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PORTLAND AND SEATTLE HEARINGS

TESTIMONY OF WALTER W. UNDERWOOD, SECRETARY, ASTORIA  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, ASTORIA, OREG.

The CHAIRMAN. Have you a statement you wish to make?

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Yes, My name is Walter Underwood, and I am from Astoria. I think perhaps I can answer some of the questions you asked one of the preceding witnesses.

The CHAIRMAN. Having in mind that telegram, have you any comment to make on it?

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Yes, sir. I have here a map of the Astoria water front. We are very much alarmed about this situation, as brought forth in that telegram, and I might mention that that committee is composed of interests along the water front in Astoria, and I think perhaps they have a Coast Guard representative, as well.

We have the largest concentration of fish canneries on the Pacific coast in that area. That fish is of a very high food content, and about 80 percent of the pack during the last year was shipped to foreign countries who are at war, or purchased by our Government for troops. It is easily shipped. It is a good food, and will help to sustain these countries during this war. We have had our city burned twice. It is a very easy city to burn in view of the fact that it is located as it is; it is a string community along the water front, and one man very easily could start a fire. This map will illustrate the point, and places where it would be very easily damaged by one determined person with incendiaries. These Japanese who have formerly been employed in the Astoria canneries, live in bunkhouses right on the water front, and they still live in those bunkhouses. These Japanese are within 1,700 feet of the ships leaving Astoria—and I might mention that convoys are going out of there. It is very obvious that there are signal systems within that community now, because every time we have a black-out, we find blinking lights, and they move from time to time. We also discovered 2 days ago, 20 sticks of dynamite under Tenth and Bond Streets, wrapped up in newspaper; so we know that those Japanese know that they are going to be searched. They have had plenty of time to cache any materials that they have for sabotage in their preparations.

There were 27 Japanese there, but now there are 26, because one was picked up by the F. B. I. He was apprehended with weapons. I don't know the details. I want to leave this material as an exhibit.

The CHAIRMAN. That will be included in the record at this point.

EXHIBITS SUBMITTED BY WALTER W. UNDERWOOD, SECRETARY  
ASTORIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, ASTORIA, OREG.

THE CITY OF ASTORIA, OREG.,  
February 25, 1942.

Hon. JOHN H. TOLAN,

Chairman, Committee Investigation of Enemy Aliens.

Sir: In behalf of the officials of the city of Astoria, I wish herewith to voice our protest against the policy of permitting enemy aliens to reside unguarded and unmolested within our community.

Our vital industries, such as docks, oil plants, ship yards, etc., need not be listed in detail, nor should the necessity of their maintenance be referred to, of such you, no doubt, have full comprehension.

Our police force has made many investigations and secured much data indicating the danger, which data is too voluminous and of such character as to



Mr. JONES. Yes; I would say that we would.

Mr. ARNOLD. That is all, Mr. Chairman, that I have.

The CHAIRMAN. Senator, I would like to say to you that your two Senators, Holman and McNary, and your three Representatives, Mott, Pierce, and Angell, met almost daily—that is, the congressional delegates from California, Washington, and Oregon—and we made a recommendation to the President that he give the right to the Army to evacuate all citizens. So the President issued that Executive order, giving the right to evacuate any citizen, to the Army.

Mr. JONES. That is entirely right.

The CHAIRMAN. I don't know whether that is going to be handled through a permit or registration system; but I don't think the American people in these strategic areas will have much complaint about it. When we go down to Washington and the War Department and the Navy Department, we have to sign up, and we are given a badge, and before this is over, we might all be wearing badges.

Do you know anything about the Astoria district, the Astoria waterfront?

Mr. JONES. No; I do not. I know just a little about it, having been there a few times.

The CHAIRMAN. Let me read you a telegram from the Astoria Harbor Defense Committee, and see if you can throw any light on it. It is addressed to this committee. [Reading]:

#### ALIENS ON ASTORIA WATERFRONT

There are 27 enemy aliens residing on the Astoria waterfront. Many of these were prior to the war engaged in the fish-packing industry. It is entirely impracticable to consider using them in the future in this industry. Therefore they are of no further use here. Many of them would welcome an opportunity to be employed in other areas. Their idleness contributes to further menacing our waterfront. Urge that immediate steps be taken for their removal.

Have you any views to express about that? It is signed by the Astoria Harbor Defense Committee. In the first place, do you know anything about that committee?

Mr. JONES. No, I do not; no.

The CHAIRMAN. And, therefore, you don't know much about the facts of this particular telegram?

Mr. JONES. No; I do not know anything about it.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Senator, very much. Is there anything else you have to say?

Mr. JONES. We might have to take immediate steps on account of a boycott; there is always that threat. In our area, about half of those operators are dependent on labor outside of their own families, and that might or might not be of immediate consequence. If this order comes—that is, if this order for evacuation comes after the 1st of June, it wouldn't have nearly as much effect on this year's crop; and for next year's crop, we would make different arrangements, and raise a different type of crop.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Senator, very much.

Mr. Underwood, I understood you wanted to make a brief statement to the committee.



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prevent transmission herewith. All such data has been presented to F. B. I., Army and Navy representatives; and to us, indicates a definite organization of Japanese aliens with a definite leadership thereof.

We believe the danger is present, that it is acute, and that fine point of personal feelings should be disregarded, all to the end that enemy aliens be removed from the community.

Respectfully yours,

G. T. McCLEAN, City Manager.

ASTORIA, OREG., February 25, 1942.

Mr. JOHN H. TOLAN,  
Room 524, United States Courthouse,  
Portland, Oreg.

DEAR SIR: The evacuation of aliens from the Astoria and lower Columbia River district, concurring with and cooperating with other industrial industries in this section, the Port of Astoria desires to call attention particularly to the very easy nature in which the oil industries, particularly in this section, all of which are located on the water front as an extreme vulnerable point of attack for saboteurs or enemy aliens which can be brought about by small explosives mainly. Most all of the oil companies, including their storage tanks and facilities, are located on the water front. Any damage that would burst tanks either by demolition or incendiary bombs would raze and at the same time destroy low walls surrounding such tanks and the burning oil on the water front which would be impossible to put out before the probable destruction of all industries on the water front. Same is true of all oil industries located on port property which alone have investments of \$4,000,000 and which is being planned now for one point of embarkation and the loading and handling of its boats in national defense. We feel and trust that every effort will be made to eliminate enemy aliens in this district, and while various industries have gone to great expense for additional deputized guards and watchmen, the menace remains constant as long as such aliens are permitted to reside in this district.

While the Japanese submarines were on the coast in the outbreak of the war, every ship that left the Columbia River passed within 1,000 feet of the Japanese bunkhouses. These were the only ships leaving coast ports that were either torpedoed or fired upon. This is particularly noticeable inasmuch as similar ships leaving Puget Sound were not molested, as it is 130 miles from Cape Flattery to Seattle, so the Japanese did not have as close a check on them as they did from departures from the Columbia River. We therefore urge the removal of these aliens.

Very truly yours,

R. R. BARTLETT,  
Manager of the Port of Astoria.  
F. M. SWEET,  
Vice President and Harbor Master.

ASTORIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,  
Astoria, Oreg., February 18, 1942.

HON. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT,  
President of the United States, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: Attached is a petition signed by 50 citizens of Hammond, Oreg., requesting removal of aliens from that area and designation of same as defense zone.

It is our pleasure to forward this to you, supplementing our telegrams of February 14 and telegrams which we have also sent to Senator McNary and Congressman Mott.

We urge that this action be taken.

Sincerely,

ASTORIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,  
WALTER UNDERWOOD,  
Managing Secretary.



ASTORIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,  
Astoria, Oreg., February 18, 1942.

HON. FRANK KNOX,  
Secretary of Navy, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: Business interests of this community are much concerned over the presence of enemy aliens in this area. According to statements just made by the President of the United States, even cities as far inland as Detroit may be justified in expecting bombings. It therefore would appear absolutely essential that we protect ourselves for all possibility of sabotage, especially in such strategic areas such as the lower Columbia.

It is therefore our wish to acquaint you with the wish of this community as expressed in the enclosed telegrams and a petition which has been forwarded to the President of the United States, requesting and urging designation of this area as a defense zone from which enemy aliens shall be removed.

You will find attached copies of wires sent to Congressman Mott, Senator McNary, and wire sent on February 14 to the President of the United States, which telegram was duplicated by the labor council. Also a petition signed by 50 citizens of Hammond, Oreg., has been forwarded to the President.

There can be little doubt that the great majority of public opinion in this area favors removal of these aliens, particularly as at present these aliens cannot find lucrative employment here and many of them individually desire to be removed to areas where they may safely be employed to earn a livelihood.

We also understand that interested parties along the water front in this area have formed a committee for the protection of the water front, and that this committee will communicate with the Government requesting removal of these aliens.

Sincerely,

WALTER W. UNDERWOOD,  
Managing Secretary.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,  
Astoria, Oreg., February 25, 1942.

MR. WALTER UNDERWOOD,  
Secretary, Chamber of Commerce, Astoria, Oreg.

DEAR MR. UNDERWOOD: It is my understanding you are to attend a meeting to be held in Portland, Thursday, February 26, at which time evidence is to be submitted to the investigating committee concerning the desirability and/or advisability of moving all aliens from the Pacific coast district, which would of course include Astoria.

As president of the chamber of commerce and also as manage of the Astoria branch of the United States National Bank of Portland, Oreg., I feel that such a move is absolutely necessary and essential. These aliens, particularly the Japanese, are in a position to do inestimable damage, and it is my thought all Japanese, both nationals and citizens, should be removed, at least pending a thorough investigation of each of the individuals and a determination made as to their right to enjoy their citizenship. I sincerely hope the investigating committee will recognize the potential danger and take steps to immediately clear this territory of all aliens.

CHARLES A. REYNOLDS,  
President, Chamber of Commerce; Manager, Astoria Branch United States National Bank of Portland, Oreg.

COLUMBIA RIVER PACKERS ASSOCIATION, INC.,  
Astoria, Oreg., February 25, 1942.

Re alien enemies.

MR. WALTER UNDERWOOD,  
Astoria Chamber of Commerce, Astoria, Oreg.

DEAR SIR: We wish to call to your attention that we have on our property at the present time eight alien enemy Japanese. Though these people were employed by us previous to the outbreak of the war, the nature of the salmon business is such that it makes it impracticable for us to consider reemploying them. They are, therefore, a direct menace to our property, and as you well know the Japanese



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never lose allegiance to their country and they are so situated they could cause us untold damage at any time they might see fit. We therefore urge that you take any steps that you can to have them removed.

Yours very truly,

COLUMBIA RIVER PACKERS ASSOCIATION, INC.  
FLOYD L. WRIGHT, *Treasurer.*

CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL OF ASTORIA AND VICINITY,  
*Astoria, Oreg., February 10, 1942.*

SECRETARY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,  
*Astoria, Oreg.*

DEAR SIR: The Central Labor Council of Astoria and Vicinity are heartily in accord with your action in requesting that Astoria and vicinity be designated as a defense zone. The presence of enemy aliens in this district is a constant threat to the safety of the northwest district.

At a regular meeting Monday night, February 9, a resolution carried to endorse your action and the secretary was instructed to acquaint your body with our action. Feel free to call on us for any assistance that we may be able to render you.

Very truly yours,

CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL,  
R. C. COLE, *Secretary.*

TESTIMONY OF WALTER W. UNDERWOOD—Resumed

MR. UNDERWOOD. I was asked to come here and testify, not just by the chamber of commerce, but I have letters from the city manager, from the Labor Council, from the harbor master, and from the American Legion there. I think that the public opinion in this matter is at least 95 percent in favor of removal of at least the Japanese aliens.

Now we would also like to see removed from that area the second generation Japanese, but anything would be an improvement over the present situation. We feel that we are not unduly alarmed, but we are alarmed over the presence of the 27 Japanese aliens in the area because of the fact that it would be so easy to damage our equipment. We have absolutely inadequate equipment to take care of a severe fire on our water front, which would damage not only our docks but all of our oil tanks and destroy our canneries.

I have had some conversation with one or two of the Japanese aliens themselves, and as it now is, they have used up all but one week of their unemployment compensation. They are not allowed to work in the canneries, because we have more Chinese in the canneries than we have Japanese, and they simply won't work with them.

UNEMPLOYED JAPANESE

I talked to Ted Deister, who is in the lumber business, and they cannot employ them. The laborers refuse to work with the Japanese in the back country in the lumber camps. They are demanding their removal from those lumber camps and from our canneries, and we cannot have them work there. They are public charges. They know they are, and they, themselves, would like to be removed to some point where they can safely find employment and earn a living. The longer they stay here in these bunkhouses the more sullen they become, and the more apt they are to become fifth columnists.

MR. SPARKMAN. I wonder how many second-generation Japanese there are in that same area.



Mr. UNDERWOOD. I have had various estimates, all the way from a dozen up to 18 or 19.

Mr. SPARKMAN. What about German and Italian aliens?

Mr. UNDERWOOD. I am not qualified to answer anything on that. They are a very minor problem in our area.

Mr. SPARKMAN. Have you or any of your group ever taken this matter up with General DeWitt, down at San Francisco, with the idea of having that declared a strategic area?

Mr. UNDERWOOD. We have wired Senator McNary and Congressman Mott with a request that they do that, and they have responded that they favor removal of the aliens. What they have done, I couldn't say.

Mr. SPARKMAN. Well, of course, since last Friday, the matter has lodged completely in the hands of the Pacific coast defense commander, who is General DeWitt. I was just wondering if it had been called to his attention.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. No, sir; we were on the verge of doing that when we heard that there was a hearing here, and they asked me to come here first. We have made our military and naval officers in our area all aware of what we have done, I will leave with you copies of all the telegrams that we have sent. We have been alarmed about this for quite some time.

Mr. SPARKMAN. I should like to make the suggestion that you prepare a report, something similar to what you have given us here this morning, and send it to General DeWitt, and ask that that be declared a critical area, setting up your reasons why you think it should be, and that these aliens be evacuated.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. We have sent that to the War Department and the Navy Department already. Will that get to him?

Mr. SPARKMAN. I suggest that you send it direct to General DeWitt. He is the one that is directly responsible for it.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. We will do that, anyway.

The CHAIRMAN. The Navy and the Army have received quite a number of communications at Washington. As I understand the mechanics of it, it is up to General DeWitt, and he has his Army Intelligence officers; then he works with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It would be very valuable to him.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. We feel this way in Astoria—may I interject a personal opinion here?

#### NEAREST MAINLAND POINT TO THE WAR

We are the nearest mainland point to the eastern war. We feel that it would be much easier to defend our area, so that we could send more men abroad, if we made ample precautions against fifth-column activities; and we feel that the way to do that is first to remove the aliens so that they can look then for the citizen fifth columnists. We would like to see the second-generation Japanese removed, surely, as preceding witnesses here have testified; but anything, as I say, will be an improvement over the present situation. We feel that we must get at least the 26 or 27 enemy Japanese out of our area first. The other steps, I think, will come later.

The CHAIRMAN. You see, that is just the very idea back of this committee coming out on the Pacific coast, so as to give you an



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opportunity to be heard regarding the problems, and particularly about certain districts like this.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. And, in other words, probably we can get the word out just about as fast as you can.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. I might say that there has been one solution offered, and this is going to come, I am sure. The Navy and Army will set up restricted areas, say 1,000 feet from our docks. Now, I might point out that in the case of Astoria, that is not practical, because Astoria is on a peninsula, and it would leave just about 5 percent of our physical area for those people to live and do business in. They have to be removed from the community. You cannot set up restricted areas there because the whole community, practically, would be restricted.

The CHAIRMAN. Let me say to you, Mr. Underwood, that we will have our record open for the next 10 days, anyway, and if you want to produce what you have said in a written statement, we will be glad to have it for the record. Thank you.

The committee will take a 5-minute recess.

(Whereupon, a 5-minute recess was taken, after which the hearing was resumed, as follows:)

The CHAIRMAN. The hearing will come to order, please.

Mr. ARNOLD. Is Mr. Bessey here, of the National Resources Planning Board? Did you want to make a statement for the committee, Mr. Bessey?

Mr. BESSEY. Yes, sir.



This office will, of course, be very glad to assemble and to furnish any available data and otherwise to assist in the solution of the problem.

#### TWO MAJOR PROBLEMS OF EVACUATION

From our viewpoint—admittedly limited as to knowledge of the magnitude of movement and of governing policies and plans for any proposed evacuation—it would appear that there would be two major problems: That of maintaining production and services in areas that may be evacuated, and that of relocating evacuees in nonmilitary areas where their productive capacity may also be maintained and where camp and settlement establishment will be most feasible from the area and community standpoint.

On the basis of data presently available we are not in a position to elaborate upon the problems of the evacuation areas. It is, of course, essential that the production of the evacuated areas be maintained—whether that is a matter of replacing productive work in agriculture, industry, or necessary services. It will be particularly important to insure continuing production of alien groups operating truck gardens in western Washington and Oregon (as well as California). Substantial increases—past, current, and prospective—in the population of certain coastal districts due to war activities add considerable significance to the output of truck gardens.

The relocation of aliens and related groups outside of restricted zones will require planning that must be both quick and comprehensive if unnecessary loss of effort or other difficulties are to be avoided.

It is assumed that camp or settlement units must be neither too



please return

# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIANS:

Japanese Relocation Papers  
Bancroft Library

Please take a look at the map on the opposite page. It has been prepared at our request by members of the staff of Mt. Wilson Observatory. The projections are made from a *globe* (the world as it is) not from the usual flat map (a distorted world as most people visualize it).

The shading is mathematically accurate—the darker it is the nearer is the enemy.

Why have we gone to this trouble? Simply to cure a case of flat-map-itis which shows itself in attempts to remove our industries and to restrain them from achieving their potential capacity. These attempts are cloaked under the pretty phrase "industrial evacuation."

The threat is a real one. It does not originate with the tactical branches of the Army or the Navy. It originates with:

- 1) A well-organized group of Midwesterners who see the present scare as a good opportunity to grab some industries which they otherwise have been unable to develop;
- 2) Another group with Pearl Harbor jitters who see the Japs overrunning our shores;
- 3) And still a more important, more influential and larger group—the social planners who would locate industries according to their inexperienced judgment rather than on the basis of economic considerations.

The projections on our map have been made from Tokyo, Havre on the French Invasion Coast, and Dakar. If you prefer Rome to Dakar then make your own projection. In any event, take a *globe* and a compass and make some projections. You will discover some amazing things. Florida, for instance, is closer to Acapulco on the west coast of Mexico than is San Diego!

We do not mean by this map to disparage our sister cities in the Pacific Northwest. The 5,000-mile projections were selected only to bring them within the United States. **All parts of the Pacific Coast are protected by more distance than most other parts of the United States.**

Southern California not only has the advantage of great distance from enemy camps. It is so important it must have and will have the very finest protection, even if all our factories were "evacuated." It is a great ship-building center. It has tremendous oil resources. Los Angeles County alone produces twice the agricultural value of any county in the United States. *Its importance is its safety.*

The Chamber of Commerce is not seeking war babies, those industries which boom now and leave us with headaches later. Nor do we propose to get out of tune with tactical necessities.

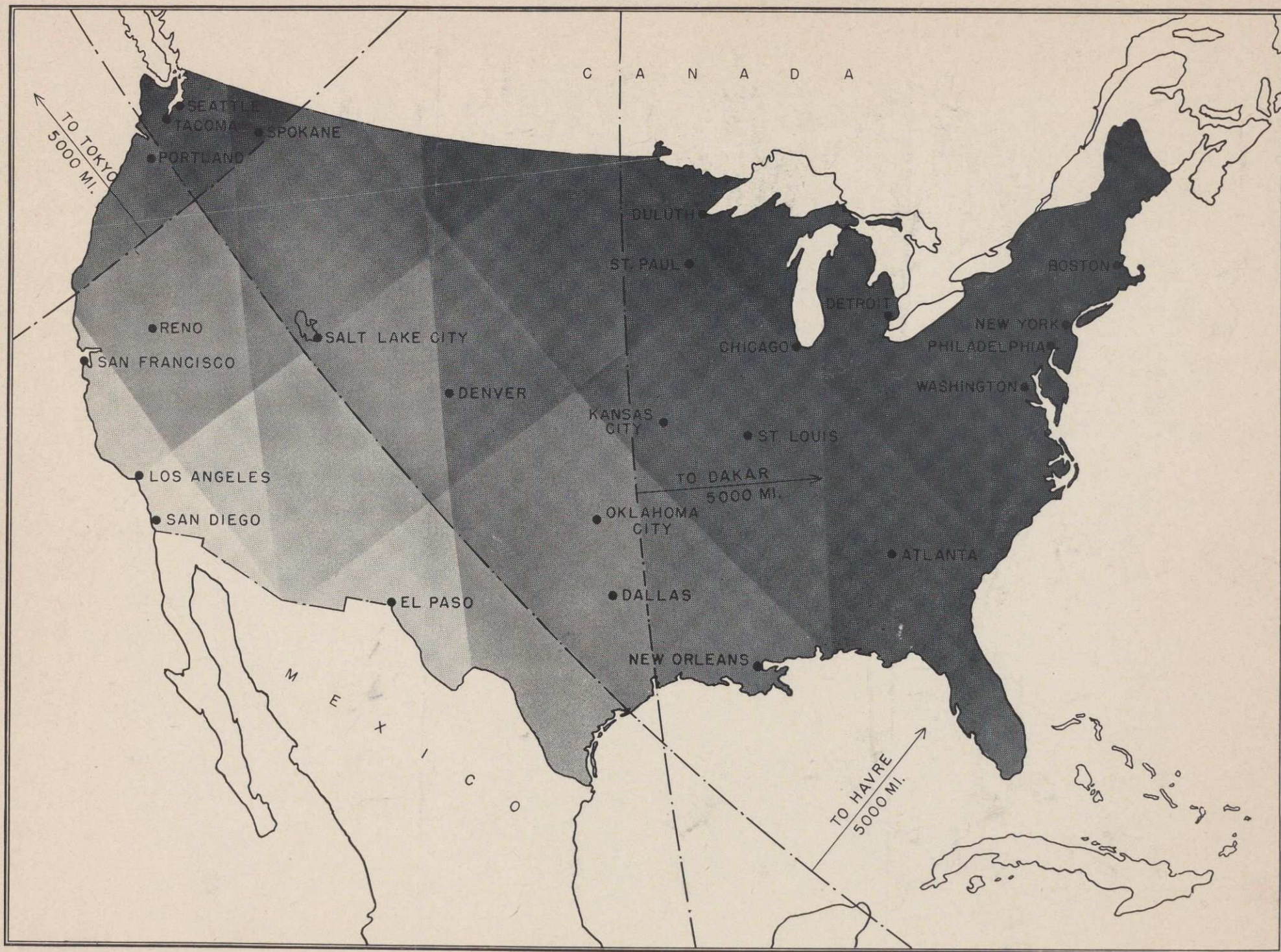
But we insist that we shall not be the victims of political pilfering. We insist that our people and our industries be permitted to produce to their very peak. If an expansion of an existing industry here can do more than a comparable expansion somewhere else, we insist it should be made here. We insist that our small business be not discriminated against to satisfy some politico's silly idea of social justice.

This is war. War has become a race to make things. We are not afraid of the enemy. And we don't like those who are.

Our Yankee blood does not yet run thin.

*Reprinted from the February 2, 1942, issue of SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BUSINESS,  
published by the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce.*







Items in File of William Jennings Bryan, Jr., Collector of Customs,  
Office of the Collector, District No. 27, December 19, 1941

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Memorandum to Bryan by Agricultural Committee, Los Angeles Chamber of  
Commerce, on the "Control of Japanese Nationals and Their Properties,"  
no date (about the middle of January)

*Los Angeles  
Chamber of  
Commerce*  
Japanese Relocation Papers  
Bancroft Library

Recommends that all Japanese nationals and their property be immediately placed under absolute Federal control; that this be accomplished by internment of alien Japanese residents here or by such other means as will regulate their activities effectively and by direct government control of their properties and businesses.

States that many committee members have had extensive dealings and long standing friendships with Japanese. These men are unanimous in that there are many loyal American and alien Japanese, but "there are a considerable number of Japanese nationals whose loyalty is unquestionably Japanese." Evidence of this is the practice of sending boys to school in Japan, and by expressions of attitudes and by the type of organization among the resident Japanese. Small local organizations of Japanese farms are federated with the Southern California Farm Federation which in turn is federated with similar groups engaged in the fishery business, nursery business, etc.

"There is substantial evidence that the Central Federation has been under direct control of the Japanese consulate. To permit the Japanese aliens to go freely about their activities and operate their businesses means that the economic controls operated through these agencies will be used to serve political plans inimical to the United States."

American-born Japanese according to the committee, freed of the domination of their alien elders, by proper controls will contribute to the security, etc. If not freed they will be regarded with suspicion and threats to their economic and personal security.

"The Committee recommends that while American firms having contracts with Japanese would be adversely affected, it should be possible under Federal control to operate Japanese properties with little disruption.

"Similarly, Federal custodians of farms and commission houses producing and distributing vegetables and other food products will undoubtedly arrange for the continuance of production and distribution of these commodities without much difficulty. Furthermore, there need be little concern about a shortage of vegetables, for American producers already have a surplus of some of the more important commodities, such as lettuce, carrots, cabbage and cauliflower. Possible shortages would be limited to such non-essentials as radishes, and green onions."



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Letter to Bryan from Howard A. Miller, manager, Agricultural Department of Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, January 28, 1942, in reply to Bryan's letter, George B. Hodgkins, Chairman of Agricultural Committee

Holds in answer to question by Bryan that complete elimination of Japanese, both alien and American, could be accomplished without seriously curtailing the production of vegetables, fruits and berries (items which Japanese produce). There might be temporarily entailed a lesser supply of "relish" crops such as radishes, green onions, etc. Many of the garden crops could be planted quickly by other farm operators.

Points out that when planting season is further along in a month or two more disruption will be entailed. Japanese are suffering from limitations in operating. Credit sources formerly available are no longer accessible, such as Japanese bank, Japanese marketing operators, suppliers of fertilizer, insecticide and seed who now deal only on a cash basis. Land owners are also hesitant about continuing leases with Japanese and the latter are hesitant about undertaking operations under uncertain conditions of investment.

Notes that about 65 percent of the green vegetables coming into the Los Angeles market is handled by Japanese. Much smaller percentage of the total produce including potatoes and fruits is in hands of Japanese.



## STATEMENT

On February of 1942, on recommendation of its Agricultural Committee, the Chamber went on record favoring the movement of Japanese to an area beyond fifty miles from the Pacific Coast and the Mexican border, and the employment of the Japanese thus removed to the fullest possible extent. This recommendation was fulfilled somewhat later under orders from General DeWitt, acting on authority granted by the President.

While the area from which the Japanese were barred by the General's order was more extended than that in the Chamber's recommendation, your committee feels that it would be nothing less than tragic to now permit return to this area. While the attempt made by the War Relocation Authority to determine the loyalties of the Japanese was an honest and comprehensive one, we are not convinced that the results are sufficiently accurate to give such assurance as justifies return of any of these people to vital military areas in the Pacific region.

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 ten of the 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. While this difference may be accounted for, in part, by different groups of Japanese having been sent to different centers, it seems quite probable that there would not actually be as much difference. There can be little doubt but that at least the 50% indicating their disloyalty are not trusted American citizens, and there is a grave question that 2% represents the total, or anything like the total disloyalty in the other camp.

One of the important factors influencing your Committee to recommend against return of the Japanese to the Coast is their probable treatment. It is not at all improbable that should they be permitted to return, occasions would arise where they would be subjected to personal attack and abuse, possible bodily injury and even bloodshed. This would have a more disturbing influence in working out their postwar situation than could possibly result from restricting them from this area while the war is on. Furthermore, such disturbances would be used by Japan as an excuse for additional brutalities against our people who are prisoners. Also, our large population of other Orientals here on the Coast would be placed in an embarrassing and perhaps dangerous situation, since too often they are not readily distinguished from the Japanese. At best the return of the Japanese to these coastal areas where strong hatreds are known to exist, would result in resentment which would be destructive to our war effort. Such resentment would not be a matter of the moment but would be a continuing influence throughout the war.

While the employment of Japanese in farm labor would add to our total available manpower, those who have formerly engaged in such work and would be available, represent a very small proportion of our total needs. While we are, and will probably continue to be short of total manpower required for farm work in order to meet increased food need, we have already demonstrated our ability to produce in excess of our output before the Japanese were interned.

The proposal in paragraph numbered two, for internment of disloyal Japanese, is desirable, not only from a standpoint of placing them under strict military control to prevent espionage or sabotage but, also, to put a stop to their subversive influence on other Japanese.



Recommendation numbered three is consistent with the proposal in the action of the Chamber on February of 1942, for utilization of Japanese labor.

Recommendation numbered four is prompted by reports that the Japanese in the relocation centers, ~~confronting~~ conforming to their prewar practices, are conducting schools, entertainments and other activities which tend to build up loyalty to the Japanese Emperor., which of course, means disloyalty to this country.

It is the Committee's information that certain religious groups, the American Civil Liberties Union, conscientious objectors and racial agitators have visited the camps and possibly had considerable influence on the Japanese in the camps, as well as influencing public opinion on the outside.

San Luis Obispo

# Chamber of Commerce

CYRIL GARRATT  
SECRETARY

Japanese Relocation Papers  
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783 MARSH STREET  
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA  
"THE HOME OF CAMP SAN LUIS OBISPO"

February 2, 1942  
BY G. J. R.  
On FEB 11 1942

Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

At a regular meeting of the Directors of the San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce, held on Thursday, January 29th, the following resolution was adopted:

"Be it resolved that the Board of Directors of the San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce request the Department of Justice and any or all other Congressional agencies vitally interested in the successful prosecution of the war, to remove from California, all Japanese both alien and American born, in the interest of the safety and protection of this country and furthermore that they be moved and held in such locations as may be deemed desirable, so that they can be properly watched."

It was further resolved that a copy of this letter be sent to Senator Hiram Johnson, Senator Sheridan Downey and Congressman A. J. Elliott.

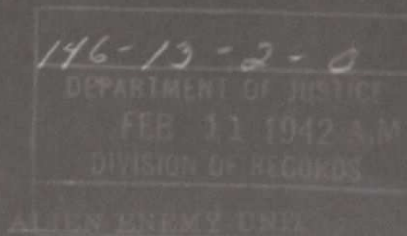
Yours very truly,

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

*Cyril Garratt*

Cyril Garratt, Secretary

CG:JH





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Chamber of Commerce, Pasadena

CITY

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Board of Directors minutes of meeting held February 3, 1942

Japanese Relocation Papers  
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"The following communication, prepared by Director Lloyd W. Brooke, at the request of the Executive Committee, was read to the Board and after discussion, on motion duly seconded and carried the Secretary was instructed to address the same to U.S. Attorney General Biddle, our representatives in Congress and Governor Olson:

"The Chamber of Commerce of the City of Pasadena is vitally interested in matters relating to the public welfare of this community.

We have been advised that under the authority granted to President Roosevelt, pursuant to the provisions of Sections 21 and 24 of Title 50, United States Code, President Roosevelt has issued a proclamation governing the activities of alien enemies and has conferred upon you authority to enforce the same with respect to continental United States, which, of course, includes our City of Pasadena.

It is the profound conviction of all members of the governing Board of this Chamber of Commerce that the presence of alien Japanese in our city is a constant menace to the safety of the people of Pasadena and their property rights and interests. We believe it has been clearly demonstrated by the actions of outstanding members of the Japanese race that every member of this race is potentially capable of committing murder and sabotage without warning.

We, therefore, earnestly recommend to you the immediate transfer of all Japanese aliens to concentration camps established in the interior regions under circumstances which will permit them to engage in profitable work under guard supervision and with just recompense to each individual for his own efforts. We further recommend that all members of the Japanese race living in our area be placed under careful surveillance and that suspicious characters among such American citizens of the Japanese race be immediately dealt with by law enforcement officers in such manner as to make it impossible for any of them to become harmful to our citizens.

We respectfully submit that unless we are all alert to prevent disaster before it overtakes us and unless prompt and summary action is taken under your authority, it may be possible for the large number of Japanese aliens in California to do great harm to our community, as the Japanese of every rank and station proved themselves capable of doing on December 7, 1941."

say to Bd of Dir.  
(Letter - J.L. Eaton, to author, Dec 28 '40)



RESOLUTION OF COLTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
RECOMMENDING REMOVAL OF ENEMY ALIENS FROM  
COASTAL AREAS.

① CFC  
Japanese Relocation Papers  
Bancroft Library

The Board of Directors of the Colton, California, Chamber of Commerce at their regular monthly meeting held February 11, 1942, discussed at length the dangerous and ill-advised presence of enemy aliens, and Axis sympathizers of alien extraction, situated in the Pacific coast area, a recognized area of hostilities in the conduct of the present war.

After thorough consideration of the problem from all angles, and duly aware of the hardships resulting from arbitrary action in solving the difficulty, the Board of Directors adopted the following Resolution:

RESOLVED, that the United States Government, in cooperation with state, county and city authorities, and through the various governmental agencies available for that purpose, take immediate steps for the complete evacuation from any and all areas within a distance of two hundred miles from the Pacific coast line, of all enemy aliens, all persons who acknowledge and claim dual citizenship with any enemy nation with which the United States is at war, and all other persons whose sympathies with enemy nations make them a potential menace and danger to the war effort of the American people.

ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Colton, California, Chamber of Commerce, this 11th day of February, 1942, and the Secretary thereof is directed to transmit copies thereof to all public officials directly concerned, and in a position to assist in carrying said Resolution into effect.

H. P. Waller  
President

Alan M. Gray  
Secretary



(Copy of resolution adopted by Board of Directors, San Benito  
County Chamber of Commerce, Hollister, California, February 11, 1942)

WHEREAS, The cowardly and dastardly attack by Japan on the armed forces of the United States at Pearl Harbor and the subsequent declaration of war by the United States on Japan and the Axis Powers has made the citizens of San Benito County aware of the presence of enemy aliens, particularly Japanese, and un-American Japanese citizens holding dual citizenship with the Japanese Empire, and

WHEREAS, Raids conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the adjoining Counties of Monterey and Santa Cruz within the past few days disclosed the indisputable fact that enemy aliens, particularly Japanese, had in their possession an appalling quantity of contraband articles including fire arms, weapons, ammunition, cameras, short wave radios and like apparatus, in defiance of rules and regulations established by the Federal Government when this region was designated as a Combat Zone, and

WHEREAS, It is well known to the citizens of San Benito County that resident enemy aliens, particularly Japanese, and their descendants known as Japanese-American citizens, suspected of holding dual citizenship with the Empire of Japan, have in their possession and control in this County, farm equipment consisting of heavy and light trucks, tractors, tools and other equipment which could be used by said aliens most effectively in destroying and damaging highways, bridges, railroads, and communication, water, power, gas, and oil lines within this County as effectively as was the case at Pearl Harbor, in



event of an invasion by our wartime enemies or as a separate act of sabotage which might be committed at any time, and

WHEREAS, It is noticeable that the actions of most enemy aliens, particularly Japanese and their descendants, are not now, nor have they ever been, such as would lead us to believe that in event of an emergency, or at a given opportunity, they would maintain strict neutrality or be loyal to the United States of America, and

WHEREAS, A large part of this County is devoted to agricultural crops and grazing lands which become highly inflammable during the early summer, which is fast approaching, and would afford a most favorable opportunity for these enemy aliens and dis-loyal citizens to stage a disastrous and wide spread conflagration, and

WHEREAS, Numerous requests have been made to this body that it take immediate action in urging and requesting the proper authorities to take immediate action to prevent the repetition of the Pearl Harbor incident or a worse disaster, and

WHEREAS, It is well known that the American people do not wish to be unfair or unjust to the loyal American born Japanese American citizens but do wish to be protected against any and all disloyal Japanese-American citizens, and

WHEREAS, It appears to this body that in view of the seriousness of the present war with the Japanese Government and the lack of time in which to carefully evaluate the standing and loyalty of the American born Japanese-American citizens that both the alien



Japanese and the Japanese-American citizen should be removed from the entire Pacific Coast for the proper defense of our Nation,  
THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED, That the San Benito County Chamber of Commerce does and it hereby urges that the proper civil and military authorities to take immediate action to cause the removal of all enemy alien citizens and Japanese American Citizens from the entire Pacific Coast Area, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be sent to commanding officers of the Army and Navy, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, to the Governor of California, the Adjutant General and the Attorney General.



SAN BENITO COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Hollister, California

February 13, 1942

Mr. Nat Peiper  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
111 Sutter Street  
San Francisco, California

Dear Mr. Peiper:

The attached resolution, adopted by the Board of Directors of this organization on February 11th, is respectfully submitted to you for your very earnest consideration.

The conclusions expressed are based on facts, and our careful observations of these people, who have lived among us for many years.

We are convinced that the continued presence of these people in this area constitutes a threat and menace not generally recognized, and we urge that you give our recommendations careful study and attention.

Yours very truly,

/s/  
E. E. Sparling, President  
SAN BENITO COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

COPY

COPY



c f c (5)  
by Ag. Comm. Feb 11 '42  
by Bd of Dir Feb 20 '42  
RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE FRESNO COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN RELATION TO THE JAPANESE  
AND ALIEN ENEMY SITUATION ON THE PACIFIC COAST  
Japanese Relocation Papers  
Bancroft Library

WHEREAS, there now seems to be a tendency on the part of authorized Federal agencies to remove certain aliens from vital defense areas into other sections of the Pacific slope without proper supervision and surveillance, thereby intensifying the already acute problem, &

WHEREAS, investigation by local, state and federal officers have unearthed an amazing amount of evidence in the Pacific Coast area establishing clearly the presence of fifth column activities by alien enemies and disloyalty among American born Japanese, creating a situation of a most explosive nature, and

WHEREAS, even now the San Joaquin Valley, with its military posts, important railroad and highway systems, rich oilfields, great expanse of highly inflammable grain fields, foothill pasturelands and mountain watersheds, containing valuable timber and essential hydro-electric development, is receiving known alien enemies, who because of the lack of proper restraint could in a few hours wreck vital defense activities and destroy much farm produce needed in our all-out effort, now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Fresno County Chamber of Commerce, an organization representing business, professional and agricultural interests in the central San Joaquin Valley, urge Federal authorities to remove from the Pacific Coast states all Japanese and aliens of other countries now at war with the United States to a restricted area eastward where their activities and influence could not affect the national defense effort, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in the interest of national defense and the prevention of possible local disorders that those American born Japanese who are loyal to the Flag of the United States, be urged to lead the movement of their countrymen and alien enemies from the Pacific Coast areas to designated points beyond the zone of effective sabotage thereby proving conclusively their loyalty as American citizens, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the California Congressmen and Senators, to Attorney General Francis Biddle and military authorities on the Pacific Coast and officials of Japanese and other alien organizations.

f. c. c. f. c.  
Carl Dougherty, Secy  
Memor. Aulick Box 1469  
Fresno



COPY

3

LA  
Lomb  
~~Preliminary  
Chambers of Commerce~~

R E S O L U T I O N

Japanese Relocation Papers  
Bancroft Library

WHEREAS, it has come to the attention of the Board of Directors of the Laguna Beach ~~Chamber of Commerce~~ that alien Japanese and native-born Japanese who are not residents of the County of Orange are being moved by authorities into the County of Orange, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors believes that this action is not in furtherance of proper defense precautions and is harmful to the residents of the County of Orange,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Laguna Beach Chamber of Commerce favors the immediate removal of ALL Japanese from the County of Orange and that no more Japanese be brought into the County of Orange by the authorities during the pendency of the present emergency.

I, Ann Marquis, Secretary of Laguna Beach Chamber of Commerce, a corporation, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly and regularly passed by the said Board of Directors at a meeting of said Board of Directors duly and regularly called and held at Laguna Beach the 23rd day of February, 1942.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary  
Laguna Beach Chamber of Commerce



CHECK SERVICE DESIRED OTHERWISE MESSAGE WILL BE SENT AT FULL RATE	
DOMESTIC	FOREIGN
FULL RATE	FULL RATE
DAY LETTER	CDE RATE
NIGHT LETTER	URGENT
RESERVATION	DEFERRED
FOUR-RATE	NIGHT LETTER
	SHIP RADIO

# Postal Telegraph

Mackay Radio  
Commercial Cables



All America Cables  
Canadian Pacific Telegraphs

CHARGE ACCOUNT NUMBER	
CASH NO.	TOLLS
CHECK	
TIME FILED	(STANDARD TIME)

Form 2

Send the following message, subject to the Company's rules, regulations and rates set forth in its tariffs and on file with regulatory authorities

Feb. 14, 1942

Franklin D. Roosevelt  
President of the United States  
Washington, D. C.

Japanese Relocation Papers  
Bancroft Library



ARRESTS OF ENEMY ALIENS IN THIS AREA INDICATE POSSIBILITY OF SABOTAGE OF SHIPPING AND INDUSTRIAL INSTALLATIONS HERE. STRATEGIC POSITION OF LOWER COLUMBIA AREA SUGGESTS THAT OUR SHIPPING FACILITIES MAY ALL BE SORELY NEEDED AS PACIFIC WAR PROGRESSES. ALL ENEMY ALIENS IN THIS AREA NOW IDLE AND A BURDEN TO TAXPAYERS. MOST WOULD WELCOME REMOVAL TO AREAS WHERE THEY COULD SAFELY BE PERMITTED EMPLOYMENT. ALL WHO OBJECT TO REMOVAL SHOULD BE REMOVED ANYWAY. BUSINESS INTERESTS HERE THEREFORE PLEAD WITH GOVERNMENT TO PROTECT US FROM FIFTH COLUMN ACTIVITIES SUCH AS PAVE WAY FOR ALL AXIS SUCCESSES. PUBLIC OPINION HERE UNANIMOUS IN THIS REGARD

ASTORIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Charles A. Reynolds, President

*Same telegram sent by labor Council*

*John got signature*

SAVE 20% WITHIN STATE  
USE POSTAL TELEGRAPH



CHECK SERVICE DESIRED OTHERWISE MESSAGE WILL BE SENT AT FULL RATE			
DOMESTIC		FOREIGN	
FULL RATE		FULL RATE	
DAY LETTER		COD RATE	
NIGHT LETTER		URGENT	
DEFERRED		DEFERRED	
RESERVATION		NIGHT LETTER	
OUR-RATE		SHIP RADIO	

# Postal Telegraph

Mackay Radio  
Commercial Cables



All America Cables  
Canadian Pacific Telegraphs

CHARGE ACCOUNT NUMBER	
CASH NO.	TOLLS
CHECK	
TIME FILED	(STANDARD TIME)

Form 2

Send the following message, subject to the Company's rules, regulations and rates set forth in its tariffs and on file with regulatory authorities

Hon. James W. Mott  
House of Representatives,  
Washington, D. C.

Japanese Relocation Papers  
Bancroft Library

2

BUSINESS INTERESTS OF ASTORIA INCLUDING HARBORMASTER GRAVELY CONCERNED OVER  
POSSIBILITY OF SABOTAGE. UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES ONE DETERMINED SABOTEUR  
WOULD DO IRREPARABLE DAMAGE. URGE YOU EXERT YOUR INFLUENCE TO EFFECT REMOVAL  
OF ENEMY ALIENS AND ESTABLISH THIS AREA AS DEFENSE ZONE. COMMANDER HASSLEMAN  
WILL RECEIVE COPY THIS WIRE.

C. A. Reynolds, Pres.  
Astoria Chamber of Commerce

SAVE 20% WITHIN STATE  
USE POSTAL TELEGRAPH



CHECK SERVICE DESIRED OTHERWISE MESSAGE WILL BE SENT AT FULL RATE		
DOMESTIC		FOREIGN
FULL RATE	FULL RATE	
DAY LETTER	CDE RATE	
NIGHT LETTER	URGENT	
	DEFERRED	
RE-TRANSMISSION	NIGHT LETTER	
OUR-RATE	SHIP RADIO	

# Postal Telegraph

Mackay Radio  
Commercial Cables



All America Cables  
Canadian Pacific Telegraphs

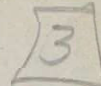
CHARGE ACCOUNT NUMBER	
CASH NO.	TOLLS
CHECK	
TIME FILED	(STANDARD TIME)

Form 2

Send the following message, subject to the Company's rules, regulations and rates set forth in its tariffs and on file with regulatory authorities

Senator Charles A. McNary  
Senate Office Building  
Washington, D. C.

Japanese Relocation Papers  
Bancroft Library



Recent Press releases indicate possibility Astoria may be designated area from which Japanese aliens will be removed. There is considerable local concern regarding possibility of sabotage of shipping and industrial installations. We therefore urge you to exert influence to protect Astoria from this menace.

C. A. Reynolds, President

ASTORIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

*mail  
copy to  
Frank Sweet*

SAVE 20% WITHIN STATE  
USE POSTAL TELEGRAPH



W I R E S   U R G E   I M M E D I A T E  
E V A C U A T I O N

6  
Japanese Relocation Papers  
Bancroft Library

DINUBA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
ASKS REMOVAL OF  
JAPANESE FROM CALIFORNIA

With telegrams to Lieut. General John L. DeWitt of the Western Defence Command in San Francisco, and to Senator Hiram Johnson and Congressman Alfred J. Elliott in Washington, the directors of the Dinuba Chamber of Commerce joined other California political and civic bodies in urging "the removal of all Japanese from California". In view of the Tolan hearing which left the matter open for another two weeks, the local telegram declared Dinuba citizens were "astonished at inaction in view of the preponderance of evidence of disloyalty".

Meanwhile, back in Washington, Congressman Elliott took the floor with a demand that "we start moving the Japanese in California into Concentration Camps and do it damn quick. This is a serious matter and we have got to realize it. Last night 25 shells were dropped in my district. Do not let people kid you by saying they are good, Japanese one in a thousand, but not any more than that", Elliott concluded.

Republican O'Connor of Montana didn't want the Japanese move to that state: "A nation could start a fire that might that might wipe out the forests and fields of grain in Montana".

In Visalia, the Tulare County Board of Supervisors expressed alarm over the Japanese evacuees from Southern California into Tulare County and went on record in a resolution urging prompt action by the federal government in removing all persons of the Japanese race, whether aliens or citizens, from the Pacific Coast and placing them in concentration camps.

E. A. Poehlmann, coordinator for the County Defense council, told the supervisors educated second generation Japanese can be more of a menace than our alien parents. Proposal to increase immediately the number of voluntary police, recruited from members of the American Legion, and to give them special training by the



Feb. 26, 1942

2 -

Japanese Relocation Papers  
Bancroft Library

Sheriff's office was discussed.

Several meetings of citizens have been held in the Orosi district where it is said as many as 50 Japanese evacuees families have moved in from coast points. One of the results was a telegram to Major General DeWitt as follows:

"We, a citizens committee of Orosi, as a discussion held tonight, demand that some action be taken at once regarding the Japanese situation in this vicinity. Further, we demand that all Japanese that are now here and those that are being moved in here be removed, not only for our safety, but also for their own safety. We feel that unless immediate action is taken, the situation may get out of hand. Urgent action must be taken".

Orosi Dtitizen's Committee.

Local Japanese stated to the press today that the Ivanhoe Tomato plantings were the same this year as in former years before the Dinuba Visalia Air School existed. One declared that while he realized the gravity of the situation, he thought it was plain that it would be easier for enemy airplanes to locate the air school without locating tomato plants first.

In approving a telegram to hurry federal action, the local chamber of commerce directors expressed the opinion that such a evacuation would be in the interests of the people's safety: prevent a possible disaster in the nature of Pearl Harbor, and also protecting local Japanese from possible violence at the ends of exciting citizenry.

#



Whereas bitter experience has already taught us that subversive fifth-column activity and sabotage by aliens residing in United States territories and possessions has been of material assistance to our enemies and considerable damage to our country and its welfare; and

Whereas, it is believed that the Pacific coast area of the United States, with its many vital war industries is ever in danger of attack by our enemies; and

Whereas enemy aliens and enemy sympathizers now residing in this area are in such large numbers as to make impractical, if not impossible, the task of adequate supervision, as a result of which fact such aliens are now largely unrestricted in their movements and actions and constitute a grave menace to our welfare and prosperity, particularly so in case of attack: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Olympia Chamber of Commerce recommends a plan be adopted at once removing all Japanese and all enemy aliens and all known enemy sympathizers from the Pacific coast area to inland points and placing them under effective supervision for the duration of the war. With a full realization of the many problems that are involved and a hope that this may be done in a humane manner, we urge that action be taken without unnecessary delay.

Passed by unanimous vote of Olympia Chamber of Commerce at their meeting February 26, 1942



*Coop with Army*

# LaConner Chamber of Commerce

LaConner, Washington

February 2, 1942

Hon. Attorney General Biddle  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

FILED  
BY GPJR  
On FEB 17 1942

*John*

The citizens of this community, through their Chamber of Commerce, would like to express to you their concern over the continued presence of enemy aliens in Pacific Coast areas, in the hope that you might be in a position to help do something about it.

The following resolution has been passed by the LaConner Chamber of Commerce and a copy ordered sent you:

"The LaConner Chamber of Commerce, meeting February 2, 1942, petitions the Federal Government to move all enemy aliens and citizens of Japanese descent inland from the Pacific Coast area as a security measure against sabotage, racial disturbances, etc."

We feel that without this mass movement, the danger of the above mentioned sabotage and racial disturbances is ever present and that in addition there is the chance that otherwise loyal Americans of Japanese descent might be turned the other way by mistreatment. This problem has been a source of concern for us locally for the past two months and the above resolution was passed only after long and sober consideration.

With the best of regards,  
LaConner Chamber of Commerce,  
M. P. O'Leary,

Secretary

*File*

146-13-2-0

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEB 17 1942

DIVISION OF RECORDS

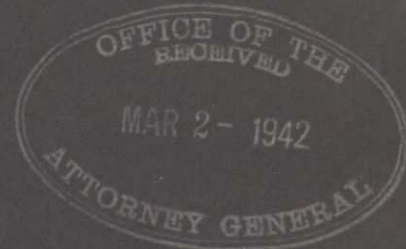
ALIEN ENEMY UNIT

(3)



FRESNO COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
FRESNO MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM  
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA

Feb. 24, 1942.



HON. FRANCIS BIDDLE  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

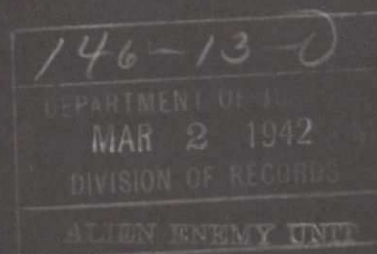
At the regular meeting of the Fresno County Chamber of  
Commerce Board of Directors on February 20th, the  
attached resolution was unanimously passed, and the  
secretary instructed to forward a copy to you.

Very truly yours,

*M. P. Lohse*  
M. P. LOHSE

Executive

Secretary









8  
Japanese Relocation Papers  
Bancroft Library

May 13, 1943

TO Mr. Miller

From Leonard E. Read

SUBJECT : RETURN OF JAPANESE TO PACIFIC COAST AREAS

The report of the Special Committee on Japanese, dated May 11, was approved by the Board of Directors at its meeting today.



Date: May 11, 1943

COMMITTEE: SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON JAPANESE  
W. S. Rosecrans, Chairman

Subject: Return of Japanese to  
Pacific Coast Areas

Status: For study - to be acted upon

Japanese Relocation Papers  
Bancroft Library

Recommendation

That the following policy be urged upon the Federal Government with respect to both alien and non-alien Japanese, excepting only those regularly enlisted in the armed service:

1. That permission not be granted for return to the Pacific Coast States during the continuance of the war between this country and Japan
2. That the Japanese who have indicated their loyalty to Japan, or have refused to pledge their loyalty to the United States, be interned under strict military control
3. That Japanese other than those included under item #2 be given every reasonable opportunity to demonstrate their loyalty to this country, through productive labor in non-military areas to the extent that the attitude of the communities where they are to be employed is not prejudicial to the personal welfare of the Japanese.
4. That schools, entertainments, and other group or individual projects promoting loyalty to Japanese culture not be permitted



Interview with James Read, Managing Director, Los Angeles  
Chamber of Commerce, July 20, 1943

Because Ingebretsen in Washington had given me so much data, I had a good and easy entree to Read. ~~xxxxxx~~  
Read is the picture of a successful executive. Slim, youngish looking, rapid talking, piercing gaze, etc. He is also damn intelligent. Thus:

1. I took a great deal of effort to help get the Japanese off the coast in 1942 and I've spent a good deal of time keeping them off the coast in 43. But I think the Japanese ~~were~~ were good for the economy of California before they were removed and I think they will be good for the economy of the state when they come back. I will certainly not oppose their return after the war. I will fight hard to keep them away during the war, not for any economic reasons but ~~xxx~~ solely because I am afraid of the consequences to both our military and ~~navy~~ industrial installations ~~xxx~~ and to the Japanese themselves. The Japanese produced good products ~~xxxx~~ at low cost. They supplied real competition and competition made America what it is today. I would be the last person in the world to want to remove such competition. America lives on it.

2. We have a good organization in Washington. If we get interested in a problem, the Washington office first ~~xxxx~~ calls in our own Los Angeles representatives, then we can expand from there, to the Southern California people, the whole California delegation and, in the extreme incident, to the delegations from all the West Coast States. We usually can get what we want. We do a terrific amount of work behind the scenes, filter it to the right place and let the Congressmen themselves take credit for it

go  
omits  
this  
from  
book



We do the work, they do the talking. We don't get the publicity and don't want it. If we got too much publicity, the Congressmen would have to keep away. ~~xx~~ There's nothing evil about the relationship. It's businesslike and it works. On the Japanese business, we got the Congressmen together not only ~~xxx~~ prior to evacuation in order to get the movement underway, but also more recently to protest any move to let the Japanese come back to the Coast. M

3. We haven't won the last fight yet. The announcement is too qualified --- ~~it simply says~~ it simply says no contemplation at the moment is being made to loosen ~~xx~~ present restrictions. It doesn't say the Japanese will be kept off the coast for the duration and that's the announcement we want to hear. I went to Washington on the matter myself. I talked to McCloy and he impressed me as being a ~~xxxxxx~~ nice fellow but as a damn naive one. Read me a letter from a Japanese in the ~~xxxx~~ army spouting patriotism and then drew the conclusion that all Japanese ~~xxxx~~ were also loyal. Damn nonsense.

4. You will find no sentimentality and no racial bias in this office. The problem is to end this nasty business -- I have two sons in it myself ----- and I intend to do everything in my power to contribute to the end as soon as possible. Japanese evacuation is a part of it and that's why I'm for it. Also that's why I against the Japanese coming back while the war is being fought.



5. Mr. Read showed me the survey forms used by the Chamber of Commerce through all the chambers of the three Western States in an effort to determine the opinion of these chambers with respect to the return of the Japanese during the time of war. He agreed to send not only his tabulations from these forms but also the letters written in response to the questionnaire

6. Mr. Read indicated that the Wash. office of the C. of C. had gathered the Congressional delegations of the W. Coast (under Costello) to protest the contemplated move to return some of the Japanese to the coast. When I get to Wash. I must investigate this.

---

NOTE Alexander Maiklejoh, in an interview in Berk. on July 29 said, that he had talked to McCloy about this and that it was M'johns very definite impression that that activities of the Congressional delegation and other pressures from the W. Coast that made the War Dept. back down in its contemplated approval of the WRA program to allow certain classes of the Japanese to return to the coast. M'john is an old teacher of McCloy's and knows him very well.





*from* JAMES C. INGEBRETSEN

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GRODZINS IN WASHINGTON  
REPORT #15  
October 15, 16, 17.

Japanese Relocation Papers  
Bancroft Library

It has rained six days in Washington and Grodzins has not been dry once.

I. Examination of the files of James Ingebretsen, Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce,  
October 15, 1942.

Ingebretsen's files were informative on the following points:

1- The California congressmen were addressed on the subject of the Japanese on January 29, by Charles Nordhoff, co-author of Mutiny on the Bounty, and Lowell Limpus, columnist of the Times-Herald. Both men urged evacuation.

2- The "Costello resolution" passed on January 30, by the assembled Pacific coast House representatives was written by Ingebretsen after consultation with Leonard Reed, chairman of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce. Evidence for this is positive. I have quotations from the teletype messages that were exchanged. The original suggestion for alien evacuation and encouragement of Nisei to evacuate (which were incorporated into the January 30th resolution) came from Aubrey Harwood, in letters of January 15, and 20, to Leonard Reed.

3- The Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce was one of the very first organizations to become interested in Japanese evacuation. On December 22, 1941, the agricultural committee of the chamber of commerce recommended the internment of all Japanese aliens.