL	DEFERRED
OVERNIGHT TELEGRAM	NIGHT LETTER
SPECIAL SERVICE	SHIP RADIOGRAM

Patrons should check class of service desired; otherwise the message will be transmitted as a telegram or ordinary cablegram.

COPY

# WESTERN UNION

1206-B

CHECK
ACCOUNTING INFORMATION
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R. B. WHITE  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN 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

FV 225 33 COLLECT - MERCED CALIF 18 3 40 P 1942 FEB 18 PM 4 07

RAY B WISER, PRESIDENT, CALIFORNIA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION  
2161 ALLSTON WAY, BERKELEY, CALIF.

MERCED COUNTY USDA WAR BOARD AND MERCED COUNTY FARM LABOR SUB COMMITTEE HAVE  
GONE ON RECORD AS BEING VERY MUCH OPPOSED TO INTRODUCTION INTO MERCED COUNTY  
OF JAPANESE EVACUATED FROM FORBIDDEN ZONES.

BERNICE LOBO, SECRETARY.

USDA LOBO

6

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
DOMESTIC	FOREIGN
GRAM	FULL RATE CABLE
DAY LETTER	DEFERRED CABLE
NIGHT MESSAGE	NIGHT CABLE LETTER
NIGHT LETTER	WEEK-END CABLE LETTER
SHIP RADIOGRAM	RADIOGRAM

Patrons should check class of service desired, otherwise message will be transmitted as a full-rate communication

# Postal Telegraph

THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM

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Cables



All America  
Cables

Mackay

Radio

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TIME FILED

STANDARD TIME

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

Form 2

F61 SB298 84 DL COLLECT SANTA ANA CALIF

RAY B WISER -

FEB 19 PM 12 51

FARM BUREAU - 2161 ALLSTON WAY, BERKELEY, CALIF -

FACILITIES FOR HOUSING EVACUEES NOT AVAILABLE ORANGE COUNTY. LOCAL SENTIMENT VERY OPPOSED AS HAVE MORE JAPANESE ALREADY THAN WANT. BELIEVE NOBODY EXCEPT OTHER JAPANESE WOULD EMPLOY THEM. MOST TOLERANT LOCAL SENTIMENT WOULD ALLOW KEEPING SOME KEY AMERICAN CITIZENS OF JAPANESE PARANTAGE BUT MAINTAINING CLOSE SURVEILLANCE OVER ALL TO ASSURE PRODUCTION AND SAFETY FOR THEM AND US. GREAT MAJORITY LOCALLY CONSIDER THIS DEFENSE AREA AND INSIST UPON REMOVAL OF ALL JAPANESE AMERICANS AS WELL AS ALIENS FROM ORANGE COUNTY. EMOTIONS MOUNTING AND VIOLENCE POSSIBLE -

C. J. MARKS/

7

COPY

LOS ANGELES COUNTY FARM BUREAU  
800 SPRING AND SECOND BUILDING  
129 West Second Street  
Los Angeles, California

February 18, 1942

Mr. Ray B. Wiser, President  
California Farm Bureau Federation  
2161 Allston Way  
Berkeley, California

Dear Mr. Wiser:

In answer to your telegram of the 18th, Los Angeles County Farm Bureau desire Japanese interned. Housing would be available if Army finds internment in Los Angeles County necessary. Labor would be used during harvest season if no other available.

Sincerely

CAG:an

President

(Signed) Camille A. Garnier

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RIVERSIDE COUNTY FARM BUREAU  
3937 Orange Street  
Riverside Calif.

February 19, 1942.

Mr. Ray B. Wiser, President,  
California Farm Bureau Federation  
2161 Allston Way  
Berkeley, California

Dear Mr. Wiser:

We are replying to your wire by letter in order to give you additional information that would be too lengthy for telegraph. We are enclosing a clipping from the Riverside Enterprise, this morning's paper; this newspaper has wide circulation, morning and evening, throughout the county.

Riverside County is lacking in housing accommodations for such a camp. At present ranchers do not need that type of labor and farmers contacted refuse to employ Japanese labor. Many ranchers feel danger of race riot between Japanese evacuees and established Mexican labor.

On account of National Defense projects, March Field, Camp Haan, and Ryan Air School, such a camp is considered dangerous to national safety. Storage reservoirs for both domestic and irrigation water system, plus storage in reservoir and 150 miles of Aqueduct for Metropolitan Water District established in Riverside County would be subject to possible sabotage under proposed camp as well as numerous railroad and highway projects.

Farm Bureau is opposed to any Japanese being brought into Riverside County with or without supervision. Japanese already here should be sent immediately into the interior of the United States definitely beyond the range of 150 mile combat zone as defined by the War Department.

Sincerely,

(Signed) Viola Erickson

Secretary.

EXCERPT - RIVERSIDE ENTERPRISE

February 19, 1942.

DILLON PROTESTS JAP  
"INVASION" OF VALLEY

Supervisor Robert E. Dillon, protesting the "invasion" of the Coachella valley by Japanese excluded from vital defense areas in the Los Angeles metropolitan area, said yesterday afternoon that he will propose Monday that the county supervisors ask federal authorities to take steps to prevent additional Japanese settlers in that section of Riverside county.

Just within the past few days numerous Japanese from Los Angeles have come to the valley and have been employed by other Japanese as farm workers, while long-time residents of the regions - many of them Mexicans - who have worked in the fields have been discharged, Dillon asserted.

The Coachella valley is an important area for California defense in that it lies in the direct route of air travel between the Los Angeles region and eastern points, and a substantial Japanese population in the Indio sector would be "dangerous", the fourth district supervisor asserted.

The Riverside County Defense council is being provided full information on the situation so it can likewise present the matter to federal authorities, Dillon said.

It is Dillon's belief that Japanese, who are being excluded from certain areas and are required to move, should be interned rather than being permitted to settle at their own pleasure.

COPY

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY FARM BUREAU  
302 Court Street,  
San Bernardino, California.

February 18, 1942.

Ray Wiser, President,  
California Farm Bureau Federation  
2161 Allston Way -  
Berkeley, California

Gentlemen:

We are enclosing resolution passed by Region No. 1 at El Centro regarding the Japanese situation which was endorsed at our Board of Directors' meeting on February 11.

In reply to your telegram, we do not believe that our county has any facilities for housing in a camp under direct state or Federal control, Japanese evacuated from forbidden zones. From my own observations, I do not believe that our farmers desire such a camp, nor would they wish to provide employment for such labor.

Most of our people feel that with war activities in the immediate neighborhood, a quartermaster's depot, magnesium shell loading plant, airplane maintenance and repair depot in prospect, air schools at Ontario, at Adelanto and at Muroc and a contemplated landing field at Daggett, this area should be declared vital to the defense of the Pacific Coast from which Japanese should be barred.

I am enclosing a clipping from the San Bernardino Sun which I think is fairly indicative of the feeling of farmers throughout the county.

Very truly,

(Signed) R. C. Gerber

R. C. Gerber, Secretary

Charge to the account of \_\_\_\_\_

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CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
DOMESTIC	CABLE
TELEGRAM	ORDINARY
DAY LETTER	URGENT RATE
SERIAL	DEFERRED
OVERNIGHT TELEGRAM	NIGHT LETTER
SPECIAL SERVICE	SHIP RADIOGRAM

Patrons should check class of service desired; otherwise the message will be transmitted as a telegram or ordinary cablegram.

# WESTERN UNION

1206-B

CHECK
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TIME FILED

R. B. WHITE  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN 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

FV 7 36 NT COLLECT - RIO VISTA CALIF FEB 19

1942 FEB 20 AM 7 58

RAY B WISER  
CALIFORNIA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

GROUP OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY FARMERS MET THIS WEEK. FEELING WE DON'T WANT ANY EVACUATED JAPANESE IS DEVELOPING RAPIDLY UNLESS CONFINED TO CONCENTRATION CAMPS SOME INDIVIDUAL GROWER MIGHT ACCEPT SOME THIS COULD BE DETERMINED BY SURVEY.

CLIFFORD TOTMAN

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CIVILIAN BOND  
KERN COUNTY FARM BUREAU

Bakersfield, California  
February 19, 1942

Mr. Ray B. Wiser, President  
California State Farm Bureau Federation  
2161 Allston Way  
Berkeley, California

Dear Mr. Wiser:

There is not a power plant, power line, canal, division wire, highway or oil or gas line in this area that any effort is being made to guard. Japanese suspected of being enemies of this country are allowed to move about apparently at will. Japanese camps are practically unguarded. One bomb placed where oil and gas and power lines all cross the highway between Los Angeles and the San Joaquin Valley would totally disrupt industry in Los Angeles area. One Jap could burn every division wire on Kern River and it would be an accident if anyone would know about it for weeks. It is probably the same on all our other streams.

Every community and every industry of any size in California depends upon transportation of water, fuel, power and products over long lines all of which could be cut by a single individual in their present unguarded state. To guard them would take an enormous number of men and even then it is doubtful whether it could be done effectively. It is the universal opinion here that all enemy aliens and all Japanese should be concentrated in areas away from vital communication lines and should be rigidly guarded and that they should be made to contribute their labor to the defense effort to the fullest extent.

There may be Japanese loyal to this country, but it would be impossible to distinguish them from those who are not. The greater the experience with Japanese the greater the distrust under these conditions.

We had a lesson at Pearl Harbor which might be called a primary lesson. The blame for negligence there was placed afterward. We want to know who to place the blame upon before we get our advanced lesson here. Let the man or men responsible for the lack of action in providing protection so essential in this state step forward and assume that responsibility now so that we may know whom to charge with arson, murder and treason later, for if action is not taken immediately, they will be guilty.

It is the opinion of the Directors of the Kern County Farm Bureau, the Kern County Committee on agricultural labor, representing all agricultural districts of the county, the Agricultural Committee of the County Defense Council, and the County Board of Supervisors that all Japanese should be removed from the state now and provisions made for utilizing their labor later.

The enclosed communication may be of interest.

Yours truly,  
FRANK STOCKTON, President  
Kern County Farm Bureau

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California Farm Bureau Federation,  
2161 Allston Way,  
Berkeley, Calif.

February 19, 1942

Attn: Committee on Japanese

Gentlemen:

In regard to the Japanese situation upon which we have sent a wire addressed to Ray Wiser, we would like to make the following comments as personal opinion, without official action of the Orange County Farm Bureau, but believed to represent a good cross-section of the opinion of its members:

It would have been a wiser procedure, as far as Orange County is concerned, if a rather general evacuation of Japanese had taken place earlier and no Japanese who had been evacuated from defense areas had been allowed to move into Orange County. Orange County has good reason to believe that it is as much a defense area as a large portion of Los Angeles County is. Any possible acreage that might be devoted to agriculture for Japanese who might come to the county is either in the vicinity of oil wells, along a small strip next to the coast, next to defense industries, airports or army encampments, or in other strategic positions for possible sabotage. Any attempt to move Japanese from other areas into Orange County now is adding insult to injury and will cause more trouble.

Orange County is criss-crossed with vital defense highways and the experience at Pearl Harbor prove the importance of having such roads free from obstruction.

Within the county there is only one alien Japanese farmer who appears to be accepted by those who know him best as being loyal to America and he has stated that he is ready to bow to the inevitable. There are several American citizens of Japanese parentage whose loyalty may be unquestionable, but for their own sakes as well as the sake of the general welfare, these citizens, if left here, should be provided with reliable guards whose duty it would be to prevent violence from them or to them. If it can be done, these citizens should be given an opportunity to produce food for the nation in a territory where there can be no opportunity for any disloyal acts that would have serious consequences...a lot of the citizens cannot be trusted.

If there is a removal program that will take away owners or operators of agricultural property, it should be handled so that competent agricultural men will have charge of the properties left behind. These men, of course, must also have business acumen that will allow proper handling of such properties. I have previously suggested Ross E. Crane for that position in Orange County. He is the assistant farm advisor in charge of truck crops.

We are regularly having applications for acreage being given up by Japanese. These requests come from whites, Mexicans and Koreans. Wherever possible we are attempting to place reliable whites on such properties. There would probably be some abandonment of vegetable acreages but not a major abandonment. Some acreage in vegetables now would be placed in other crops.

2.

Orange county is not a place that has overbuilt in houses. There is no available space for housing of evacuees of this sort. If there is need for additional labor, the local feeling is that if it cannot be supplied from some other source, it should be imported from Mexico. Japanese labor cannot be used.

The China prison is blessed with about 2000 acres of potential or actual vegetable land and provides good housing. It might be used as an incarceration camp for such people, who would be required to till the soil and furnish food for other institutions in California. It is also equipped for close guarding of any inmates.

In Orange county, as in other regions, no Japanese is trusted by the general public anymore, even though he may be perfection as a loyal American citizen.

It has reached a point where there are only two courses:

First: one course is to remove all Japanese, citizens and aliens, from the county.

Second: the other course would be to remove almost all the Japanese, keeping only a few believed to be loyal and owners and operators of substantial agricultural enterprises, and to keep these few under very close guard and restriction for the duration.

We do not wish to appear unduly alarmed but there is a growing tendency to violence against the Japanese and a growing sullenness among the Japanese...both of which could be expected. Citizens of Japanese parentage are becoming more demanding and resentful at the treatment they are receiving. The resentfulness may be the mark of a true American who is seeking to do his duty but is being persecuted to some extent; but it also causes increased bad feeling. So for their own good and for the good of the general public, all of this group whose loyalty is at all questioned should be moved to some spot where contact with the general American public is not possible.

It is also my considered opinion that you, the committee for the California Farm Bureau Federation, would be supported by the farmers of this county if you were to take the position that all Japanese---aliens and citizens of Japanese parentage---be removed from the coastal area to an inland section where there will be no possibility of them being a menace to the welfare of America and where citizens will not be menaced by others.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Frank C. Latham

F. C. Latham,  
President,  
Orange County Farm Bureau

fcl/cjm

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# CARAVAN BOND

EXCERPT - SAN BERNARDINO DAILY SUN

February 18, 1942.

POLICE CHIEF'S  
PROTEST SENT  
U.S. OFFICIALS

Cole Acts After Two Japanese Families Ordered From L. A. Harbor Move Into City.

Chief of Police James W. Cole last night addressed a protest to U. S. Attorney-General Francis D. Biddle against permitting Japanese families ousted from Terminal Island to settle in San Bernardino, an area which the officer described as vital to the defense of the Pacific coast.

Chief Cole acted after two Japanese families ordered out of the Los Angeles harbor district established residences in San Bernardino. The father of one of the families was detained by federal agents, said the officer. In the same family is the wife of a Japanese who returned to his native land. She is the sister of the mother of several children, all American-born.

Both families presented their alien registration and identification cards to the postoffice, as is required under the alien control act, said Chief Cole, who accompanied his officers to the homes of the two families to interview them.

U. S. Act Necessary

"Without the federal government declaring San Bernardino an area from which enemy aliens are barred we cannot prohibit the Japanese ordered out of other districts from moving into the city," said Chief Cole.

"I do protest, however, against the failure to declare San Bernardino a vital defense area. I contend this is a vital area because of our rail transportation facilities, utility lines serving the Los Angeles metropolitan and harbor districts and because of the installation of major military projects, now under way.

"I do not believe Japanese - or other enemy aliens - should be permitted to establish themselves in San Bernardino and have so protested to the federal government. Insofar as possible we have kept the Japanese residents of the city under surveillance as a defense move. If others are to be permitted to settle in the city, I fear a menace to defense."

Protest Sent Clark

Mr. Cole said he would likewise forward a protest to Tom C. Clark, western coordinator of enemy alien control, who conferred with navy and army officers last week in the major defense areas of California. The conferences apparently lead to the evacuation of hundreds of Japanese from Terminal island, in Los Angeles harbor, where are some of the Southlands major defense works.

Previously, wide areas along the coast and extending into interior California were declared enemy alien control districts. San Bernardino was not included in the areas, however.

MEMORANDUM

San Joaquin Farm Bureau Federation telephoned in response to the wire from Mr. Wise, and stated that they had considered his request in regard to the Japanese situation and would like, if it were possible, to have 1,000 Japanese in a pool at some convenient place in the county from which large growers could secure labor as needed.

If a pool of 1,000 was not possible they stated that if the Japanese would cut asparagus and perform similar agricultural work, the following persons could handle and would take on their ranches the number set opposite their names:

Ross Zuckermann	100
California Delta Farms	200
W. Zuckermann	200
John Kelly	75
Gordon Lacey	150

They very much desired to have the pool of 1,000 established as there were other individuals who desired some of the help but not in sufficient quantities to provide the necessary camp on their own places.

February 19, 1942.

Phoned by Harvey Van Vlear to J. J. Deuel.

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SANTA CLARA COUNTY FARM BUREAU  
2271 The Alameda,  
Santa Clara, California.

February 19, 1942.

SPECIAL DELIVERY

Mr. Ray B. Wiser, President,  
California Farm Bureau Federation  
2161 Allston Way  
Berkeley, California

Dear Mr. Wiser:

In reply to your telegram received yesterday we are sending you this letter instead of a wire, believing that it will more satisfactorily present our ideas in regard to the jap situation.

In the Moreland District in this county the FSA recently purchased some 56-acres for future labor camp site. However, there are absolutely no improvements on this property except a couple of old equipment buildings. The property adjoins a creek and it is claimed that drainage and sewage conditions could be developed at nominal cost and expense if and when a labor camp should be established.

We had a Prune Committee meeting here last evening and the consensus of opinion was that some outside agricultural labor could gainfully be used this year. No doubt we could use any amount of labor with the understanding, of course, that proper control of same by the Government would be maintained.

We phoned the FSA office here upon receipt of your wire regarding the above mentioned campsite and they also advised there are some reports, not definite, that this acreage might be rented to the Army. They advised that this might be verified through the San Francisco office of the FSA.

We regret that we have nothing more specific to offer you but these are the facts and we are passing them along for what they may be worth at your Saturday meeting.

Very truly yours,

SANTA CLARA COUNTY FARM BUREAU

(Signed) L. Kingsbury,

L. Kingsbury                      Secretary.

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SOLANO COUNTY FARM BUREAU

SOLANO COUNTY FARM BUREAU

Fairfield, Calif.

February 19, 1942.

Mr. Ray Wiser,  
California Farm Bureau Federation,  
2161 Allston Way,  
Berkeley, California.

Dear Mr. Wiser:

This is in reply to your wire of February 18th. This wire has been submitted to the President of the Farm Bureau and other members. There is organized in this county a County Farm Labor Sub-committee (of the Land Use Committee), of which F. B. McKeivitt, Vacaville, is Chairman, and V. W. De Tar, Farm Advisor, is Secretary. This committee received a similar request as your wire from Mr. Roscoe Bell, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, 222 Mercantile Bldg., Berkeley. We sent to Mr. Bell a letter giving full information signed by the Farm Advisor, and Mr. De Tar has asked that I send a copy of this letter to you.

Your wire was also submitted to F. B. McKeivitt, Chairman of this Labor Committee, and he also asked that copy of the enclosed letter be sent to you. Information on all sections of the county, except Wolfskill, is covered by this letter. When we receive the information from Wolfskill, we will send it to you, but I doubt that it will reach you in time.

From this letter, you can see that the preference is for central camps, strictly guarded, under Federal control, so far as the Japanese are concerned.

I hope that this gives you the information you wish.

Sincerely yours,

SOLANO COUNTY FARM BUREAU,

(Signed) K. D. Stauffer,

Enc.

Secretary.

Charge to the account of

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CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
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TELEGRAM	ORDINARY
DAY LETTER	URGENT RATE
SERIAL	DEFERRED
OVERNIGHT TELEGRAM	NIGHT LETTER
SPECIAL SERVICE	SHIP RADIOGRAM

Patrons should check class of service desired; otherwise the message will be transmitted as a telegram or ordinary cablegram.

# WESTERN UNION

1206-B

CHECK
ACCOUNTING INFORMATION
TIME FILED

R. B. WHITE  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN 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

## PACIFIC TELEGRAM

FV 9 55 4 EXTRA NL COLL DUPLICATE OF MESSAGE TELEPHONED - PT  
WHEATLAND CALIF FEB 19

RAY B. WISER,  
CALIF. FARM BUREAU FEDERATION  
2161 ALLSTON WAY

KNOW OF NO AVAILABLE CAMP. FARMER OPINION DIVIDED. LARGE OPERATORS FAVORABLE.  
OTHER RANGE FROM UNDECIDED TO OPPOSED. STRESS PLACED ON WORD CONTROL. FEEL  
THEY MEAN POLICED. CONFERENCE YUBA CITY TODAY. MOTION 25 YES, 5 NO. DECISION  
INFLUENCED BY FEAR OF ACUTE LABOR SHORTAGE. OTHER OFFICIALS NOT AVAILABLE SO  
I AM ANSWERING.

C. S. HITE.

C  
O  
P  
Y

Sutter 17

Charge to the account of \_\_\_\_\_ \$

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
DOMESTIC	CABLE
TELEGRAM	ORDINARY
DAY LETTER	URGENT RATE
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R. B. WHITE  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN 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

C O P Y

FV 128 71 COLLECT DL-SANTA ROSA CALIF 20 1034A

1942 FEB 20 AM 11 56

RAY B WISER, PRESIDENT CALIF FARM BUREAU FEDERATION-  
2161 ALLSTON WAY

COUNTY HAS FARM SECURITY MIGRANT CAMP EMPTY NOW BUT NO TENTS OR COVERS STOP  
SOME HOP PRUNE AND APPLE MEN WOULD WELCOME JAP LABOR FOR SUCH CAMP STOP  
SOME OTHERS NOT PRESSED FOR LABOR NOW CONDEMN USE OF JAPS STOP ATTITUDE  
OF PUBLIC ON IDEA ALSO UNCERTAIN BUT MANY VIOLENTLY OPPOSED TO BRINGING  
IN JAPS STOP IN SOUTHERN END OF COUNTY PEOPLE DO NOT FEEL KINDLY TOWARDS  
JAPS AT ALL

D B WALLS STATE DIRECTOR

*Sanoma 15*

Received 4 pm  
2/20/42

# CALIFORNIA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

2161 ALLSTON WAY



BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

Telephone THornwall 9600

February 20th, 1942.

10022 FEB 21 42

EARL WARREN ATTORNEY GENERAL  
SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE  
ASSIGNED TO

The Honorable Earl Warren,  
Attorney General,  
State of California,  
San Francisco, California.

Dear Mr. Warren:

In the absence of Mr. Pfaffenberger, who is out of town today, I am sending to you by special messenger copies of the replies we have received to the telegram which we sent out Monday concerning the Japanese situation. We are also including a copy of our telegram and the list of Farm Bureaus to whom the telegram was sent.

The originals of these papers are in our office and will be made available to you and the House Defense Committee if desired.

Yours very truly,

(Mrs.) Erma Austinson,  
Secretary to Mr. Pfaffenberger.

Enclosures.

Charge to the account of \_\_\_\_\_ \$

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
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TELEGRAM	ORDINARY
DAY LETTER	URGENT RATE
SERIAL	DEFERRED
OVERNIGHT TELEGRAM	NIGHT LETTER
SPECIAL SERVICE	SHIP RADIOGRAM

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# WESTERN UNION

1206-B

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ACCOUNTING INFORMATION
TIME FILED

R. B. WHITE  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN 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

FV 375 13 COLLECT 1 EXTRA NT - GRIDLEY CALIF 19

1942 FEB 19 PM 10 42

RAY B. WISER  
2161 ALLSTON WAY

NO COUNTY FACILITIES FOR HOUSING NO DEMAND FOR JAPANESE AGRICULTURAL LABORERS.

BUTTE COUNTY FARM BUREAU  
A. J. MAC FARLANE, PRESIDENT.

C  
O  
P  
Y

Charge to the account of \_\_\_\_\_ \$

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
DOMESTIC	CABLE
TELEGRAM	ORDINARY
DAY LETTER	URGENT RATE
SERIAL	DEFERRED
OVERNIGHT TELEGRAM	NIGHT LETTER
SPECIAL SERVICE	SHIP RADIOGRAM

Patrons should check class of service desired; otherwise the message will be transmitted as a telegram or ordinary cablegram.

COPY

# WESTERN UNION

1206-B

CHECK
ACCOUNTING INFORMATION
TIME FILED

R. B. WHITE  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN 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

FV 111 9 COLLECT - EL CENTRO CALIF 19 11 27A

1942 FEB 19 PM 12 19

RAY B WISER, PRESIDENT

CALIFORNIA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

SENTIMENT HERE VERY MUCH OPPOSED TO MORE JAPANESE -

IMPERIAL COUNTY FARM BUREAU - SCOTT B. FOULDS

*Imperial 3*

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

PACIFIC LEAGUE

A NON-PARTISAN, NON-PROFIT, CALIFORNIA CORPORATION

TELEPHONE TRINITY 0955

*James*  
**PL. 2**  
✓

**PRESIDENT** *Wichman*

JUDGE RUSS AVERY Attorney  
Industrialist - Rancher

**1ST VICE PRESIDENT**

FREDERIC T. WOODMAN  
Former Mayor City of Los Angeles

**2ND VICE PRESIDENT**

R. F. INGOLD President  
Los Angeles Investment Co.

**SECRETARY**

R. C. HANNA  
Coast Federal Savings and Loan Association

**TREASURER**

ANDREW J. MEADE Retired

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HARRY W. McLEOD Manager  
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ARTHUR J. MULLEN Attorney

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Metal Trades Manufacturers Assn.

FRANK R. STRONG  
Rives-Strong Building

W. P. WHITSETT Chairman of Board  
Metropolitan Water District

*Robert E. Estabrook in California period tend to it.*  
*San Fernando Valley head Estabrook*  
*Chandler man*

*Froggini land lawyer*

Hon. Harold L. Ickes,  
Secretary of the Interior,  
Washington, D. C.

April 23, 1943

My dear Mr. Secretary:

Having read your recent - shall we say, self-eulogy? under the title "Confessions of a Sourpuss?"--we can in a measure understand the motivation of the use of your influence to withdraw individual Japanese from relocation centers to work on your private farm.

However, regardless of the personal motive of America's No. 1 curmudgeon, as you have described yourself and the relish for publicity, to which also you have confessed, the people of the Pacific Coast look with amazement upon this type of activity by a Cabinet member at a time when our Country is involved in the most tragic war of its history.

Following the Pearl Harbor stab in the back, which you may recall, Pacific League was in some degree instrumental in starting the movement which resulted in the removal of undesirable Japanese persons from combat areas of the West Coast States, and kept the matter a live issue until governmental authorities finally recognized both the immediate and the future dangers involved by the presence of Japanese here and sent them to various relocation centers outside the danger zones.

At that time, also, a vigorous protest was made against assembling Japanese at the Manzanar center, in California, because of the jeopardy it created to the water supply of the nation's fourth largest city. Our judgment in that matter has since been proven correct, as shown by the rioting and insubordination which developed at the Manzanar Camp, and which resulted in a gradual removal of these untrustworthy Japanese to areas less close to our war production centers and fields of military activities.

*Rec'd. Feb 2?*  
*H*

old letterhead

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- Chairman*  
Charles Bloch, Mayor, Manhattan Beach
- Members*  
Alphonso E. Bell - Bell-Air, L.A.
- E.A. Broomfield - Ramsdale Co.
- D.F. Culner - Pks. L.A. Property Mngy. Co.
- A. J. Sock - Chairman of Board South of America
- William A. Holt - V.ice.Pres. Bullocks
- Leon Spinks - Pershing Square Bldg

"Cherish the Spirit of Our People and Keep Alive Their Attention"

—Jefferson, The Price of Liberty.

If, in taking these Japanese nationals from the protective custody of the United States Government, you did so only to supply your personal labor needs, may we point out that the good neighbor policy between this Country and Mexico, so forcefully emphasized by President Roosevelt within the last few days, might have proved a solution to your problem.

However, if you were prompted, as Secretary of the Interior, to undertake this strange employment of subjects of a nation with which we are bitterly at war, as some sort of personal appeasement gesture, or to carry out your admitted penchant of deliberately doing things to cause public criticism of yourself, then we must admit you have been successful.

We, of the Pacific Coast, Mr. Secretary, know the Japanese. They have lived amongst us for many years. We have taken note of their characteristics, of their treacherous inclinations, their born and bred devotion to their Emperor. None knows their undesirability and their potential dangerous disloyalty better than does your friend, Senator Hiram Johnson, who when he was Governor of California, approved legislation making it impossible for Japanese aliens to become property owners in this State and who throughout his entire career has pointed with unflinching accuracy to what we might expect from Japan as a nation and from the hordes of Japanese who had been sent into this country prepared to assist their Emperor in every possible way prior to and during the inevitable crisis.

It possibly is true that, among the several hundred thousand Japanese in this country, there are a few who are loyal to the United States as the land of their birth. It is unfortunate that these few must suffer because of the known disloyalty of the many. But what is their suffering compared to the suffering of our American boys who fought the Japs at Bataan and Corregedor and who, if they still are alive, are enduring the tortures of Japanese prison camps!

As you "travel the road to curmudgery," as you put it, Mr. Secretary, how do you think the mothers and fathers of these gallant lads, and the mothers and fathers of the airmen who bombed Tokyo and were murdered for their bravery, will feel about your coddling of the Japs on your farm?

You have admitted that you take pleasure in doing things that cause people to criticize you, and that, of course, is your privilege. But when you take it upon yourself, as a member of the President's Cabinet, to arrogantly flaunt in the faces of the people of this Coast an utter disregard of the lessons we have learned by experience, and which our military authorities recognize, we believe you are overstepping the bounds of personal rights and of good citizenship.

Hon. Harold L. Ickes - 3

We ask that you reconsider immediately this ill-timed adventure into a field with which apparently you are entirely unfamiliar. We ask that the Japanese now enjoying the freedom and the luxury of your farm be returned to the relocation centers from which you took them, and where they may be kept under close observation lest we learn too late of some new Japanese treachery.

In bringing this important matter to your attention, Mr. Secretary, this organization has no selfish interests or motives. We are guided solely by an earnest desire to serve the best interests of our people, and to assure you that you can't sell Americanism short -- at least not at the present time.

We are

Respectfully,

PACIFIC LEAGUE

(Signed) RUSS AVERY  
Russ Avery, President

(Signed) FREDERIC T. WOODMAN  
Chairman, Alien Problems Committee

RA:JAR

Pacific League

PL.1

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, both military and civil authorities are agreed that the safety of the entire Pacific Coast demands that all alien enemies be removed from defense areas, and

WHEREAS, a great many people of Japanese nationality are extensively employed in the growing and production of food supplies essential to this coast, and

WHEREAS, the sudden stoppage of such food supplies might create a serious food shortage, and

WHEREAS, the breaking up of the homes of both aliens and citizens is not in keeping with American ideals nor humanitarian, and would impose serious and needless hardships on loyal Americans, as well as aliens.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Pacific League, after careful consideration suggests and urges that all Japanese people of both foreign and American birth, be drafted into an Agricultural Division under supervision of the Department of Agriculture of the Federal Government in the same manner as draftees of the United States military forces are inducted into service.

That these people be placed on suitable agricultural lands in safe areas and their labor used for the purpose of producing food to supply the needs of the man who carries the gun, and that they be compensated for their labor on the same basis that draftees in our armed forces are compensated.

That they be provided with housing, food supplies, and other necessities of life, thereby creating a great agricultural army providing both a humanitarian and practical solution of this immediate problem and eliminating a menace to our general welfare.

This resolution adopted by the Board of Directors of Pacific League, at a meeting held at its offices, 112 West Ninth Street, Los Angeles, California, Feb. 2, 1942.

(Tolan 11871)

Index Notes

THE CALIFORNIA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION  
AND JAPANESE EVACUATION

The California Farm Bureau Federation is a member of the national American Farm Bureau Federation. It is organized by counties. Most of the 58 counties of California have a county Farm Bureau which publishes a monthly magazine. These magazines contain material sent out by the central office of the Farm Bureau Monthlies as well as items of particular interest to individual counties. In searching the Farm Bureau Monthlies for news of the Japanese activities of the Farm Bureaus of California, it was not possible to obtain a complete file of all agricultural counties. However, the only counties which published magazines which were not obtainable were Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego. San Diego was obtainable for a few months of the period January 1942-September 1943 (only). All others were searched each month for that twenty-two month period. Some county magazines always include copies of the minutes of the directors' meetings, others merely give resumes of the important topics taken up by the directors. This may account in part for the large amount of Japanese activities reported from such counties as San Joaquin.

The Japanese activities of the California Farm Bureaus can be divided into four groups. The first of these includes the pre-evacuation news items, statements, and resolutions; the second, statements and survey reports on the extent and

importance of Japanese agriculture in California; third, the activities of the Farm Bureaus and other agencies in assisting with the problems of evacuation; and lastly, post-evacuation statements and resolutions.

Attention to the Japanese problem began very soon after the outbreak of war. The January, 1942 San Joaquin County Farm Bureau Monthly published a resume of a report which Ray B. Wiser, President of the California Farm Bureau, gave to the California Farm Bureau Directors. He reported that he had spent considerable time trying to find a solution to the Japanese problem as it related to maintaining production and at the same time "controlling the situation as it relates to us". A special committee on the question was appointed by Wiser. (FBM, San Joaquin Co., 1/42, p.29, c.1) At a meeting of the San Joaquin Co. Directors held on December 13, 1941, during a discussion of a proposed survey of all farms in the county to provide for quick notification in an emergency, a member asked if the exact location of every Japanese would be indicated on the survey. He was told that this was a detail which had not as yet been worked out. (FBM, San Joaquin Co., 1/42, p.26, c.3) The Directors of the Kern Co. Farm Bureau met on January 3, 1942 and passed a resolution to the effect that there were a considerable number of Japanese in agriculture in Kern Co., that the production of agricultural produce had an important part in the defense program, and that the shortage of agricultural labor made it important to utilize all possible sources of labor. The Kern Co. Defense Board was therefore requested to make a survey of Japanese agricul-

they recommended  
tural activities in the county and that Japanese be permitted to engage in agricultural activities in as nearly normal manner as possible "but only under adequate supervision to ensure the safety of our people and our country". (FBM, Kern Co., 1/42, p.7, c.2) A director of the Napa Co. Farm Bureau asked "how far do we want to have the Japanese the principal vegetable men in California," and advised "the white man is not prepared to raise the quantity of crops required". He went on to say that we may have to lay aside our prejudices in order to get sufficient food. (FBM, Napa Co., 1/42, p.3, c.1)

The Orange County Farm Bureau News was the only one of the monthlies which indulged in editorial comment. An editorial which appeared in February, 1942 hoped that whatever would be done about Japanese evacuation would be done in a well-planned manner, with the least cost to production, the maximum protection to the public, and the maximum justice to those Japanese loyal to the United States. (FBN, Orange Co., 2/42, p.3, c.3) And in April, 1942, the Orange News expressed fear that the public would get sick of the difficulties involved in moving the Japanese and not pay enough attention to others who were dangerous. A system was favored whereby dangerous aliens would be moved first even if a good many citizens of Japanese parentage would have to be left in the area. Because it appeared that the Japanese would be moved suddenly, the editorial advised Japanese to make plans for an abrupt evacuation and to then try to maintain as normal an existence as possible. (FBN, Orange Co., 4/42, p.3, c.1)

The San Joaquin County Directors at their meeting on January 10, 1942, had much discussion on the Japanese question. It was reported that the tomato canneries were favorable to the Japanese because they would raise tomatoes under almost any contract and not complain. It was felt that this was one of the causes for low prices. Another member stated that 35% of the tomato acreage and 50% of the tomato production of the county was grown by Japanese. Japanese, he said, never farmed poor land. Another member stated that he had "always been obsessed with the idea that the Japanese should not own a foot of our soil". He felt that many of the leases <sup>are</sup> are questionable. This member said that the concensus of opinion at the state farm bureau was that "we should use Japanese labor to tide over our shortage of labor and not put them into concentration camps, but supervise them". There was much discussion of this aspect of the question, and the concensus of the San Joaquin Directors at this time was that the Japanese should be allowed to stay in California away from defense areas and work under supervision of a board set up for that purpose. (FBM, San Joaquin Co., 2/42, p. 16G, c.3 and p.27, c.1) The Kern County Farm Bureau Directors meeting received a telegram from an unidentified Mr. A. J. Elliott who asked if the Japanese were removed from the West Coast, whether the vegetable crops grown by them could be continued and operated by other labor. Mr. Elliott was to be notified that "the sooner the Japs were removed from the Pacific Coast the better, as white farmers can produce any-

*Coughlin*

thing better than the Japanese". (FBM, Kern Co., 2/42, p5, c.2)

At a meeting on January 17, 1942 the Directors of the Merced County Farm Bureau heard a statement of facts concerning Japanese farming activities as determined by a committee of agriculturists in Santa Barbara County. It was moved and carried that a letter be sent to the State Attorney General and to the State Farm Bureau Federation asking that the abuse of the alien land law be looked into. (FBM, Merced Co., 2/42, p.3, c.3)

Senator Metzger's action in the legislature in backing up a resolution to the effect that the State of California should not employ anyone in a clerical position "who might be an enemy to this country" was approved by the Directors of Tehama Co. at their meeting on January 17, 1942. (FBM, Tehama Co., 2/42, p.27, c.2)

An Agricultural Economic Conference, attended by 77 farm leaders and representatives of federal, state, and county agricultural agencies, was held on February 27, 1942, in Monterey Park. They passed a resolution to the effect that a large percentage of vegetable crops in Los Angeles County were produced by Japanese in areas from which they were likely to be moved. These Japanese, due to uncertainty, had not continued full scale operations. Other farmers were available to take over their land. Therefore, the Army should act at once to clarify this situation, and the areas from which removals were to be made should be sufficiently comprehensive so that no further removals would be necessary during the crop year. The resolution also requested the federal government to desig-

nate a custodian with authority to administer the property of those required to move. (FBM, Los Angeles Co., 5/42, p.c, c.2&3)

The Merced County Directors heard a letter from State President Ray B. Wiser stating that evasion of the California Alien Land Law had been discussed by the Board of Directors and action was being taken to carry on an investigation. A letter was also read from the Atty. General's office asking that any concrete evidence of violations of this law be reported to that office. (FBM, Merced Co., 3/42, p.3, c.1) President Wiser was present at a meeting of the Los Angeles County Directors held on February 19. He told the Los Angeles Board that the State Board at their January meeting had adopted the following program:

- 1) All Japanese property and persons to be placed under federal supervision.
- 2) Protection should be given to Japanese workers. ✓
- 3) Means should be devised for controlling Japanese incomes through federal supervision.
- 4) No subterfuge as to leases or ownership of property should be allowed.

(FBM, Los Angeles Co., 3/42, p.3, c.1)

The 2 February meeting of the San Joaquin Co. Directors had as much discussion as the January on the Japanese problem and this time three motions were carried. The Chairman of the Legislative Committee asked where the Japanese were hiding the guns they were supposed to have turned in. He wondered if the district attorney and sheriff didn't have power to search for them. He was told that a search warrant was necessary for

each place to be searched. It was suggested that the Farm Bureau should work with the American Legion and other groups "to straighten this out". Another member said that the San Joaquin Farm Bureau should take some new action on its position in regard to using Japanese in agricultural work. He was opposed to the idea that they were essential. Still another member said: "I for one do not feel that we should have a Jap any place unless we have a string on him." The following three motions were carried:

"That the San Joaquin Farm Bureau Federation takes the stand that the Japanese farmers are not essential in the production of food and fiber for our national policy."

That the San Joaquin Farm Bureau Federation was opposed to landowners "aiding or assisting in the making of leases or the transfer of title to land to alien Japanese".

That a committee be appointed to investigate the alien land law and then legislation be passed to enforce it.

(FBM. San Joaquin Co., 3/42, p. 16F, c.1,2,3)

The Los Angeles County Directors at their meeting on February 19 unanimously passed a resolution stating that it was the consensus of opinion that all Japanese, citizen and alien, be confined to concentration camps in the interest of national defense. (FBM, L.A. Co., 3/42, p.3, c.2) The Alameda Co., Farm Bur. Monthly reported that a Farm Bureau committee had met recently with Attorney General Warren to discuss the enemy alien situation and had decided on a position similar to that taken by the San Joaquin Co. Board of Directors. See above. (FBM, Alameda Co., 3/42, p. 12, c.3)

8

The various Farm Bureau Monthlies reported surveys on the extent and importance of the Japanese in California agriculture. In general, these findings agreed with the stand of the Western Growers Association--that the Japanese were not a major factor. The first survey reported dealt with Orange County. This survey, altho not entirely complete, showed 10,565 acres farmed by Japanese of which 869 acres were owned. This total included 221 acres of citrus. Slightly more than one half of the poultry production in the county in Japanese hands was controlled by American born Japanese. (FBM, Orange Co., 2/42, p.13, c.2) One Kern Co. director reported at their January meeting that efforts were being made to make a survey of Japanese owned and operated lands in that county. (FBM, Kern Co., 2/42, p.3, c.2)

At the March 19, 1942 Los Angeles Co. Board Meeting there was a lengthy discussion of the extent of Japanese farming activities in the county. It was believed that the production of small vegetables, such as radishes, table onions, which had been grown by Japanese, could not be replaced exactly as before. The essential crops, it was believed, could be replaced. A survey had been made in January which showed there were 1500 Japanese operated farms with a population of about 7500.

1391 produced vegetables and berries, 80 produced poultry, and 30 were miscellaneous farms. 87% of the vegetables produced in Los Angeles County was produced by Japanese. Some vegetables, such as celery, were produced 99% by Japanese. 7-10% of the California vegetable supply was produced in Los Angeles county. Of the 26,000 acres formerly operated by Japanese, 4500 had been taken up by Americans by the date of the report. Deals were pending for at least 1500 more acres. It was thought that labor would be the biggest problem. Japanese families performed 44,000 man months of labor, which would indicate a deficit of 4000 to 5000 persons. It was announced that the federal government had established an Evacuee Property Department to assist Japanese with their affairs. There had also been set up a War Time Farm Adjustment Program under the Western Defense Command which would assist in financing. (FBM, L.A. Co., 4/42, p.3, c.3 and P. 16B, c.1)

Orange County in May reported that Japanese evacuation had meant moving about 1200 from the farms of the county. This acreage in many cases was being changed to crops which required little hand labor. "However, several farmers who have depended upon Japanese laborers have had difficulty in replacing them." (FBN, Orange Co., 5/42, p.13, c.2) The May issue of the Monterey Co. Monthly stated that according to a survey made in December, 1941, there were approximately 120 Japanese farmers in the county who controlled about 5300 acres of land. (FBM, Mont. Co., p.3, c.2) The chairman of the vegetable department of the Sacramento Farm Bureau stated at the June meeting that

much of the acreage left by the Japanese would be lost as it did not receive irrigation and other attention at the necessary times. (FBM, Sacramento Co., 7/42, p.23, c.1)

Under the title of "Farming in Los Angeles County under War Conditions", C. V. Castle, Farm Advisor, reported in the Los Angeles Co. FBM for September 1942 that there had been little general response to the "Food for Freedom" signup which took place previous to Pearl Harbor. The article contained the following: "However, the Japanese, probably feeling that something might happen or in trying to deceive us, signed up almost 100%. They also responded in the registration of horses altho few of their horses could have been used by the Army." (FBM, L.A. Co., 9/42, p.3, c.2) The Ventura Co. Monthly reported that new vegetable crops on land taken over from the Japanese were getting into good shape. (FBM, Ventura Co., 10/42, p.22, c.3)

The Assistant County Agent for San Luis Obispo County, J.J. McNamara, had an article in the February, 1943 San Luis Obispo Monthly in which he said that despite Japanese evacuation, production in the past nine months was better than in previous years. Both white and Filipino growers had taken over. The article stated that there had been a 10% increase in produce marketed in the United States in 1942 over 1941. There had been a slight California decrease particularly in the Los Angeles market. This, he stated, was due to labor shortage rather than to evacuation. The article concluded: "When we discuss with the growers their successes and failures and

future plans, it becomes clear that the new growers are actually doing a better job of production than the Japanese were doing in 1941." (FBM, S.L. Obispo Co., 2/43, p.3, c.1)

The Farm Bureau offices were active in attempting to help solve some of the problems arising out of evacuation, particularly that of furnishing information in regard to Japanese controlled land now available to others. The Alameda Co. Monthly for March, 1942, listed the problems on which assistance had been given members in recent weeks by the California Farm Bureau Federation. Included in the list was interpretation of the Alien Property Law and "other matters in connection with the removal of Japanese from restricted areas. (FBM, Alameda Co., 3/42, p.10, c.3) The March, 1942 number of the Orange County News carried a news item to the effect that Japanese had hesitated to work their ground while the decision was pending on whether or not they could stay. Much land was idle which would normally be planted. It was expected that arrangements would be made for the harvesting of crops now in. "It is expected that the Farm Bureau will be called upon considerably during the next few months to assist in preventing stoppage of production, enable proper steps for conserving the property of loyal citizens and be of general assistance in the emergency." (FBN, Orange Co., 3/42, p.16, c.3) The following month Orange Co. published another news item which stated that since the evacuation order, the Farm Bureau had been acting as a clearing house for Japanese who wanted to dispose of property and others who wanted to take it over. The JACL had set up an office to help in these transactions.

Arrangements had been made so that acreage would be under the operation of the new people for the duration or would pass completely into their control. On March 17, a representative of the FSA had set up an office in Santa Ana to supervise matters of continuing production and to maintain proper records of transfers, leases, etc. The Federal Land Bank would act as custodian of property where necessary. The article stated that large numbers of Japanese had arranged for moving to other parts of the United States "and it is expected that a large percent will not need to go to the transfer camps..." (FBN, Orange Co., 4/42, p.8, c.1)

That anyone interested in obtaining Japanese vacated lands should contact the Sacramento USES office, was announced in the April, 1942 Solano Co. FBN. (FBN, Solano Co., 4/42, p.26, c.3) The May, 1942 Monthly of Merced Co. carried an announcement that Japanese vacated lands were being handled by the Merced FSA office. (FBN, Merced Co., 5/42, p.3, c. 2 & 3) The Monterey Co. Monthly reported that the FSA had stated that most Japanese land, equipment, and machinery had been disposed of in the Salinas Valley. (FBN, Monterey Co., 5/42, p.3, c.2) Orange Co. reported that by April 28, 1942, less than 500 acres of land in Orange Co. formerly farmed by Japanese had not been taken over by others. Almost all of the Japanese had made arrangements for someone else to act for them or had sold out completely. Within Orange Co., a large percentage of the land left by the Japanese was taken over by established farmers who enlarged their acreage. Only

about 200 farms had been taken over by inexperienced people. The Orange Farm Bureau was attempting to prevent storage for the duration of farm equipment which would be needed. (FBN, Orange Co., 5/42, p.4, c.2)

After evacuation had been completed, the Farm Bureau Federation continued to take an active interest in the Japanese question. During 1943, the Monthlies reported the appointment of committees to investigate the Japanese situation (FBN, San Joaquin Co, 2/43 p 12B, c.1 and 7/43, p. 12F, c.2), letters of commendation to General DeWitt following his famous "A Jap is a Jap" pronouncement (FBN, San Joaquin Co., 6/43, p.12G, c.2), and results of surveys such as that made by the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce. That report stated that about 15,000 Japanese who lived outside the evacuation area and about 5,000 who left before the evacuation order was issued were not in the relocation camps. In regard to the Chandler Committee report it stated: "The difficulty of an accurate determination is perhaps emphasized by that portion of the report by the Chandler Committee, which states that 19,963 Japanese citizens of military age were registered by the Army in 10 relocation centers; 6%, or 1181 of these volunteered; 24% or 4783 answered 'no' to the loyalty question. The highest number answering as disloyal was something over 50% at Manzanar, and the lowest, approximately 2% at Minidoka.... There can be little doubt that at least the 50% indicating their disloyalty are not to be trusted American citizens, and there is a grave question that 2% represents the

total, or anything like the total disloyalty in the other camp." (FBN, Orange Co., 5/43, p. 12, c.1)

There have been many post-evacuation statements and resolutions made by the county farm bureaus. These deal with the release of stored Japanese-owned farm equipment, the use of Japanese labor in agriculture, the release from the relocation centers of Japanese citizens and aliens, and the deprivation of American born Japanese and Japanese aliens of the usual American civil rights in the postwar period. Included in these civil rights are the right to live anywhere in the United States, the right to use or own land, the right to citizenship of those born in the United States, the right to exercise the privileges of that citizenship including suffrage, and the right to an education.

The first resolution in regard to the release of stored Japanese-owned farm equipment was reported from Tulare County in November, 1942. The Tulare Board of Directors requested the California Farm Bureau Federation to consider ways and means to use this stored equipment. (FBM, Tulare Co., 11/42, p.3, c. 2 & 3) The Los Angeles Monthly ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ reported that their Directors concurred in a resolution sent out by the Calif. Farm Bur. Fed. asking for the sale of Japanese owned farm equipment and tires. (FBM, L.A. Co., 11/42, p. 12A, c.3) The January, 1943 San Joaquin Co. Monthly reported a similar action by the San Joaquin Directors. (FBM, San Joaquin Co., 1/43, p. 12G, c. 1 & 2) A Committee was

appointed to draw up a resolution after investigation of the equipment available. (FEM, San Joaquin Co., <sup>2/43</sup> p. 12B, c.3 & p. 12C, c.1) The Merced Directors at their meeting on January 16, 1943 appointed a committee to work with the Merced County USDA War Board toward the release of idle Japanese owned equipment. (FEM, Merced Co., 2/43, p.22, c.2)

The Orange County War Board took the leadership in making Japanese owned equipment available in Orange Co. The Farm Bureau assisted. Thirty-five tractors were stored in Orange Co. (FBN, Orange Co., 3/43, p.11, c.1) ~~The~~ At the February meeting of the Merced Co. Farm Bureau Directors, the County War Board informed them that one of their number had been appointed to work with the Farm Bureau Committee on the problem of getting the idle machinery into use. (FEM, Merced Co., 3/43, p.26, c.2) The Solano County Directors at their March 1, 1943, meeting heard a letter from the State Farm Bureau asking that farmers who knew the location of machinery owned by Japanese to notify that office. (FEM, Solano Co., p. 26, c.3) The State Directors at their March meeting approved a motion urging early release of Japanese equipment. <sup>(FEM, Alameda Co 4/43, p. 7, c. 2)</sup> One section of a resolution passed by the Sacramento Directors on April 27 called for the seizure of Japanese farm implements and their distribution to farm groups at fair prices. (FEM, Sacramento Co, 5/43, p.22, c.1)

The California Farm Bureau Federation Directors at a meeting held May 25-27 passed a resolution to set up a committee to study idle Japanese machinery and report back their findings to the Board at a later date. (FEM, Alameda Co.,

17

In the Fall of 1942, the National Student Relocation Council was working to have college students of Japanese descent released from relocation centers and placed in colleges outside of the Western Defense Command. At that time, release to a college was the only possible way to leave a center. The Fresno Farm Bureau Directors on November 12, 1942 passed a resolution protesting the activities of the National Student Relocation Council and sent their resolution on to be presented at the conventions of the California Farm Bureau and the American Farm Bureau. The resolution stated that they did not object to education, but that there was a manpower shortage, their own boys were being taken out of college for military

service, that Japanese should not have preferred treatment "but should take their place in the production so necessary in the prosecution of our efforts towards the successful conclusion of the war; if the Japanese did not want "to assist in the war effort" they should be "interned for the duration". (FBM. Fresno Co., 12/42, p. 12A, c. 1, 2, 3) The Directors neglected to state just how it was possible to take ones place in production while confined to a relocation camp.

An editorial in the Orange County News of April, 1943 entitled "Nobody Wants Them" suggested that those members of Congress who voted for the release of Japanese from camps should be made to take them into their own districts. The editorial continued that most of the difficulty was with the old folks whose ties were with the old country. That generation would soon pass away and then the question would be only that of the rights of United States citizens of Japanese parentage. That, stated the editor, was a much simpler problem, but he didn't offer his solution. (FBN, Orange Co., 4/43, p. 3, c.1)

The Sacramento Directors at their March 1943 meeting were offered a resolution from the Ft. Sutter Farm Bureau which urged that all Japanese be kept out of California. The Directors agreed in principle, but several phrases of the resolution were not acceptable and it was returned to the Ft. Sutter Center to be rewritten and presented at the next meeting. (BBM, Sac. Co., 4/43, p.26, c.2) The resolution was reintroduced at the April meeting and this time was carried. It stated in part that the Ft. Sutter Farm Bureau

opposed any move to bring the Japanese back "we holding firmly to the belief that the presence of 110,000 members of an alien and unassimilable race whose standards are contrary to the American way of life, can be productive of no good to State or Nation"; they urged the American Legion, the Native Sons, and other organizations to continue their opposition to the return of Japanese, both alien and citizen, as it would cause "unrest" in the population. (FBM, Sac. Co., 5/43, p.3, c.3 & p.22, c.1)

The May meeting of the Orange Co. Farm Bureau included a lengthy discussion of the possible return of Japanese to California. It was stated that any removal of the Japanese from internment camps was dangerous; other communities would develop the antipathies found in California; any effort to mix Japanese with the rest of the population would serve to increase racial differences rather than to decrease them. Sec. Marks of the Farm Bureau stated that he had attended a meeting of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce at which officials outlined a procedure to survey the sentiment in California on the return of the Japanese and have that sentiment brought to the attention of the War Department. A resolution was passed at the meeting which urged that:

- 1) Interned Japanese should be kept in the camps for the duration of the war "at least".
- 2) The only exception to the above would be work crews handled by U.S. Army guards, said crews not to be used in California.
- 3) The control of the camps should be given to the Army.

(FBN, Orange Co., p.4, c.3)

The meeting of the California Farm Bureau Directors held May 25-27, 1943 passed a resolution opposing the release of Japanese to or within California for the duration of the war. (FBM, Alameda Co., 6/43, p. <sup>101</sup>The July meeting of the Fresno Co. executive committee a resolution was passed stating that there had been much agitation for the release of the Japanese; that there could be disastrous consequences if the Japanese were released; that it was impossible to tell the loyal from the disloyal; therefore, they opposed any release of Japanese from the relocation camps and recommended that the camps be put under the control of the Army. (FBM, Fresno Co., 7/43, p.23, c. 1 & 2)

A conference of the State Farm Bureaus of eleven western states was held in Colorado Springs, Colo., June 28-30. Vice

Plans to deprive the Japanese of their civil rights after the war are found as early as March, 1942. At the March San Joaquin Co. Directors meeting, Director Lyons said that he was a member of a State Committee to act on the alien situation. He said that the committee had met several times

and that there was no excuse for not prosecuting under the alien land laws. He wanted the San Joaquin Farm Bureau to have an action committee; "The Army is going to move them out, but we should have a committee to see that they don't come back". The President appointed him chairman of such a committee and asked him to appoint the other members. (FBM, San Joaquin Co., 4/42, p. 26, c.3 & p. 27, c.1)

The West Turlock Farm Bureau Center went on record as favoring a constitutional amendment denying citizenship to any person holding dual citizenship and asked the county Farm Bureau Board to endorse their resolution. It was referred back to West Turlock for redrafting and presentation at the next meeting. (FBM, Stanislaus Co., 7/42, p.22, c.3 & p. 23, c.1) The August Monthly noted that the resolution was tabled and referred to a committee for further study. (FBM, Stanislaus Co., 8/42, p. 23, c.1) The Stanislaus Co. Directors at their September meeting held a discussion on dual citizenship. It was emphasized that only a constitutional amendment could take citizenship from a person born in the United States. (FBM, Stanislaus Co., 10/42, p.3, c.2)

The Board of Directors of the California Farm Bureau Federation recommended an investigation of the educational program being carried on for the interned Japanese. They felt it was unfair to let them continue their college education while American boys were taken out of college for military service. (FBM, Alameda Co., 10/42, p.9, c.1) ✓

On December 12, 1942, a resolution presented from the Lafayette Farm Bureau Center was passed by the Directors of

The San Joaquin Farm Bureau. The resolution stated that the Japanese government had been engaged in a peace mission in Washington at the time of Pearl Harbor; that this act demonstrated "the treacherous and underhanded methods of this race"; that "because of the most urgent military necessity the Japanese have been moved to resettlement centers for the protection of our west coast, the reason being that most of these people cannot be trusted in the exercise of the duties as citizens of the United States of America"; therefore, they recommended that the necessary legal actions be instituted to disenfranchise and deny citizenship to all Japanese. Copies of the resolution were to be sent to the California Farm Bureau Federation and to other organizations "engaged in accomplishing the purpose of this resolution". (FBM, San Joaquin Co., 1/43, p. 120, c.1)

A resolution was unanimously passed at the January 27 meeting of the Santa Barbara County Directors to the effect that Japanese farmers should not be allowed to compete with white farmers in holding farm land. (FBM, Santa Barbara Co., 2/43, p.22, c.3)

A group of California State Senators introduced a measure into the California Legislature for the purpose of restricting the Japanese. This measure, S140, has some amazing features as some of its provisions are not aimed at the Japanese people residing in California, but are orders to the Japanese government. As summarized in the Orange Co. News, its main provisions are these:

the San Joaquin Farm Bureau. The

- 1) Japan must release claims on dual citizenship.
- 2) Japan may not promote business interests of Japanese residents of California.
- 3) Japanese language schools must be abolished.
- 4) Japanese children must be educated in American schools and throw off any loyalty to the Japanese government.
- 5) There must be no selling of children into marriage.
- 6) Alien land law enforcement must be tightened.

(FBN, Orange Co., 3/43, p.18, c.3)

A resolution introduced from the Capay Center was approved by the Sacramento County Directors at their April, 1943 meeting. This resolution asked Congress to initiate legislation forfeiting the citizenship of those holding dual citizenship; to bar Japanese from citizenship. The resolution also contained a section relating to the ownership and leasing of property by Japanese, but the details were not given. (FBN, Sacramento Co., p.22, c.1) ✓

The San Joaquin Co. Directors at their June 12 meeting accepted a resolution originating at the Roberts-Union Farm Center. It stated that the United States was at war with Japan; that Japanese people own farm lands and business property in California; that it was to the best interest of the white people of California to exclude Japanese from the ownership of farm lands and business property; that the culture and training of Japanese makes it impossible for them to fit themselves to our standards; therefore, they requested the legislature of California to have the Real Estate Department enter into negotiations with Japanese

for the purchase of their property at a fair market value. A fair market value is to be arrived at by committees representing real estate associations in the counties. After the state became the owner of these lands, they were to be sold to service men on long term payments. (FBM, San Joaquin Co., p. 12G, c.1, 7/43) At their meeting the following month, a resolution was passed which provided that the peace treaty with Japan provide for the deportation of all aliens and citizen Japanese who had been disloyal. It was later moved and carried that all Japanese be barred from the West Coast and that all Japanese, if some legal means could be devised, should be deported after the war. (FBM, San Joaquin Co., 8/43, p. 12A, c. 1 & 2) It was reported to the Directors at this meeting that the Western Regional Conference of Farm Bureaus held at Colorado Springs in June backed up the attitude of California agriculturist against the return of the Japanese to the West Coast. (FBM, San Joaquin Co., 8/43, p. 12A, C.1)

A resolution which originated in Post 83 of the American Legion Board of Directors of Merced Co. was endorsed by the Merced Co. Farm Bureau Directors at their July, 1943 meeting. The resolution stated that the Japanese were a menace to our security; that many entered the country in violation of the immigration laws; that they did not assimilate but preserved their allegiance to Japan; that they had violated the alien land laws; that the practice of dual citizenship made the native born a threat; there<sup>fore</sup> they requested that:

- 1) All alien Japanese be edeported after the war
- 2) Dual citizenship be investigated by a committee of the California legislature.
- 3) If necessary, those holding dual citizenship should lose United States citizenship.
- 4) If this be impossible without a constitutional amendment, such an amendment should be made.
- 5) Violations of the alien land law should be investigated in the various counties.
- 6) Immediate action should be taken by the District Attorneys of the counties when violations of alien land laws were discovered.

W

THE ASSOCIATED FARMERS AND EVACUATION

The Associated Farmer, the publication of the California Associated Farmers, is published only intermittently. Between January 1942 and September 1943, the following months had no issue: 1942--July, September, November, December; 1943--January, February, April, May, June, July, August. Only two items relating to Japanese evacuation were found in the issues published between January 1942 and September 1943. The first of these appeared in the issue dated January 20, 1942 and stated that the executive committee recommended the use of Japanese labor in agricultural areas under military supervision "and with due regard for the safety and the successful prosecution of the war". No date was given for the action of the executive committee. The second was reported in the April 16, 1942 issue. It was a news item to the effect that District 5, composed of San Joaquin Valley farmers, had adopted an eight point program, the eighth point of which was "Removal of enemy aliens and potential fifth columnists as soon as possible from all of California". Copies of this program were sent to President Roosevelt, the California Congressional delegation, Governor Olson, and the members of the California Legislature. Again, no date is given for the adoption of the program.

The California Farm Bureau Federation, a member of the national American Farm Bureau Federation, is organized on a county basis; Most of the 58 counties in California are ~~pr~~ represented and many of these publish their own monthly journals. ~~A survey of these shows that the question of the Japanese was discussed in a number of the January, 1942, issues.~~

At its Jan meeting the State Board had adopted the following program  
1. All Jap way & persons to be placed under full supervision.  
2. Jap should be given to Jap dealers  
3. Jap business supervised by Fed.  
4. Alien Land Law strictly enforced.

FB4 LA  
March 42  
p 3

Ray B. Wiser made a report to the California Farm Bureau Directors in January. He reported that he had spent considerable time trying to find a solution to the Japanese problem as it related to maintaining production and at the same time "controlling the situation as it relates to us." (FBM San Joaquin Co., Jan 1942, p. 29). January 3 the Directors of the Kern County Farm Bureau met and passed a resolution requesting the Kern County Defense Board to make a survey of Japanese agriculture activities in the county and it was recommended that Japanese be permitted to engage in agricultural activities in as nearly normal manner as possible "but only under adequate supervision to ensure the safety of our people and our country." (FBM Kern Co., Jan, 1942, p. 7). January 10 the San Joaquin County Directors discussed the Japanese question. The consensus of opinion was that the Japanese should be allowed to stay in California away from defense areas and to work under supervision by a board set up for that purpose. (FBM San Joaquin Feb. 42, p.27). January 17 the directors of Merced County Farm Bureau requested the State Attorney General to look into abuse of the Alien Land law. January 17 the Directors of Tehama County Farm Bureau approved Senator Metzger's action ~~xxxxixtion~~ in the legislature backing up a resolution that the state should not employ anybody "who might be an enemy to this country." (FBM Tehama County, Feb. 42, p. 27)

Farmer Organizations

There are three large organizations of farmers in California, Farm Bureau, The Associated Farmers, the California/Federation, and the Grange.

The Associated Farmers, an organization . . .

did not play a public part in the pro-evacuation movement.

The only comment from this organization was a recommendation by the Executive Committee on January 15, 1942, in favor of using Japanese on farms in California under military supervision. (1)

(1) Associated Farmer, January 20, 1942

The Grange, an association of <sup>approximately</sup> 30,000 members

did not make a public statement on the evacuation issue in the critical period. (2)

(2) The only comment found was a statement by W.A. Ayres, editor of the "California Grange News" (February 25, 1942) to the effect that the "30,000 honest-to-goodness farmers" composing the Grange throughout the state are alarmed over the "proposal to place alien Japanese in camps in rural areas in California to be used as rural labor" in the belief "such concentrations... would be detrimental to the public safety." (Tolan Hearings, p. 11283)

Wash

meeting at Auburn, Wash.

The Valley Proletarian Assoc. on Feb 28  
 passed a resolution (Jalan 11523) urging the  
~~removal~~ removal of "all members of the Japanese  
 race to a place distant  
 enough to insure the safety  
 of our war industries..."

The Japanese are a menace  
 to the continued operation of  
 our factories and the conservation  
 of our finite resources; and...

These Japanese are all of the same  
 race and physical type, so that no  
 line can be drawn between  
 citizen and alien or between  
 loyal & disloyal."

( ) In February there were other resolutions on the matter.

Congressman A.J. Elliott asked the Fern County FB on February 5 6 what the effect of removing the Japanese would be. On Feb 7 ER Stockton, President, replied that

FB 1

white farmers can produce anything better than the Japa and it was the consensus of opinion that the sooner the Japanese are removed from the Pacific Coast the better it will be for all of us.

On February 9 Stockton again wired Elliott that

FB 2

consensus of opinion of county wide committees organized for purpose of studying agricultural labor needs for 1942 is that all Japanese including citizens should be removed from west coast area. One Japanese by destroying power or water facilities could destroy more crops than all Japanese grow.

On February 11 the Directors of the San Bernadino County FB passed a resolution urging that

FB 3

every possible step be taken to remove all Japanese from the Pacific coast area for the duration of the war, and that public agencies cease from advocating the leasing of California farm lands to Japanese, either American or foreign born for the duration of the war, and futhrer, that our law enforcement agencies take immediate steps to enforce the California lein land law.

On February 14 the Directors of the San Joaquin County FB passed a resolution petitioning the Governor and Federal authorities to declare martial law in the state and urging that the alien land law be enforced. The Alameda County FB took a position similar to this county's (FBM Alameda Co. March 1942, p. 12)

On February 19 the Los Angeles County Directors passed a resolution stating that it was the consensus of opinion that all Japanese, citizen and alien, be confined to concentration camps in the interest of national defense. (FBM LA C., March 1942 p. 3)

Mr. Floyd Oles, Manager of the Washington Produce Shippers Association of Seattle, Washington, released a prepared statement (4 ) before the Tolan Committee hearings on \_\_\_\_\_ 1942.

~~is~~ Pointing to the serious effects on crop production if the Japanese were removed, he ~~indicated~~ indicated his approval of the plan to set up defense zones and license loyal and essential persons to work within it. Wholesale evacuation <sup>he claimed</sup> would be, in Biddle's words, "an economic waste and a stupid error". It was his firm belief<sup>f</sup> that

these aliens, supervised as they are by the F.B.I. 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.

(4 ) Tolan, p.11422-11432

In supplementary remarks, Mr. Oles, defended the supervision of aliens as quite feasible ~~and~~ but declared that dangerous aliens should certainly be "removed to a distance." He felt that the separation of loyal from disloyal Japanese would be, ~~extremely~~ extremely difficult but it would be <sup>equally</sup> so with ~~any~~ <sup>all</sup> other citizen. After pointing to the possibility of danger to the Japanese if there were an invasion, he concluded his remarks by pointing to the "commercial motives" of many individuals advocating evacuation.

The Olympia Oyster Growers Protective Association of Shelton, Washington, issued a statement for the Tolan Committee, indicating their satisfaction with the Japanese as workers, ~~and~~ hoping that they would be allowed to remain to work on the oyster beds, but that if they were removed "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. ( )

( ) Tolan p. 11283

On Feb. 27 an Agricultural Economic Conference, attended by 77 farm leaders and representatives of federal, state and county agricultural agencies met in Monterey Park. They passed a resolution to the effect that a large percentage of vegetable crops in L.A. County were produced by Japanese in areas from which they were likely to be moved and the Japanese had not continued full scale operations. The Army should act to clarify the situation so that other farmers could take over the land. The areas from which removals were to be made should be sufficiently comprehensive so that no further removals would be necessary during the crop year. A Federal custodian to administer the property of evacuees was recommended. (FBM L.A.Co. <sup>March</sup> Max 1942, pl. )

The February issue of the Orange County Farm Bureau News stated in an editorial that it was hoped that whatever would be done about Japanese evacuation would be done in a well-planned manner, with the least cost to production, maximum protection to the public, and the maximum justice to those Japanese loyal to the United States. (FBM Orange Co. February 1942, p. 3)

According to ....

. there were \_\_\_\_\_ in Washington during 1941-42.

<sup>4</sup>  
~~Some~~ of these associations expressed themselves on the question of evacuation; 2 were in favor of it, 2 were <sup>expressed how it</sup> ~~opposed.~~ <sub>could be</sub>

AFTER  
CRIT.  
PERIOD

The Valley Protective Association, at a meeting in Auburn, passed a resolution on February 28, 1942, urging that "all members of the Japanese race" be removed "to a place distant enough to insure the safety of our war industries" holding that "the Japanese are a menace to the continuous operation of our factories and the conservation of our timber resources; and (that)..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." ( )

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tolan hearings, p. 11523

Executive  
The/Secretary of the Seattle Retail Florists' Association, Mr. Asahel Curtis, Jr. issued a statement on March 2, 1942 ( )

( ) Tolan Hearings, p. 11610

speaking for the membership in which he declared that "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."

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THE CALIFORNIA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION  
AND JAPANESE EVACUATION

The Alameda Co., Farm Bur. Monthly reported that a Farm Bureau committee had met recently with Attorney General Warren to discuss the enemy alien situation and had decided on a position similar to that taken by the San Joaquin Co. Board of Directors. See above. (FBM, Alameda Co., 3/42, p. 12, c.3)

they recommended  
tural activities in the county and that Japanese be permitted to engage in agricultural activities in as nearly normal manner as possible "but only under adequate supervision to ensure the safety of our people and our country". (FBM, Kern Co., 1/42, p.7, c.2) A director of the Napa Co. Farm Bureau asked "how far do we want to have the Japanese the principal vegetable men in California, and advised the white man is not prepared to raise the quantity of crops required". He went on to say that we may have to lay aside our prejudices in order to get sufficient food. (FBM, Napa Co., 1/42, p.3, c.1)

The Orange County Farm Bureau News was the only one of the monthlies which indulged in editorial comment. An editorial which appeared in February, 1942 hoped that whatever would be done about Japanese evacuation would be done in a well-planned manner, with the least cost to production, the maximum protection to the public, and the maximum justice to those Japanese loyal to the United States. (FBN, Orange Co., 2/42, p.3, c.3) And in April, 1942, the Orange News expressed fear that the public would get sick of the difficulties involved in moving the Japanese and not pay enough attention to others who were dangerous. A system was favored whereby dangerous aliens would be moved first even if a good many citizens of Japanese parentage would have to be left in the area. Because it appeared that the Japanese would be moved suddenly, the editorial advised Japanese to make plans for an abrupt evacuation and to then try to maintain as normal an existence as possible. (FBN, Orange Co., 4/42, p.3, c.1)

The San Joaquin County Directors at their meeting on January 10, 1942, had much discussion on the Japanese question. It was reported that the tomato canneries were favorable to the Japanese because they would raise tomatoes under almost any contract and not complain. It was felt that this was one of the causes for low prices. Another member stated that 35% of the tomato acreage and 50% of the tomato production of the county was grown by Japanese. Japanese, he said, never farmed poor land. Another member stated that he had "always been obsessed with the idea that the Japanese should not own a foot of our soil". He felt that many of the leases <sup>were</sup> are questionable. This member said that the concensus of opinion at the state farm bureau was that "we should use Japanese labor to tide over our shortage of labor and not put them into concentration camps, but supervise them". There was much discussion of this aspect of the question, and the concensus of the San Joaquin Directors at this time was that the Japanese should be allowed to stay in California away from defense areas and work under supervision of a board set up for that purpose. (FBM, San Joaquin Co., 2/42, p. 16G, c.3 and p.27, c.1) ~~The Kern County Farm Bureau Directors' meeting received a telegram from an unidentified Mr. A. J. Elliott who asked if the Japanese were removed from the West Coast, whether the vegetable crops grown by them could be continued and operated by other labor. Mr. Elliott was to be notified that "the sooner the Japs were removed from the Pacific Coast the better, as white farmers can produce any-~~

thing better than the Japanese". (FBM, Kern Co., 2/42, p3, c.2)

At a meeting on January 17, 1942 the Directors of the Merced County Farm Bureau heard a statement of facts concerning Japanese farming activities as determined by a committee of agriculturists in Santa Barbara County. It was moved and carried that a letter be sent to the State Attorney General and to the State Farm Bureau Federation asking that the abuse of the alien land law be looked into. (FBM, Merced Co., 2/42, p.3, c.3)

Senator Metzger's action in the legislature in backing up a resolution to the effect that the State of California should not employ anyone in a clerical position "who might be an enemy to this country" was approved by the Directors of Tehama Co. at their meeting on January 17, 1942. (FBM, Tehama Co., 2/42, p.27, c.2)

An Agricultural Economic Conference, attended by 77 farm leaders and representatives of federal, state, and county agricultural agencies, was held on February 27, 1942, in Monterey Park. They passed a resolution to the effect that a large percentage of vegetable crops in Los Angeles County were produced by Japanese in areas from which they were likely to be moved. These Japanese, due to uncertainty, had not continued full scale operations. Other farmers were available to take over their land. Therefore, the Army should act at once to clarify this situation, and the areas from which removals were to be made should be sufficiently comprehensive so that no further removals would be necessary during the crop year. The resolution also requested the federal government to desig-

nate a custodian with authority to administer the property of those required to move. (FBM, Los Angeles Co., 5/42, p.c, c.2&3)

The Merced County Directors heard a letter from State President Ray B. Wiser stating that evasion of the California Alien Land Law had been discussed by the Board of Directors and action was being taken to carry on an investigation. A letter was also read from the Atty. General's office asking that any concrete evidence of violations of this law be reported to that office. (FBM, Merced Co., 3/42, p.3, c.1) President

Wiser was present at a meeting of the Los Angeles County Directors held on February 19. He told the Los Angeles Board that the State Board at their January meeting had adopted the following program:

- 1) All Japanese property and persons to be placed under federal supervision.
- 2) Protection should be given to Japanese workers.
- 3) Means should be devised for controlling Japanese incomes through federal supervision.
- 4) No subterfuge as to leases or ownership of property should be allowed.

(FBM, Los Angeles Co., 3/42, p.3, c.1)

The 8 February meeting of the San Joaquin Co. Directors had as much discussion as the January on the Japanese problem and this time three motions were carried. The Chairman of the Legislative Committee asked where the Japanese were hiding the guns they were supposed to have turned in. He wondered if the district attorney and sheriff didn't have power to search for them. He was told that a search warrant was necessary for

each place to be searched. It was suggested that the Farm Bureau should work with the American Legion and other groups "to straighten this out". Another member said that the San Joaquin Farm Bureau should take some new action on its position in regard to using Japanese in agricultural work. He was opposed to the idea that they were essential. Still another member said: "I for one do not feel that we should have a Jap any place unless we have a string on him." The following three motions were carried:

"That the San Joaquin Farm Bureau Federation takes the stand that the Japanese farmers are not essential in the production of food and fiber for our national policy."

The Dinuba Center of the Tulare Co. Farm Bureau drafted a resolution on March 25 which was presented to the Tulare Co. Board of Directors at their April meeting. It stated that Japanese moving into Tulare Co. from the restricted areas were causing serious problems. The Community did not wish to be a "dumping ground for Japs that are considered undesirable in other areas". Japanese, it said, were purchasing property showing that they intended to become permanent residents. They therefore appealed to Gen. DeWitt to have Area I extended so as to include all of Tulare Co. This resolution was adopted unanimously by the Tulare Co. Board on April 14. (FBM, Tulare Co., p.3, c.1)

The Alameda Co. Monthly reported a State Board of Directors meeting held April 14-15. President Wiser felt that government agencies were acting too slowly to prevent serious interruptions of produce due to the moving of the Japanese. The Board felt that:

- 1) All necessary action should be taken by the military authorities to remove the danger of fifth column or sabotage by alien or American-born Japanese. ✓
- 2) The anti-alien land law should be vigorously enforced. ✓
- 3) The extent of the removal of the Japanese from Pacific Coast areas should be left to the judgment of the military authorities. ✓

(FBM, Alameda Co., 5/42, p.12, c.3)

At a Directors' meeting of Fresno County held on June 4, a motion was made and carried that the proper authorities be

~~county Farm Bureau which publishes a monthly magazine. These magazines contain material sent out by the central office of the Farm Bureau Monthlies as well as items of particular interest to individual counties. In searching the Farm Bureau Monthlies for news of the Japanese activities of the Farm Bureaus of California, it was not possible to obtain a complete file of all agricultural counties. However, the only counties which published magazines which were not obtainable were Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego. San Diego was obtainable for a few months of the period January 1942-September 1943 only. All others were searched each month for that twenty two month period. Some county magazines always include copies of the minutes of the directors' meetings, others merely give resumes of the important topics taken up by the directors. This may account in part for the large amount of Japanese activities reported from such counties as San Joaquin.~~

~~The Japanese activities of the California Farm Bureaus can be divided into four groups. The first of these includes the pre-evacuation news items, statements, and resolutions; the second, statements and survey reports on the extent and~~

The California Farm Bureau Federation through various ~~local~~ county organizations was active in promoting a sentiment for evacuation. On January 24, the Pacific Rural Press reported the results of a survey and a two-day conference by the State Federation.

importance of Japanese agriculture in California; third,  
the activities of the Farm Bureaus and other agencies in as-  
~~sisting with the problems of evacuation; and lastly, post-~~  
~~evacuation statements and resolutions.~~

contacted and urged to have the Japs moved from the eastern part of Fresno. It was finally decided to merely state that they were worried over the possible damage Japanese could do to power lines, etc., east of highway 99. They asked that they be confined as closely as possible to their place of residence. (FBM, Fresno Co., 7/42, p.22, c.3)

The various Farm Bureau Monthlies reported surveys on the extent and importance of the Japanese in California agriculture. In general, these findings agreed with the stand of the Western Growers Association--that the Japanese were not a major factor. The first survey reported dealt with Orange County. This survey, altho not entirely complete, showed 10,565 acres farmed by Japanese of which 869 acres were owned. This total included 221 acres of citrus. Slightly more than one half of the poultry production in the county in Japanese hands was controlled by American born Japanese. (FBM, Orange Co., 2/42, p.13, c.2) One Kern Co. director reported at their January meeting that efforts were being made to make a survey of Japanese owned and operated lands in that county. (FBM, Kern Co., 2/42, p.3, c.2)

At the March 19, 1942 Los Angeles Co. Board Meeting there was a lengthy discussion of the extent of Japanese farming activities in the county. It was believed that the production of small vegetables, such as radishes, table onions, which had been grown by Japanese, could not be replaced exactly as before. The essential crops, it was believed, could be replaced. A survey had been made in January which showed there were 1500 Japanese operated farms with a population of about 7500.

1391 produced vegetables and berries, 80 produced poultry, and 30 were miscellaneous farms. 87% of the vegetables produced in Los Angeles County was produced by Japanese. Some vegetables, such as celery, were produced 99% by Japanese. 7<sup>A</sup>/<sub>10</sub>% of the California vegetable supply was produced in Los Angeles county. Of the 26,000 acres formerly operated by Japanese, 4500 had been taken up by Americans by the date of the report. Deals were pending for at least 1500 more acres. It was thought that labor would be the biggest problem. Japanese families performed 44,000 man months of labor, which would indicate a deficit of 4000 to 5000 persons. It was announced that the federal government had established an Evacuee Property Department to assist Japanese with their affairs. There had also been set up a War Time Farm Adjustment Program under the Western Defense Command which would assist in financing. (FBM, L.A. Co., 4/42, p.3, c.3 and P. 16B, c.1)

Orange County in May reported that Japanese evacuation had meant moving about 1200 from the farms of the county. This acreage in many cases was being changed to crops which required little hand labor. "However, several farmers who have depended upon Japanese laborers have had difficulty in replacing them." (FBN, Orange Co., 5/42, p.13, c.2) The May issue of the Monterey Co. Monthly stated that according to a survey made in December, 1941, there were approximately 120 Japanese farmers in the county who controlled about 5300 acres of land. (FBM, Mont. Co., p.3, c.2) The chairman of the vegetable department of the Sacramento Farm Bureau stated at the June meeting that

much of the acreage left by the Japanese would be lost as it did not receive irrigation and other attention at the necessary times. (FBM, Sacramento Co., 7/42, p.23, c.1)

Under the title of "Farming in Los Angeles County under War Conditions", C. V. Castle, Farm Advisor, reported in the Los Angeles Co. FBM for September 1942 that there had been little general response to the "Food for Freedom" signup which took place previous to Pearl Harbor. The article contained the following: "However, the Japanese, probably feeling that something might happen or in trying to deceive us, signed up almost 100%. They also responded in the registration of horses altho few of their horses could have been used by the Army." (FBM, L.A. Co., 9/42, p.3, c.2) The Ventura Co. Monthly reported that new vegetable crops on land taken over from the Japanese were getting into good shape. (FBM, Ventura Co., 10/42, p.22, c.3)

The Assistant County Agent for San Luis Obispo County, J.J. McNamara, had an article in the February, 1943 San Luis Obispo Monthly in which he said that despite Japanese evacuation, production in the past nine months was better than in previous years. Both white and Filipino growers had taken over. The article stated that there had been a 10% increase in produce marketed in the United States in 1942 over 1941. There had been a slight California decrease particularly in the Los Angeles market. This, he stated, was due to labor shortage rather than to evacuation. The article concluded: "When we discuss with the growers their successes and failures and

future plans, it becomes clear that the new growers are actually doing a better job of production than the Japanese were doing in 1941." (FBM, S.L. Obispo Co., 2/43, p.3, c.1)

The Farm Bureau offices were active in attempting to help solve some of the problems arising out of evacuation, particularly that of furnishing information in regard to Japanese controlled land now available to others. The Alameda Co. Monthly for March, 1942, listed the problems on which assistance had been given members in recent weeks by the California Farm Bureau Federation. Included in the list was interpretation of the Alien Property Law and "other matters in connection with the removal of Japanese from restricted areas. (FBM, Alameda Co., 3/42, p.10, c.3) The March, 1942 number of the Orange County News carried a news item to the effect that Japanese had hesitated to work their ground while the decision was pending on whether or not they could stay. Much land was idle which would normally be planted. It was expected that arrangements would be made for the harvesting of crops now in. "It is expected that the Farm Bureau will be called upon considerably during the next few months to assist in preventing stoppage of production, enable proper steps for conserving the property of loyal citizens and be of general assistance in the emergency." (FBN, Orange Co., 3/42, p.16, c.3) The following month Orange Co. published another news item which stated that since the evacuation order, the Farm Bureau had been acting as a clearing house for Japanese who wanted to dispose of property and others who wanted to take it over. The JACL had set up an office to help in these transactions.

Arrangements had been made so that acreage would be under the operation of the new people for the duration or would pass completely into their control. On March 17, a representative of the FSA had set up an office in Santa Ana to supervise matters of continuing production and to maintain proper records of transfers, leases, etc. The Federal Land Bank would act as custodian of property where necessary. The article stated that large numbers of Japanese had arranged for moving to other parts of the United States "and it is expected that a large percent will not need to go to the transfer camps..." (FBN, Orange Co., 4/42, p.8, c.1)

That anyone interested in obtaining Japanese vacated lands should contact the Sacramento USES office, was announced in the April, 1942 Solano Co. FBM. (FBM, Solano Co., 4/42, p.26, c.3) The May, 1942 Monthly of Merced Co. carried an announcement that Japanese vacated lands were being handled by the Merced FSA office. (FBM, Merced Co., 5/42, p.3, c. 2 & 3) The Monterey Co. Monthly reported that the FSA had stated that most Japanese land, equipment, and machinery had been disposed of in the Salinas Valley. (FBM, Monterey Co., 5/42, p.3, c.2) Orange Co. reported that by April 28, 1942, less than 500 acres of land in Orange Co. formerly farmed by Japanese had not been taken over by others. Almost all of the Japanese had made arrangements for someone else to act for them or had sold out completely. Within Orange Co., a large percentage of the land left by the Japanese was taken over by established farmers who enlarged their acreage. Only

~~PRE-EVACUATION~~

~~Attention to the Japanese problem began very soon after~~

~~the outbreak of war.~~ The January, 1942 San Joaquin County

Farm Bureau Monthly published a resume of a report which