

January 9, 1942 -- Several readers of The Rafu Shimpo have phoned in suggestions that we do "something quick" for families made destitute when their men were interned by the F.B.I. Editorial staff went into huddle this morning; some concern as to whether it was "all right" to do such a thing was expressed by two Issei members of the staff. It was decided to get the U.S. Attorney's office approval first, then go ahead. Small flood of inquiries has poured in on both Japanese and English staffs. With these questions I visited office of United States Attorney William Fleet Palmer in the Federal Building. Mr. Palmer's answers to the following questions:

- (1) Is it within the law for our newspaper to organize a community appeal for financial assistance to families of men taken into federal custody?

"Yes, depending on how you do it."

- (2) What is the legal status of the American citizen possessing bonds of an enemy country, these bonds (or stocks) having been purchased over the counter in the United States?

"Whether or not he would have to register under the foreign funds control regulations of the Treasury department would depend upon when the bonds or stocks were purchased; there is a possibility of such person being suspect of conspiracy to violate the regulations."

- (3) Will possessions, property, bank accounts and all belongings of enemy aliens be confiscated?

"No one can predict the future with absolute certainty; Uncle Sam will be fair and just and no law-abiding and loyal alien need fear unjust seizure of his possessions. No confiscation order affecting permanent residents has been issued as yet."

- (4) A business firm worth several hundred thousand dollars has taken out life insurance, straight protection on its president who is an alien; the insurers and beneficiaries are all citizens; if the alien should prematurely die, what is the status of the citizen beneficiaries in relation to the insurance--are they entitled to it without the funds being impounded or frozen?

"Death would in end the interest of the alien and the money becomes the property of the beneficiaries."

- (5) Some new businesses are being started by second generation citizens. Must each of these persons get a thorough check-up by the F.B.I. first?

"This is not required by law; it is not necessary where such businesses are operated by loyal citizens; however, if one wishes to get such a check-up first, he may request it."

- (6) Many Issei people have developed anxiety neurosis, just sitting around wondering when they will answer a knock on their door and find three F.B.I. agents waiting to take them into jail. Many have friends whose arrests they have been unable to justify in their minds. Why should they be arrested? They are extremely anxious to know on what general grounds a person is liable to be taken into custody by the F.B.I.

"That is a difficult question to answer because it involves so many different individual cases. But generally, if a person has assisted a Japanese government agency in the past in any activity deemed by our government as possibly dangerous to our internal security, we feel it to the best interests of all to take such person into custody for investigation further and for questioning. This includes persons, on the basis of their personal records, appearing likely to assist espionage agents or of giving aid and comfort to the enemy."

- (7) Can a citizen travel in a car registered to an enemy alien?

"There are no government restrictions prohibiting this."

- (8) Many first generation Japanese business men, being legally and technically enemy aliens, are fearful of continuing in business. They expect that it will become increasingly difficult to carry on and would like, in some cases, to turn their businesses over to their citizen sons or relatives or friends. Is such a thing permissible?

"If the transaction is a bona fide sale by the seller and purchase by the new owner, relative or not, and if proof can be demonstrated that there was not collusion in an attempt to circumvent the existing regulations governing such transfers."

* * *

Mr. Palmer was not able to answer all the inquiries pertaining to business matters and referred us to the Federal Reserve Bank representing the Treasury Department's division of foreign funds control. A Mr. Reynolds issued a statement for publication stating that all generally licensed nationals (Issei who had not been in Japan or abroad after July 17, 1940) were permitted to enter into transactions and transfers and sales without restrictions because their funds were not frozen.

Herbert Nicholson of the American Friends (Quakers) in Pasadena, visited us at our office today. It seems that he has been called upon to assist families of interned men.

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A rumor current in Little Tokio reflects the fear and uneasiness among residents. Joe Oyama, who sells cosmetics products for his father and writes newspaper articles for the vernacular dailies on the side, says he heard from a Caucasian friend, Fred Adams, that there is some talk in the Gardena area that a group of hoodlums is preparing to "kill all the Japs in a bonfire and burn them up."

Another rumor which reached us in the form of an anxious telephone inquiry from a woman concerned about the safety of her daughter going out on a date in the evening: Several "hakujin" men posing as "government agents" had forced their way into a home and had raped one of the daughters in the family; the father had been interned the previous day.

Dr. Tetsuya G. Ishimaru, an optometrist and recently active in the Anti-Axis Committee, telephoned and said he had information that a certain "Harry Tanaka" had represented himself to a distressed family (unnamed) saying her could get the interned father of this family out of the Fort Missoula department of justice detention station. Dr. Ishimaru says the names and addresses of the principals concerned are available at the office of the Anti-Axis Committee.

Conversation in the Nakamura barber shop on East First street between San Pedro and Los Angeles streets this noon seemed typical of growing Issei resentment against the Anti-Axis Committee and the J.A.C.L. which it represents. There is already considerable suspicion that the Anti-Axis Committee is an "inu" (dog) organization; there is, it seems to me, tremendous growing resentment against unfair "finger-pointing" resulting in the arrest and detention of men whose families insist are completely innocent and will be exonerated.

Kiyo Doiwchi who is one of The Rafu Shimpo's bill collectors and who gets around the community regularly, had a new one to report to me this afternoon. He said he had been asked by Dr. Kuroiwa, a Little Tokio Issei M.D. if it were true that staff members of The Rafu Shimpo were cooperating with the F.B.I. in "turning in" aliens. Dr. Kuroiwa had remarked that "it was funny" that after Pearl Harbor, the publisher and managing editor and one English Editor had been arrested but the other English Editor had not. Kiyo feels that The Rafu Shimpo seems to be diminishing in popularity.

Shiro Takeda, Japanese editorial staff member, said this morning he had heard a report that Japanese truck gardeners in Gardena fear they are going to be moved out from the Rosecrans area on minute's notice because of their proximity to oil wells there.

January 10, 1942 *- No definite check-up has been made, but it is obvious that the bulk of better known Issei business men have been taken into custody by the F.B.I. There is considerable uneasiness in business quarters among Los Angeles Japanese.

New inquiries from readers were referred to the office of U.S. Attorney William Fleet Palmer. Because most of them were of a technical nature, he had us go directly to Marvin Dean, Assistant United States Attorney, in his office. Dean's replies to the following questions:

- (1) In a business transaction wherein an Issei sells his interest to a Nisei, could the seller later be employed by the buyer in any capacity?

"This would probably be construed by the government as suspicious, and it might be regarded as collusion to circumvent regulations; I would say such an arrangement would be prohibited."

- (2) A group of archery enthusiasts, seven in all, has been meeting twice a month at the Kimiyo-In, 217 North San Pedro street, on Sunday afternoons from 1:30 to 5 p.m. Is it necessary for each of these persons to secure permission from the F.B.I. to hold these meetings?

"No; compliance with regulations governing meetings does not require it; however if persons wish to be on the safe side to avoid trouble, they are free to so notify any federal agency."

- (3) A family lives in Glendale, one block outside of Los Angeles; a member of the family goes to the doctor once a week for medical treatment; is it necessary for that person, being an alien subject to travel restrictions, to apply for a travel permit each time?

"Yes."

- (4) What is the legal status of the Issei in business transactions?

"The Issei as an enemy alien is subject to two groups of statutes: Trading With The Enemy Act and War Title of U.S. Code. An enemy is defined as resident of those countries with which the United States is at war and any others that the President desig-

nate. Permanent residents are not at present included in these restrictions with the exception of those whose funds have been frozen."

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Paul Uyemura who is our stereotyper, is assisting a group of young men plan a dance at the Mueller's Ballroom in downtown Los Angeles; he is contacting the United States Attorney's office in advance "just to see that we have no trouble."

Al Williams, a reporter on the Los Angeles Times, whom I have never met, telephoned our office today to inquire if we had any library material on "Charles Yoshii, the Japanese Lord Hee-Hee." Williams says he is doing an article on Yoshii whom he understands once attended the Los Angeles Junior College; a check-up showed that he had the name confused with a Charles Ishii. Charles Yoshii is a former Portland, Oregon, youth and is broadcaster on the Japan Broadcasting Corporation overseas radio programs.

Mrs. B. Umezawa, secretary in the office of the Three Star Produce Company, 8th and Wall Streets, said over the phone today that the hearing date for Mr. Susumu Hasuike is going to be set soon, so they understand. Hasuike is the head of the Company which, as an Issei business enterprise, is reputed to gross over \$3,500,000 annually. Hasuike is an Issei; his wife is a Nisei; his children are American-born. He was taken into custody by the F.B.I. last month shortly after Pearl Harbor and is now said to be at Fort Missoula, Montana.

There is a current rumor that over one thousand notarized affidavits have been gathered on behalf of the release from Fort Missoula Montana, of Yayemon Minami, Issei farmer and grower of Guadalupe, California. Minami is founder and head of H.Y. Minami and Sons and at one time was reputed to operate the "largest lettuce acreage in the world." These affidavits are said to have been largely from Caucasian friends in Guadalupe and Santa Maria Valley. Efforts to check these rumors got us nowhere; they're probably somewhat exaggerated.

I attended a meeting of the Southern California Friends (Quakers) this evening in Pasadena and found a rather unusual group of people, about 200 persons. A report from their foreign service committee disclosed that these good people are shipping 23 tons of clothing to China for European refugees stranded in Shanghai. In discussing civilian defense, they say quietly: "We should

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look for opportunities of service to be done that is necessary to which we can conscientiously contribute very much. Our first objective is to find an area of social need. We may have one soon if, as reports seem to indicate, the Japanese are to be evacuated from Terminal Island." I talked briefly with Floyd Schmoe, of the University of Washington faculty, whom I learn is a Friend. Schmoe said, among other comments: "The Japanese American Citizens League activities in Southern California have brought about a greater degree of sympathetic understanding. I believe that understanding lessens as you go farther north. For instance, at Seattle, on the Monday after war broke out (December 8), nisei students at the University of Washington could not leave campus even to get food; authorities in some instances would not permit them to cross bridges or ride public conveyances. People who are making most trouble for Japanese are those who have had little or no contact with them."

Announcement was made at this meeting that Dr. and Mrs. Guerney Binford, returned Quaker missionaries from Japan (about 40 years of service in Japan) have been designated temporarily in charge of work for the Terminal Island people in the event an emergency should arise requiring their evacuation.

January 11, 1942 -- The Southern District Japanese American Citizens League held a meeting today, a "Council session". About 45 delegates from Southern District chapters, plus as many boosters and about 20 Caucasians, mostly officials, attended. Fred Tayama, as chairman of the Southern District J.A.C.L., presided. Mike Masaoka, National Executive Secretary, made a special trip from San Francisco, to be present. ✓

The business sessions were held in the Council chambers of the Santa Ana City Hall. I noted a feeling of uncertainty and uneasiness among the delegates; I know for a fact that the fathers and relatives of many of these J.A.C.L.-ers have been arrested and taken into custody by the F.B.I., and talking with some of them individually, I have a feeling that, while they are indulging in these public spectacles of patriotism, they may be having one hell of a time trying to justify in their own minds the arrests of their fathers. I have yet to find one who felt his father was guilty; on the contrary each seems to be confident his old man will be found innocent and released.

A luncheon meeting was arranged, it seemed, somehow to reassure all J.A.C.L.-ers that they are still regarded as good Americans. The mayors of Santa Ana, Orange and Anaheim were introduced. Ken Matsumoto, who is the National Vice President of the J.A.C.L., introduced Lieutenant Commander Kenneth D. Ringle, chief of Naval Intelligence for San Pedro and Los Angeles. Ringle, who was not supposed to be publicly quoted, said: ✓

"Loyalty to America should be expressed not merely by financial contributions, but in your thoughts, time, service, efforts--at all times. I still have faith in the Nisei of the United States. I don't think you'll let us down. To a certain extent I've gambled my professional reputation on that score. I hope to be able to take that message to sea, that the Nisei will actively work to prevent sabotage, disaffection, and disloyalty."

Ringle was given a resounding ovation. He is immensely popular among the Southern District J.A.C.L. ✓

A Captain Atkinson, who is attached to the Army's Santa Ana Air Training base, also spoke:

"Those Japanese whom I have met are quite different from the American-born of other races in the east. My contacts out here are different. But on the surface, I find among you Japanese of American birth a cultural something, an acceptance of things that our American citizens hold dear."

Ben Liebermann Chairman of Civilian Defense for Orange County, had this to say: "Your obligations as

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American citizens under the laws of the United States is to guide your parents, to educate them to understand the laws. They have been invited to go home to Japan. They did not go home, so they accepted the invitation to stay here and to obey the laws." This speaker seemed enormously suspicious of the whole situation.

Lynn Crawford is principal of Santa Ana High School and a member of the influential Rotary Club. Most of the local J.A.C.L.-ers are former students and alumni of Santa Ana, it seems. Crawford said, among other things:

"If you need any genuine proof that these people are really, down-to-soul Americans, remember that Americans are the greatest organizers in the world. The Nisei organizations prove this." (This classic gem of reasoning was intended for Caucasian ears, I presumed.)

Crawford then turned to the Nisei with the following:

"I would like to remind you fellow Americans of one thing to remember always. When our forefathers came here first, Washington led a rebellion and war against his own people, his relatives, his brothers. It isn't the people you fight against, it's the ideal for which you fight that counts."

Most of the J.A.C.L. officials at the speaker's table had their say, then the luncheon meeting adjourned back to the City Hall for the afternoon business session.

Tokutaro Nishimura Slocum had "field day" today. Disowned, discredited, and shunned by the J.A.C.L. generally for so long, he has now returned as the prodigal son, his inordinate vanity bloated in his own self-esteem. The fact that the J.A.C.L.-ers who before war were calling Slocum such choice names as "drunken bastard" "wife-beater" "bird dog" "sonugabitch" now accept him as a leader and elect him chairman of committees is a pretty good indication of the confused and muddled state of J.A.C.L. leadership. Slocum has so little in common with the average Nisei. He was born in Japan; he never had a normal home life in the sense that the average Nisei has had; he is in his forties, the average Nisei is in his early twenties. Slocum has no Issei relations. Slocum made a speech this afternoon. He said:

"I am proud, by crackee, to see that the J.A.C.L. has at last awakened to real Americanism, after these many long years in which I have led my comrades in this great fight. We must eternally be vigilant and be on guard against impositions that would ask the Anti-Axis Committee of which I am the chairman, at the unanimous

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request of the J.A.C.L. and Fred Tayama, to do the work of the Central Japanese Association. The Anti-Axis Committee is certainly not going to do the work of the agent of the Japanese government. That Central Japanese Association is a nefarious, spying organization, and I am proud to say to you here that, on December 7 night, I went over the top again, leading my buddies of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Naval Intelligence to arrest the Central Japanese Association leaders, everyone from that lecherous Gongoro Nakamura down. I was personally responsible for the arrest of the Central Japanese Association members who are today in the safe-keeping of the F. B. I."

I was sitting in the back of the room and could see to the side and front of me, any number of young men and women whose fathers, uncles, relatives were those to whom Slocum was making reference. Their facial responses varied; generally they looked puzzled, whatever they may have been thinking. I don't think Slocum increased his stature in their minds. One young lady remarked rather quietly to me: "He doesn't seem to understand these things at all; he is even vicious."

Slocum's talk was commended warmly by a talk, thin, underfed-looking man, who was introduced as Sheriff Elliot of Orange County who said: "That's the kind of red-blooded talk I like to hear. We can't take chances, and you boys and girls should not hesitate a moment, even though it's hard, to turn in your parents if you think they are being un-American. I know this is difficult, but it's a challenge to every red-blooded American."

I had been invited to this session to make a talk. Seldom have I ever felt more out of place. I must have lost a great deal more faith in the J.A.C.L. during those days in jail than I suspected. I spoke very briefly:

"As most of you know, I have been in jail. I am one of those whom a previous speaker has inferred was engaged in, or had contact with those engaged in, nefarious activities. So I was taken into custody after Pearl Harbor and spent eleven illuminating days in jail, with some of your fathers and uncles and relatives and friends. Now I am free again. And I am here to make a report to you because I still happen to be a chairman of one of your committees; for how much longer I do not know. A few weeks ago, I was in jail, numbered, finger-printed, imprisoned, wearing blue denims of the Los Angeles County bastille. Today I am free, never having been tried, only examined and turned loose. Was I any less innocent in jail than I am today, or am I any more guilty now than I was then? In my own mind, friends,

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and I sincerely hope I have friends in the audience, I have never for a moment felt that my arrest and imprisonment was justified--from my point of view. My conscience has been and is clear. If my jailing was a test of my record, the single fact of my release should be further evidence of a confirmation of the fact my record is clear. But that is not the point. I have never experienced any other war, and if I live old enough to see any more, perhaps, I will be able to better evaluate some of these things that are now happening. I feel that wars cause injustices; innocent people must suffer. There are many persons in federal custody today who tomorrow may be released outright. Mistakes are made; our government is big enough to acknowledge them. What right do we, as private citizens without the facts, and there are so many complicating ones in the picture, to set ourselves up as judges of our fellow men? I detest witch hunting as fully as much as I detest the subversive pro-Japan American citizen whose presence menaces us all. As for calling the Central Japanese Association a "nefarious" organization engaged solely in "spying", that is one man's opinion. It betrays a rather crude ignorance of the facts relating to the whole picture. So much for that. I have a feeling that, individually and collectively, our problems have just begun. I know that each of us is going to be tested, and tested beyond and above those tests to which our fellow citizens of European extraction will be exposed. I only hope that our actions will speak for us and speak for us well--as Americans."

I rode home from Santa Ana with Seiichi Nobe and Kay Sugahara. Nobe remarked: "When you made that comment about witch hunting, I heard it was a good thing Slocum wasn't there; there might have been a fight." I had been feeling like a fight with that bastard any way, I replied. We haven't been on speaking terms for a long long time.

January 12, 1942 -- Rev. Lester Suzuki, the Nisei pastor of the Japanese Methodist Church at thirty-fifth and South Normandie, called on the phone today to recount some of the difficulties he has been facing. His church is facing more and more cases of distress and destitution. Most of them are in cases where the father has been taken into custody by the F.B.I. "There is just one distress case I know of so far where we had to apply to the County charities for help; it's a mother and a small baby. I think the situation will get worse as time goes on. Fortunately, those in business and better off have been willing to help. I think we're lucky in that many business men are in the fruit and vegetable business." Rev. Suzuki's church is cooperating with the International Institute and the County. The westside area in which Rev. Suzuki ministers has not been without some incidents growing out of the war. A Nisei girl at Manual Arts, according to Suzuki, was "set upon and underwent some bad treatment" recently. A Mr. Ambo who is chief stockholder in the company that operates the New Fashion Laundry and Dye Cleaners is reported to have had some business troubles; pressure is being exerted to oust him from his interests, according to this rumor. Letters which the families of interned men are receiving have boosted morale; the letters say they are getting good treatment at Missoula, Montana, where most of them seem to be. Rev. Suzuki says he is not worried so much about the "so-called Kibei" problem. He says: "Why most of them seem to have gone into the Army. As a matter of fact, I think there are more of them in proportion to their number than the Nisei." Rev. Suzuki's summary: "Things are as normal as it is possible for things to be."

Chiye Kamiyama (Mori) informed us that there is to be a meeting of the Civilian Defense Writers Mobilization Committee e tonight at 8 o'clock, room 2023, Screen Writers Building, Hollywood boulevard and Cherokee. She says she has been active in this group "to get us contacts so that the Nisei will get decent breaks in the press and on the radio."

Walter Rousseau is a business man. He owns and operates the Sel-Rite Market, 1010 West Jefferson. I have just met him. Talking with him at his office, on a mezzanine in his market, he said that a Mr. Serisawa has operated his vegetable concession for the past six years, during which time he has had Nisei employees. He has found them generally honest and reliable. Rousseau is interested in knowing what he, as a private citizen, and a business man, can do to help alleviate a situation which he thinks will "grow worse." He is for some kind of a public relations program to better inform the public. He says, for instance, that some of the present "hysteria aimed against Japanese in the fruit markets is coming from cold-blooded competitors and agitators and politicians. Housewives should be educated about this; they should be told that all this has an influence in raising prices and

thus contribute to the high cost of living. Indirectly, the hysteria against growers and farmers (Japanese and Japanese Americans) in affects the grocery and meat departments too; any influence that retards the free flow of food products tends to raise the price of all products. Rousseau is worried, he says, by news clippings such as the following, a letter-to-the-editor, printed in the Los Angeles Evening Herald & Express:

"WHAT DO YOU THINK?

"For many years Japanese fishing boats along the Pacific coast from the Canadian border down into Mexico have been taking soundings and charting the entire coast line. This work has been done by Japanese naval officers, working as fishermen on said boats. They are now on Japanese submarines operating in our coastal waters. The authorities in Washington knew about this but nothing was done.

"Large Japanese tuna fishing boats for years have been leaving Fish Harbor, on Terminal Island, with deck loads of Diesel fuel oil to hide at some secret place, for future use, which is now. The authorities also knew about this.

"The scrap iron and has the Japanese were taking home for several years in big cargoes are being dumped on the heads of American subjects now. The authorities knew the Japanese would dump it on us some day, so why did they allow it to be sold to the Japanese?

"A Japanese is a Japanese, no matter where he was born. He is taught from infancy the religion of Japan, which is: Be polite and nice to everybody because some day you will help stick them in the back, especially the Americans. Did they do this to us?

"What do you think of these facts?

"I think every Japanese in the United States should be rounded up along with every other alien enemy and placed in a concentration camp until after the war, then send them back home and lock the gates on them for good. It's time we got tough.

"What do you think?

FRANK KELLY

Los Angeles."

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Dr. H. J. Hara is an Issei M.D. He is an eye, nose, throat specialist with a thriving practice, both Japanese and Caucasian. His wife, Margaret Hara, is Caucasian; she is also an M.D. I believe they have been married over 20 years. They have no children. They own two large, comfortable two-story houses on Boyle Avenue in Boyle Heights. Dr. Hara has been active in Japanese-Caucasian activities such as the Japan-America Society, but he has kept aloof of such organizations as the Central Japanese Association. He called by phone today to inquire about procedure in preparing affidavits for internees. Perhaps some patients of his have made inquiry of him.

Employees of the Seventh, Eighth and Ninth Street wholesale terminal markets are getting better salaries now than before the war, our newspaper survey showed today. Business is good. After having been temporarily closed immediately after Pearl Harbor, then subsequently reopened, most of the Japanese-owned firms are operating "as usual". Herbert Wada, who has been cashier for over 12 years at the H & F Produce, one of the larger Issei-owned firms (estimated sale value \$100,000) said today: "There are no signs of competitors trying to squeeze the Japanese out, and complacency is returning." At first, the non-Japanese owned outfits wanted to 'gang up' and "kick the Japs out", according to Wada who said that the feeling of the Japanese was that Homer Harris, secretary of the Associated Produce Dealers Association and Harold Gray of the Credit Association were "just tools of the competitor white firms." As for Nisei employees, salesmen and receivers who used to average \$37.50 weekly in pre-war days, are now getting \$40 monthly; swamper who used to earn \$26 weekly now average around \$30. The two leading Japanese wholesale produce merchants associations, the Nanka Sangyo Kumiai (Japanese Produce Merchants Association) and the Nikka Nosansho Kumiai are still functioning.

Mrs. T. Nomura, a rather self-reliant Issei woman who owns and operates the Toyo Chop Suey cafe on South Western Avenue near Pico, called us this afternoon for advice on what she should do about trying to get the release of her young second husband, a Nisei, who is being detained in custody in San Diego. Her story: "My husband, Teruto Nomura, you've met him, haven't you, was arrested on December 15 in San Diego. His mother is a resident of Mexico, in Tia Juana; she has a permanent visitors' visa which expired on December 16, so Teruto was driving her back to Tia Juana; his mother is 67 years old, her name is Umeyo Nomura. He was picked up down in San Diego and placed in jail, but I have no idea what the charges are. Teruto is

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an American citizen; he does not have dual citizenship. He was born in Sacramento in 1906, and he carried his birth certificate with him. He was in Japan for a short period, but he came back to the United States in 1924 and has been here ever since. They can't hold him like an enemy alien, can they?" She was advised to take her case and appeal directly to the office of United States Attorney William Fleet Palmer. She said she would.

Takeo Tada is the Nisei secretary for the Nanka Shoko Kai Gisho (Southern California Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry). He is a native of Fresno, California, attended, I believe, Fresno State College; he also studied in Japan, is a Kibei of outstanding ability in both English and Japanese. He speaks both languages with almost equal proficiency. I had not seen him since before war; the Chamber of Commerce and Industry has been closed since the F.B.I. took many of its officers and staff into custody. Tada was not incarcerated at any time. He has been visiting in Fresno and has just returned to Los Angeles. He seemed rather concerned over the attitude, he said, of many Japanese residents in the rural areas. He was gloomy and pessimistic about the Nisei in the Fresno area. He even went so far as to venture his opinion that "less than 15 per cent of them are completely loyal to the United States to the extent they'd give their lives for the United States." He further asserted that "pro-Japan sentiment is strong in the rural areas." I asked him, "how can you tell? On what do you base such a conclusion." He replied: "The way they converse and discuss the war. For instance, when they read the newspapers, both the English and the Japanese. If the news report says that Japanese have sunk United States warships, they speak of it as if it were a fact; they don't question it at all. When the news report says American warships have sunk Japanese warships, then they question it, say it's just some more propaganda." Tada himself seems to be quite unsettled; the war seems to be playing hob with his nerves. He is single, has no dependents, is either in his late twenties or early thirties.

I spent some time this afternoon in the office of Frank Peterson, deputy Mayor of Los Angeles. His office adjoins that of Mayor V Bowron in the City Hall. While there, Earl O' Day, the political columnist for Manchester Boddy's Daily News, dropped in, and Frank introduced us. O'Day left after a few minutes; and as I was discussing the possibility of Peterson serving as an adviser for our newspaper, Police Commissioner Al Cohn stepped into the office from the side door leading to a room, which, I believe, stands between Peterson's and the Mayor's offices. Cohn is said to have some association with one of the Hollywood film studios, possibly Warner Brothers. He is a Jew, rather short and stout, and has a

slightly rasping voice. He did a lot of talking at Peterson and me this afternoon. Among the things he said: "I'll tell you what you Nisei have got to face. The problems of the Nisei are far more complex than that of any other minority. There is a lot of distrust of American-born Japanese. Plenty of it, There will probably be a lot more. The report on the Fifth Column at Hawaii and in the Philippines is not yet out, but when it does come out, and I have inside word that it will be out, then watch out. Now one way to solve this problem for you is to get radio time. You Nisei have got two jobs. One is keeping your own people in line. The second is in convincing the public of your loyalty. No self-serving declaration is needed. And remember, this is no time for complaint. You boys have got to get your farmers groups, your fishermen, your floricultural groups all together. Impress upon them their safety will be endangered if any one of them commits any sabotage. Impress especially upon the doubtful that if any sabotage is pulled off, Americans are not going to stand for any monkey business. Now, here's one thing, I'd like to know. How in the hell can you measure a man's loyalty? A man may be loyal today and then tomorrow they'll meet his price! How can you tell? Then there is the war to contend with. A succession of our American boys' victories, and a feeling of pride in doing the right thing will result. But if the Japanese in the Philippine Islands indulge in atrocities, then the hoodlums here may retaliate, and watch out for Little Tokio! Now you know as well as I know that in the Pearl Harbor sneak attack, there were many Nisei employed at Pearl Harbor Hickam Field. They were driving trucks. There were more planes wrecked by Nisei who drove their trucks into the plans those those which were destroyed by other methods. The High Command of the Army has great distrust and mistrust of the Nisei. There are plenty of people who are saying that none of them, meaning the U.S.-born Nisei, are any damn good at all. Whether they're loyal or not, they've got to concede that they've been well treated. You Nisei have an obligation to turn in people whom you know to be subversive. People whom you suspect might get all of you into serious trouble. If there are a few bad acts of sabotage, I don't think anything will do you any good."

I fear I am cultivating something of a dislike for this guy Cohn. Peterson doesn't seem to be on the best of terms with him either. I can sense it whenever Cohn barges into the room. Peterson nodded in agreement, however, when the statement was made that if any large-scale sabotage were committed by resident Japanese, the government would probably abrogate the citizenship rights of the Nisei. Cohn, despite the

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things he says, protests repeatedly that he is doing "everything in my power" to "help the Nisei through these difficult times." He claimed today that he had "mobilized 1800" of the best writers of the Hollywood screen through the office of Civilian Defense to "propagandize for the American citizenship rights of the Nisei." It seems to me that Cohn is closer to Bowron than either Peterson or Dr. Ordean Rockey, who is also deputy mayor. Peterson says that unless the Nisei are able to get some "powerful help and pretty quick", all of us are headed for "some damned concentration camp, so help me." Peterson seems to me to be a square-shooter, honest and sincere. He suggests that we write immediately to Congressman Jerry Voorhis, to Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, to Senator Elbert Thomas of Utah and other people in Washington who have "any humanitarian instincts." He suggested that I go tomorrow to meet "a wonderful old gentleman here whom I think has a hell of a lot of influence in Southern California. His name is Frank Doherty, and he's one of the ablest lawyers in this city. He is chairman of the Civil Protection Committee of the Civilian Defense Council.

Joe Itano called us today. I was surprised to learn that he has landed a Federal Civil Service job. On questioning him more closely (over telephone) I learned he is with the Department of Immigration and Naturalization, serving as an interpreter for the office of Director Carmichael. His telephone number is MADison 7411, extension 620. Joe is a Nisei. I don't know where he learned enough Japanese to be an interpreter; it's not much better than mine, and that's not saying very much.

Tad Uyeno, our contributing columnist from San Gabriel who writes "The Lancer's Column" for The Rafu Shimpo, was in briefly today also. He brought the report that there are no cases of destitution among Japanese families in his area.

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The J.A.C.L. seems to be too busy to acknowledge its own mail. A copy of a letter received by the League in December has been left on our desk with the request that we acknowledge it and use it to the best advantage. It was sent by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Los Angeles chapter, 4075 South Central Avenue. It stated:

"NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED P E O P L E
Official Organ: The Crisis

December 22, 1941

"Japanese American Citizens League
104 So. San Pedro
Los Angeles, California

"Dear Friends:-

"We of the Junior Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, would like to take this opportunity to express our whole-hearted sympathy to the members of your organization in the struggles they must be undergoing in these troubled times.

"We feel that we reflect the opinion of the majority of Negro youth in emphatically deploring acts of intolerance and economic boycott which have been imposed upon loyal United States citizens.

"The Junior Branch earnestly urges you to inform us of any way in which we may aid you in combatting these un-American activities.

"Sincerely yours,

John Killock (signed)
President

Clarence O. English (signed)
Adviser

Lillian Lee Lomax
Secretary

We acknowledged the letter with thanks, but it occurs to us that an opportunity for mustering a lot

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of individual support in the matter of letters and telegrams to Washington is being overlooked. Everybody's got too many private concerns now anyhow, it seems. We wrote a rather hasty reply addressed to Mr. Kinlock:

"Your very kind letter of Dec. 22, 1941 addressed to the Japanese American Citizens League of Los Angeles has just come to my attention, and I want you to know how wholeheartedly welcome and appreciated it has been.

"These, of course, are trying times for all Americans, and particularly for those of us who have a full share of problems in normal peace times alone.

"We feel that an organization such as the Japanese American Citizens League has much to learn from an older group such as yours and wish to thank you for your generous attention. Please be assured that our publication shall keep it in mind, and we sincerely hope that we may be able to serve you as well."

January 13, 1942 -- Having made an appointment, I visited with Mr. Frank Doherty this morning.

Frank Peterson's introduction over the telephone apparently opened the door. Doherty seems to be a nice old gentleman, quite old. I think He's and Irishman and a Catholic. We didn't have too much to say, except he does have a concern for the protection of American citizenship rights and seems a little disturbed by the clamor, now growing in the press, to "get all the Japs out, American born or not". He had an interesting observation to make: "You will learn, when you grow as old as I am, that in a war the most bloodthirsty person is not the soldier, but he is the non-combatant, and the farther away from the scene of hostilities, the more bloodthirsty he gets."

Mrs. Baiko Umezawa, who is secretary in the business office of the Three Star Produce Company, is anxious to have her citizenship status cleared. She is a Nisei, married to an Issei. She was married June 25, 1930, she says, and wants to know if, under the amendment to the Cable Act, she is eligible to retain her American citizenship. She was referred to the U. S. Attorney's office and has filled out Form N 400. She called today to let us know that she is going to be examined for reinstatement of her status as an American citizen.

Sparks Stringer called over the telephone again today. He is busy in radio script writing. He is one of these individuals one meets in the passing parade who knows all the right things to say about justice, fair play, liberty, and freedom and has taken an apparent interest in the Nisei. He called today to let me know that a Nisei student, Tad Mukahata, had been elected president of the student body at Belmont High School. Stringer had this advice today also: "After this war is over, Togo, there is going to be a great reorganization of Japan. Offer your services to the United States Government now, for the people of Japan. Organize your committees. Experts in all the various fields, picked from American citizens trained to do the tremendous rebuilding job that will have to be done will become more and more important. You should get in touch at once with Secretary of State Cordell Hull." Stringer suggests that a group be organized under the name "Committee to Rebuild Japan", adding that "the propaganda value of this move would be terrific in Japan." Stringer says that there are plenty of rumors he has been hearing that the "Japs in Southern California are already gloating and talking in such terms as 'when we win the war, we're going to be running things our way'".

January 14, 1942 -- Yoneo Sakai is our ace Japanese section reporter. He is about 38, an Issei born in Japan, has a Nisei wife and a little daughter, U.S.-born. He was, before war, correspondent for the Tokyo Nishi Nishi and Asahi and Osaka Asahi newspapers. He covered the Spanish Civil war for them. He writes anti-fascist, anti-militarist Japan. He is ideologically committed to democracy. His Japanese section writings are, I gather, not altogether palatable to many Issei, especially the ultra-nationalist Issei who revel in the "Nippon-gun" (Japanese Army) dispatches. Sakai would like to become an American citizen. He tells me this nearly every day. I think he is suffering from a form of anxiety neurosis. He is sure that the F.B.I. will call for him, to take him into detention soon too, though he is equally certain that he has done nothing detrimental to the cause of the United States. He reasons it this way: the F.B.I. is taking people into custody if (1) they have been in Japan recently (2) if they have ever served in the Japanese Army (3) if they ever worked for any Japanese organization such as newspapers in recent times. Therefore, he says, he will be hauled away probably; and when that time comes, please will those of us who have faith in his loyalty to America work to get him cleared and released. I understand he sits all evening in the parlor, his toilet and tooth brush packed, waiting for that fatal knock on the door. Sakai has always been something of a tense, alert, on-the-go kind of guy, a newspaperman perennially smelling for news; he's even more nervous these days, though he manages to keep a calm posture most of the time. Sakai is always full of suggestions, and he seems to look to the English section now for firm editorial leadership of the newspaper. This morning he came down to our cubby hole, poked his head in, and instead of the customary pre-war clipped Japanese, he attempted his still rather halting English: "Did you hear about the radio speech made by Senator Thomas (Elbert Thomas, Democrat, senator from Utah and former Mormon missionary to Japan) to the people of Japan?" It seems that the Thomas broadcast, made in none-too-good (in Sakai's opinion) Japanese, by Senator Thomas, had been heard by Sakai on the radio. His evaluation: "It's too amateur like." Sakai wants us to write to Thomas and offer the services of a professional, such as a man of his own experience and standing, some one who has a real command of the language and an understanding of the psychology of the Japanese masses today.

There is a current rumor in Little Tokio that the Los Angeles City Civil Service Commission isn't going to put on any more Nisei applicants. Mieko Azeka

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is a local girl who recently passed her written civil service examinations for a job in the Central Public Library. In the oral interview, she was told: "We're not accepting any more Orientals in civil service for the present." We are checking this before publication of any story.

The Highland Fruit Company and Nagano Produce at the Wholesale Terminal Market are now in full operation once again, having both been granted licenses to operate; necessary because they are Issei-owned. Conditions for the Japanese employers and Nisei employees are generally improving in the wholesale market area.

Telephone inquiries from our readers indicate that some individuals, both Japanese and Caucasian, are misrepresenting facts by going to wives and families of the more wealthy interned Issei and telling them that "for a consideration", they will "make contacts" to secure the release of internees. Some attorneys have been retained by hopeful wives anxious to have husbands home again. U.S. Attorney Palmer's office informs us that retention of legal counsel by internees is neither necessary nor desirable. Hearing Boards for the men are now being set up.

Three Star Produce Company's Mrs. Umezawa called us on the phone this morning to let us know that Shuji Fujii, editor of the "Doho" had been down to the Ninth Street warehouse of the Three Star Company to "solicit advertising" for his next edition. She said: "He wanted us to put an ad in his paper, saying that newspapers like the Rafu Shimpo and the Kamai would soon be closed up by the government."

Fred Tayama, as chairman of the Southern District J.A.C.L., I presume, is calling a meeting of the Advisory Board of the Anti-Axis Committee in the English Room of the Clark Hotel tonight. Dinner is \$1.25 a plate. I understand about 15 are expected, and the discussion is to be about Anti-Axis activities.

Visitor at noon (we had lunch together), was Bob Alexander, the returned Canadian ex-business man from Japan. Alexander asked me if I knew a Frances Kito. I don't. She is a Nisei presumably who has just had her application filed for teaching in the public schools; she is a graduate of the University of Colorado, according to Alexander.

Rumor: Little Tokio talk is that the Sangyo Nippo (Industrial Daily) is going to buy out the type of the Kashu Mainichi or Kamai (California Daily). Also, the rumor is that in San Francisco, Saburo Kido,

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president of the National J.A.C.L., is about to buy out the Shin Sekai-Asahi (New World Sun Daily). Probably no ~~ta~~ truth to either rumor.

Letter from a Nisei in the Army: Jimmy Tsurutani, Company C, 7th Medical Battalion, Army Post Office 7, San Jose, California. Tsurutani is a graduate of U.C.L.A., class of '37, who never quite made the headway he hoped to make in the years after graduation. He wrote a column for us, "On the Nose", was a wise-cracking, joking funster; a guy with a soft heart--and head too at times, it seemed. He didn't quite learn how to manage his financial affairs, ran into debt here and there, got himself just slightly discredited by his family for these habits; to get him out of one scrape, a staff editor loaned him \$200, and I don't believe he has paid it back yet, though his intentions are good. He's a keen observer, and he writes it's not so much fun in the Army for a Nisei; there's a heck of a lot of discrimination and prejudice, and sometimes the damned color line runs pretty deep. Yes, things have become worse since Pearl Harbor, and there seems to be, he says, an air of growing suspicion; maybe it's just subjective, but he feels it. Most of the fellows in his own company "are swell", he says. There must be a lot of correspondence from fellows in the service to their families and friends.

Meeting of Business Investments, Incorporated. Officers: Seiichi Nobe, President; Togo Tanaka, Vice President; Kay Sugahara, ~~Treasurer~~ Secretary; Joseph Shinoda, treasurer. This is the first of the Nisei companies to move into the wholesale produce field area where Issei interests are tottering. Biggest obstacle facing Issei ownership or management is that the State Department of Agriculture is refusing to issue Produce Commission Merchants licenses to enemy aliens; and bonding companies are refusing bonds. Three firms denied applications for their licenses today, Nobe reported, were Highland Produce, Nagano Produce, Imperial Produce. That's how things seem to be these days; a place is running full blast now, and 24 hours later, it may be closed. Business Investments, Incorporated, has its eyes on two prospects which may be offered for sale within a short time: Southwest Berry Exchange and the Osawa Produce Company, the former at the Ninth Street Market, the latter at the Seventh Street Terminal. I find myself in rather extraordinary Nisei Company; Nobe, Sugahara, Shinoda are three Nisei, all in their mid-thirties, who are reputed among the outstanding and most successful business men here; none is especially known for any civic sense of service or altruism, quite the contrary, each is known to be motivated chiefly by the one driving desire to make a pile of

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dough. I am learning a lot about the thinking processes, the standards of the Nisei Business Man. Nobe is on the cautious side. He likes to analyze business prospects at some length. Today he laid out a whole row of reasons why we should not go into the wholesale produce field as the first area of investment. He enumerated: (1) The civilian population is decreasing, and business in this field is apt to drop, (2) There is growing economic pressure against all Japanese, whether American-born or not, (3) Farm crops may decrease due to manpower shortages, and the lack of supplies will affect the leaseholds (4) We would face the problem of immobility of fixed assets due to war conditions (5) As employers we would face the added difficulty of the high cost of labor and the general disruption of business (6) We are in a day of rising taxes; there is even the probability or possibility of government control.

All three, Nobe, Sugahara, and Shinoda have little patience with the present leadership of the J.A.C.L. Sugahara is a past president of the L.A. chapter, and Shinoda was also once active. Nobe is a comparatively prosperous real estate broker and insurance man, heads the company, S. Nobe Co., 312 WaEast First Street. Sugahara was co-owner of the Universal Service Company, import customs broker; but the war wiped his business out; he has considerable interests in real estate property, being treasurer of the G.T.I. Investment Company; actually his net worth isn't very great in any accounting, I think. His assets may total \$85,000, but his liabilities are in that near neighborhood. Shinoda is head of the San Lorenzo Nursery Company, a sizeable floricultural organization built by his father and inherited by him; the firm employs over 100 workers, in San Lorenzo, in Pomona and Los Angeles. The three of them have a picturesque term by which they refer to the present J.A.C.L.: "It's chicken shits". Nevertheless, I think they'd want to run it if it fitted into the pattern of their business needs. I am trying to figure out just where I fit into this pattern; the first meeting of the four of us took place in my home.

January 15, 1942 -- Met an interesting duck today, kinda fat and bald, and a character. He called by phone first, said his name was Morrison, wanted to talk to me. About what I asked. Lail Kane he said. Lail Kane is the local vigilante and Nisei-phobe, officially marine surveyor in the County Assessor's department, chairman of the National Defense Committee of the Navy Post American Legion. I didn't want to talk over the phone, invited him down, first asking him his phone and address. He gave me: NOrmandy 5912, 2039 Micheltor-ena. He came down to our office a few minutes later. He must have been in Kane's office at the time he made the phone call. He was a bulky, slightly red-faced guy, messy around the collar, with big soiled dirty paws and a note book for taking notes. He said he was a writer; he looked like one. His full name: Denny Morrison. He said: "I'm writing an article on Lail Kane for a national publication..." I interrupted: "Which one?" He says: "Liberty Magazine." So I talked on with him for better than an hour. This guy has some goddam fascist ideas and notions. Among them: he asserts that "it would be a good thing to disenfranchise 10 million Negroes in the United States because they really don't have the qualifications for real American citizenship." He doesn't even have the right figures on their number. Morrison further predicts: "There's going to be an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, disenfranchising the American-born Japs and preventing them or their descendants from ever getting citizenship."

Morrison asked me: "What do you think of Lail Kane?"

"You couldn't publish all the things I think because it would take too long."

"Don't you admit that he was right all these years in warning us about the Jap fishermen and the danger to us all this time?"

"He made a lot of predictions that have come true, yes, if that is what you mean."

"Yeah, yeah. If you Nisee had listened to him you wouldn't be in the spot you are; remember, by your deeds shall ye be judged."

Morrison says a good friend of his who does all her shopping in "a Jap market in Hollywood" told him this story: She went to the market to get some vegetables yesterday, and one of the "Jap clerks shortweighted her. She protested and reprimanded him, whereupon, he turned on her with a snarl: 'Just wait till we take over and you'll take it and like it.'" He says he is going to write this incident as part of his story for Liberty. He's going to come down to see me again and again and again he says, so I better be in at least one more time. He's a somewhat likeable lug at that, something of a big goop.

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Report on last night's Anti-Axis Committee Advisory Board meeting at the Clark Hotel. They spent most of their time talking about what to do to alleviate business men's plight in Little Tokio. It seems that gross sales have nosedived on East First Street since Pearl Harbor, and rents have stayed at the same level. Little Tokio merchants claim the rents are prohibitive. The Anti-Axis Committee, making the rounds for donations, have has been exposed to these complaints. So the Committee is now going to work to try to negotiate with landlords and owners for a reduction in rents. As the first step toward this move, they are going to conduct a survey, showing differences in gross sales volumes of the period Dec. 8, 1940-January 15, 1941 as compared with Dec. 8, 1941-January 15, 1942. Shigemi Aratani, diminutive president of the Los Angeles J.A.C.L., successor to Tayama in that capacity, and a noise on the Anti-Axis Committee, has been delegated the job of making this survey and reporting back. The Anti-Axis Committee is distributing forms for Issei to assist them in complying with federal regulations in wartime. ✓

Visitor here temporarily is James Hisatomi, from Webster County, Texas, where his father-in-law, a Mr. Saibara, is a large-scale rice grower. Hisatomi has interesting things to report: the west coast, in his opinion, is "all shot to hell as far as the Nisei are concerned. I'm getting out while the pulling out is good." Hisatomi is an ex-Hollywood Nisei. Couple of years ago, he was a salesman at the Venice Celery Company at the Ninth Street wholesale market. There he met a successful small-time Buena Park, California, contractor and builder, William Cannon, who also ran some produce stores in Buena Park. Out of this association grew the idea of a Nisei subdivision on the western outskirts of Los Angeles. Cannon knew something about the demand for better housing exceeding the supply among the Nisei, and he was interested by the Nisei Business Bureau reports in The Rafu Shimpō about the rising standard of housing among Nisei who were buying their homes. Cannon organized the Pacific Investment Company, hired Hisatomi as the Nisei manager; the company bought a 28-acre tract of land in spring of 1940 at Jefferson Boulevard and Moynier Lane in Los Angeles. The project was to be called "Jefferson Park." It was subdivided, and lots were put up for sale. One Sunday, thanks to the company's advertising campaign in the local Japanese dailies, about 50 Nisei prospective buyers converged on the place. Residents in the nearby area got aroused, chiefly, it seems, egged on by real estate agents already there in the vicinity. Mass meetings were called, one after another, at the Calvary Methodist Church. Soon the Councilman from that district, Harold Harby, was commissioned by his electorate represented by the real estate board, to block passage of the housing tract map which must be okayed by the City Council. The thing kicked up an awful fuss in the City Council

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but was finally passed on July 16. It was again blocked, again passed, but not after several court hearings had been held in addition to the Council sessions. The project, however, collapsed of its own dead weight after the litigation and the publicity. The buyers got cold feet and decided not to build. Hisatomi dropped out of the picture. But the people of the westside area who raised hell over the "Jefferson Park" project are now having their field day about the "Jap plot" they nipped in the bud because in "reality that housing project was intended to be headquarters near the ocean for Japanese invasion landing forces," so the rumors go.

Director Carmichael of the Immigration office in the Federal Building gave us a set of regulations to be published for families of detained men. Many internees are still being held at Tuna Canyon, Southern California prior to their being sent on to Missoula or Santa Fe, New Mexico. Carmichael's office advises that all correspondence should be in English; this facilitates earlier delivery, although Japanese letters will be delivered after due translation and censoring.

Had a very enjoyable visit with William Fleet Palmer today. He has just celebrated his 80th birthday. He's certainly a wonderful old soul. His reassurance today: "To be an American isn't a question of race, it's a question of the individual's heart." He's imperturbable about things that seem to be exciting such other local officials as Fletcher Bowron. I find it difficult getting an appointment to see Mr. Bowron; he's far more inaccessible than Mr. Palmer. ✓

Telephone call and subsequent meeting today with Stephen Wells, public relations director of the Democratic Central Committee. He's at 607 Central Building, Michigan 9473; he called up to ask about some information on the Nisei. It seems he is a free lance writer and would like to do an article. He says he lives at 1075 Monterey Blvd., Hermosa Beach.

January 19, 1942 -- A letter written by H. T. Komai, interned at Fort Missoula, Montana, dated January 9, has just been received by his son Akira, who is acting publisher of The Rafu Shimpō now.

The newspaper's bookkeeper-cashier, Mr. Itaru Nagai, is concerned about the gakuen (Japanese language school) situation; his daughter is a student at the Chuo Gakuen in Boyle Heights. Rumors are to the effect that the schools may be reopened soon; most of them are closed down, have been since December 7 of last year.

Rumor via Three Star Produce Market is to the effect that the President of the Los Angeles Jonathan Club is interned at Fort Missoula, Montana, also, he being a German alien; we've not had time to check this rumor, but it has wide circulation among resident Japanese, apparently.

The Japanese Y.M.C.A. is hard at work trying to keep up morale among Nisei young men here. Masao Satow, executive secretary of the 'Y', and his assistant, James Yamanaka, reported today that they have arranged for a meeting tomorrow night at the Buddhist Nishi Hongwanji hall, First and Central Ave., with main speaker scheduled to be Judge Robert H. Scott. The meeting is tied up in some way with the Committee on Youth Programs of the Los Angeles Civilian Defense Council; representatives of all Nisei youth organizations have been contacted, and the thing is also tied up in some way, presumably through Satow and Yamanaka, with the Anti-Axis Committee of the J.A.C.L. Satow said that they are registering all Nisei boys, ages 9 through 25, tomorrow night as part of the "mobilization of youth" in the Los Angeles Civilian Defense Council.

City Police, Central headquarters, called by phone to let "the Japanese people know" that every effort is being made to "provide adequate protection against any vandalism or hoodlumism". We received calls from George W. Reeves, Lt. Stimes, Station 2603, Michigan 5211. We had previously called headquarters to let them know about the Nisei dance being held Sunday evening, January 25, at Mueller's Ballroom; it is a "Buy a Bomber Fund" dance, proceeds of which are to be donated to the Los Angeles Examiner fund.

With another batch of inquiries from readers, I called at office of U.S. Attorney William Fleet Palmer. He furnished the following answers to the questions:

- (1) Is there any legal distinction between an enemy alien and a permanent resident national of Japan?

"An enemy alien is a person whose nationality is the same as that of a nation with which we

are at war. It does not mean that a person is really an enemy. It might be a person who is bitter, or desirous of killing; a man could be friendly and loyal to the United States; it is a legal classification for purposes of the law."

- (2) The Japanese language schools would like to be able to resume classes but many principals and teachers feel it would be wiser to discontinue them for the duration. Is there any law regulating this matter?

"There is no federal regulation at the present time proscribing their operation, providing no laws of security are violated in their conduct. However, if I were in the place of these principals and teachers, I would do everything possible to avoid doing anything that might irritate people in this state who are easily agitated--or looking for something to be agitated about. There is nothing wrong with their re-opening, that is my own personal opinion. I wouldn't try, however, to push anything, particularly when those who do would risk the danger of a popular outcry, and there may be other repercussions as the result of it."

- (3) In the event of an Issei-Nisei (Alien-Citizen) transaction, a purchase of an alien business by a citizen, in which later investigation shows that there has been collusion, is there legal responsibility or liability carried by the attorney who acts as an intermediary in the transaction?

"Not necessarily; it would depend upon whether or not the attorney acted in good faith. If he acted in good faith, though giving bad advice, it would not then be a case of bad intent, so it would not be an offense."

- (4) Under present existing circumstances, would you consider it advisable that Issei organizations dissolve for the duration?

"I would prefer to give an opinion on each specific case, rather than give a general opinion. But I would say, that in all "doubt-

ful cases, yes, by all means dissolve."

- (5) In what way could an enemy alien take an oath of allegiance to the United States?

"There is no provision under the law which would give any meaning, legally, to such an oath. It is just one of those unfortunate things in our democracy that loyal aliens of Japanese immigration cannot become naturalized American citizens."

An Ed Lyman, who says he is owner of the publishing house, Lymanhouse, 624 South Arden Blvd., WE 4838, telephoned this morning, saying he had a business proposition for us. Would we be interested in buying several hundred copies of the book, "Specter of Sabotage" by a Drayton Spence, a former F.B.I. agent. Lyman's proposition: The Rafu Shimpō buy 100 copies for \$225, sell at \$3 per book, realizing a profit of \$75 for every 100 books we sold. We're too busy for selling books now.

Japanese gardeners who regularly used to apply for their city licenses through the City Clerk's office now go to get their 1942 commercial business licenses at, of all places, the Homicide Bureau of the Los Angeles City Police Department. They are questioned at considerable length there, according to a score of reports we have received today.

January 21, 1942: Talked today with Colonel E. A. Evans, chief of G-2, Southern Calif. Sector, Western Defense Command. His headquarters is located in the Hotel Constance, East Colorado and Mentor, in Pasadena. He seems to have good grasp of legal matters. Although there is a lot of talk about mass evacuation, he says: "You are no different from Bill Jones next door. You're an American citizen, and they're not going to treat you any different. Now, the alien faces a different problem, but American citizens should not worry."

This is very heartening and reassuring to me, and I repeat the conversation to our staff. Sakai, who is an alien, shakes his head a little skeptically. He asks if Col. Evans knows where the aliens are going to be sent. I repeat the Colonel's reply that "no definite areas have yet been announced; nor has there been any word as to the ways or means of carrying out the removal."

We have represented both the newspaper and the United Citizens Federation in contacting the Colonel. Starting today, we are mailing our newspaper to Col. Evans daily.

January 23, 1942 -- Yoneo Sakai of our Japanese Section news & editorial staff is concerned about what he terms the 'pro-Japan' sympathies and attitudes of many Issei. He feels there is a great need for re-education of the resident Japanese so that they will better "understand the undesirable nature of the present military government of Japan". He is even doubtful of the "American loyalty" of some of the other members of the Japanese section. I have noticed that the staff is split down the middle over the question of just how far they should go in writing the news dispatches on the war to be "slanted" pro-American. Sakai, Joe Inouye, and Shiro Takeda seem to be one; they write their stories in such a way there is no doubt that Japan is the enemy. They wave the American flag in their editorials and in the coloring of the news articles. Kokichi Shimozuma, who has been telegraph editor for a decade and a half, doesn't have his heart in their domination. Inouye is a Kibei Nisei, a citizen, but Takeda and Sakai are Issei, both, however, married to citizens. Shimozuma is said to be a bachelor, although I understand he has a wife and grown son in Japan; he is an extremely capable writer and news editor--in Japanese--but in my six years of contacts with him, I have found him afflicted with that peculiarly Japanese myopic perspective about the war in China, about Japan's imperial aims. He is full of slogans--"Hakko Ichiyu" "Permanent Peace and Justice" "Greater Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere" etc. But he can seldom define these high-sounding slogans, and on more than one occasion expressed his impatience with me when I persisted in questioning him in detail; only I have always been at a disadvantage because our medium was the Japanese language, he knowing even less English than I know Japanese. I think I can understand how he must feel these days in being hampered and bound by the realization that here he is, an enemy alien, liable to be ~~snatched~~ snatched into custody for any overt out-of-line writing; yet he must get an emotional gratification out of Japan's military advances. I think he would prefer to be in Tokyo right now. Y. Yamada and Jiro Tani are both 'neutral' more or less, but Sakai seems to harbor a dislike or suspicion of Tani and never confides in him. Outside the office too, I understand that Sakai, Inouye and Takeda meet rather regularly at each other's homes to discuss the newspaper situation and the ~~ti~~situation in general. It's rather unhealthy and unfortunate for the newspaper's morale, but I suppose it's inevitable.

Sakai dropped in to our English section cubby hole this morning for a brief discussion. He says there is an absolute need for the Government to openly and clearly define who the ENEMIES among resident Japanese are. These, he says, are pro-Axis sympathizers and those who approve Axis methods. He says that there are many many Issei who are loyal to America but who do not want to see the people of Japan crushed; they want the system of militarism crushed

completely, and to that end are willing and anxious to align themselves with the American cause. But what makes them fearful is to read the articles in the newspapers quoting such people as Congressman Leland Ford of Santa Monica, according to Sakai. "Mr. Ford is a white supremacy advocate and very ignorant," Sakai observes.

Had a brief meeting with Dr. Ralph Rutledge, who is with the United States Employment Service, and Walter Rousseau, a super market operator, today. Both Rutledge and Rousseau share a feeling that some kind of mass evacuation is going to be inevitable and they think our newspaper would be smart in preparing for it ahead of the government so "you fellows won't all be caught with your pants down." Rutledge is pedagogic in his reasoning, likes to analyze things one-two-three fashion. He says: "There are five groups of people who are caught in the squeeze of war hysteria these days, and it's going to get worse, mark my words. Now, not one of these groups alone is capable of saving itself alone, but if all five get together, then their combined efforts will work out their salvation. Now these five groups are: (1) Conscientious objectors (2) second generation citizens of countries we are at war with--axis origin, especially the Nisei Japanese (3) aliens not yet naturalized or ineligible to be naturalized (4) ex-felons who have gone straight or out on parole (5) older group of citizens, the dislocated elders, such as members of the Forty Plus club. Now the idea is to find employment for these five classes of people in areas where they will be acceptable. There are employers who will use such persons, either out of altruism or out of selfish motives because of a shortage of manpower. A good organization of all five of these groups will find such opportunities. Now if those in class two cannot remain in the so-called combat zones of the west coast, then they ought to locate people in the other classes in other parts of the country and make a geographical exchange or housing and employment. Get what I mean? There should be some central clearing house for such information to make all this possible. Your newspaper organization, with your already established personnel could get to work on this at once. There is really quite a field in farming and agriculture. We could get the National Board to Aid as well as the Food for Freedom group. Many people are going hungry today, and this will answer a true and real need. You can make an appeal to labor. The project could be organized financially on a cooperative basis too; you could organize a cooperative bank. As for getting Japanese support, that shouldn't be too hard; when you yourselves are up against it, you'll think more of your neighbors. Now what are the main Japanese industries and businesses which could be organized on such an exchange

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basis? There is the big Three Star Produce Company right here in Los Angeles. There are the farm centers, the restaurants, the hotels, the wholesale markets, the flower markets. There are millions of dollars in investments, life-time businesses which stand to go down the drainhole of liquidation or exploitation if nothing is done. Now advance organization for fair exchange with people in other parts of the country might be a means of saving or salvaging the best part of these investments. Look at what the Mormans in Utah have been able to do by cooperative efforts. They could be contacted; they could well sympathize with the plight of you people today because they know what persecution means." Rutledge left his phone number: RI 4181, extension 260, said to contact him for any assistance he could give us.

The newspaper has decided to take up collections for a fund to be turned over to the needy through the International Institute or some charitable organization helping the Japanese destitute. This money will be handled through the office of United States Attorney William Fleet Palmer, whom I visited again today. The old gentleman, having recently celebrated his 80th birthday, was in a philosophical mood. He's a fine person, in my estimation. He had this to say: "I have always tried to live according to the teachings of Christ. That is the best way. That is the path that frees the mind of worry and anxiety. It gives one the depth of soul and spirit to carry on after a fellow has taken a tumble into the ditch." Because of the increasing number of inquiries we receive from readers ~~be~~ about Issei organizations and whether they should voluntarily dissolve or not, we raised this question with Mr. Palmer again today; and he looked up the record to discover a Presidential Proclamation issued by the White House on December 9 ordering the dissolution, in effect, of alien enemy organizations, in accordance with directives from the office of the Attorney General in Washington, D. C. There seems to be a certain amount of discretion ~~with~~ which the local U.S. District Attorneys are permitted to employ in this matter, however.

The unholy alliance

Slocum and Tayama called a meeting of the Anti-Axis committee group which is pledged to turn in reports to Slocum about who is dangerous or subversive etc. The meeting was a dinner meeting at the Clark Hotel. I didn't keep written notes very well, so can't recall exactly who was present. I was going to stay away from the meeting, since I've been too excited about the baby's birth and attending this meeting meant depriving myself of a visit to see Jean at the hospital; but the guys were so insistent about the importance of the meeting I went. Ishimaru, Shigemi Aratani, Ken Matsumoto and the whole J.A.C.L. bunch was there,

including Kay Sugahara, Seiichi Nobe and Joseph Shinoda, who are not generally included in the J.A.C.L. grouping. Tom Rice who is an engineer with the Los Angeles City and an official in the County American Legion, made a talk which completely reversed his professed attitude toward "loyal resident Japanese" at other Nisei gatherings where I have heard him talk. Rice said, among other things: "Most of the sabotage done at Pearl Harbor was by Americans of Japanese ancestry." No one got up to challenge his statement, and he was pretty vitriolic. He was no nastier, however, than his crony, a Bob Snyder, former commander of the County American Legion, who at one meeting I attended bragged about how he, a second generation American citizen of German extraction, served in the U.S. Army Intelligence in the first World War and had his duty to do in arresting and jailing two Prussian uncles of his whom he knew were loyal to the Kaiser. Snyder (anglicized form of Schneider) made a talk to the group and said: "I'm glad we got some of those goddamned Jap rats who were posing as loyal to America but all the while were carrying out dirty lousey fifth column activities right here under our very noses." I thought he was ~~ll~~ looking at Slocum and nodding his head in commendation, so to speak; and I kept wondering if the guy was going to mention names like Gongoro Nakamura. Snyder did make one reference to the "subversive Central Japanese Association which you men here were instrumental in exposing." Lieutenant Commander Kenneth Ringle, with the inevitable presence of Ken Matsumoto sitting at his side, was also a speaker introduced by Slocum who presided as toastmaster. Ringle made a much more balanced, less emotional talk, attempting to give instructions to those present on how to detect suspicious cases of persons possible engaged in espionage or sabotage. He said: "I fully realize the enormity of the task which is thrown upon your shoulders when we of the Intelligence services ask your cooperation in the work of security. Some of you present here have already asked me what are the cues one watches for in reporting suspicious cases to your chairman who relays them on to us. We in the service are as anxious as all fair-minded citizens to avoid unjust suspicion and withhunting, so I say to you that your efforts should never be confused by any attempt on your part to judge or form opinions. Leave that up to us; your work should end with merely reporting the facts as you have observed them. Now, in detecting suspicious cases, here is the thing to watch for. Does a man live without having to work? Does he spend more money than he appears to be earning? Does he live beyond his means? Where does he seem to be getting this money? In such a case, then something apparently does not ring true. We can later add all these things up. We only ask that you report such individual cases so we can get to work on them right away. There are in the eight western states, the following number of alien enemies: 35,000 German aliens; 60,000 Italian aliens, and 48,000 Japanese aliens. This is the group,

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in which we are primarily interested in keeping good track of. Remember this: Loyalty is shown by daily acts, and in daily contacts. I can't over emphasize the importance of this work you men are now doing. If you go and get the few now, it won't be necessary to take everyone later on. The Committee must move ahead and work swiftly. Good luck to you gentlemen."

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Anonymous letter mailed to us today from nearby post office number:

"English Editor
Rafu Shimpō
Los Angeles, Calif.

"Dear Sir:

"The headline in this morning's Friday, Jan. 23, Los Angeles Times is the reason for this outburst of denunciation in regard to the opening of the Japanese Language schools. It was somewhat a shock to read that a group of Japanese had asked for a sanction.

"I don't believe there is a great necessity to reopen, only for individual economic reasons. Granted, that school teachers would again have positions, what about the suspicion of fifth column and propaganda which the reopening would create?

"We are already looked upon with much suspicion and the situation here for the Japanese economically is very grave. Aside from paying a few teachers salaries, why should we risk the welfare of the whole Japanese community?

"Perhaps the books do not carry any propaganda material; even so, when the books are published in Japan and taught by teachers recently educated in Japan, what can you expect the American public to believe?

"This is not the time to Japanize the youngsters in school--it is the time to Americanize as much as possible. We're asked to speak English over the telephone; a number of phone calls when the conversations in Japanese were lengthy were 'cut in'.

"Such being the situation, why should we continue the education of Japanese readin' & writin'? If anyone wished a Japanese education, he can be taught privately or wait until the close of the war when no doubt the reopening of the schools will be sanctioned but under a closer supervision and jurisdiction of the U.S. gov.

"The reopening now will only add to the suspicion and ill-publicity; it is distinctly bad taste and without consideration for the welfare of the Japanese residents of the Pacific Coast.

"Some one should be consulted before such bad publicity is placed for the metropolitan newspapers to 'play up'.

"What about the Anti-Axis League? Are they for thereopening of the schools?
A Reader."

January 28, 1942: Yayoi Ono, our Long Beach correspondent, has mailed in a clipping from the Long Beach Press-Telegram. It is the lead editorial, "American Japs Under Test". Our reports from the Long Beach area indicate the same kind of distress. There is fear and uncertainty among business men. Many homes have lost fathers and mothers to federal custody. There is some witch hunting. The J.A.C.L. is trying to assume the community leadership which the Japanese Association once filled.

The Long Beach Press-Telegram's editorial is as follows:

"American-Japs Under Test"

"There is no such thing as a friendly Japanese-American"

This statement, made officially to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, is a challenge to every American-born Japanese, who under the Constitution of the United States is entitled to a voice in American life.

The American-born Japanese is a citizen of the United States. Japan, however, asserts a national hold on such individuals, under a dual-citizenship theory that can be nullified only by the action of the individual by obtaining release from the Mikado. Very few of these subjects have obtained such release, and in the eyes of Tokyo they are still Japanese, no matter where their birth happened to occur.

"Alien Japanese are subject to deportation, and under present circumstances such action is justified.

"As for the American-born Japanese, the situation is more delicate.

"Regardless of their birth or their claim on American protection, steps have been seriously proposed to place all Japanese in inland concentration camps for the duration of the war. The purpose is to prevent any 'fifth column' mischief such as was discovered in the Pearl Harbor outrage, when Hawaiian-born (American-born) Japanese were caught red-handed aiding the invaders. These Honolulu incidents were distressing to those Americans who had placed their faith in Japanese natives of Hawaii, and the records of that historic tragedy account largely for the California unrest in this particular.

"However, there are many Californians who will accept only under protest the bald statement that 'there is no such thing as a friendly Japanese-American'. (loyal). The status of second-generation Japanese-Americans who insist on keeping their ties with Tokyo through schooling or otherwise, can reasonably be questioned. But there are many others who seem to have severed any such relationship and are striving to deserve the confidence of their American friends. Certain authorities allege that fully 25 per cent of such persons may be depended upon.

"Locally, interest centers in Terminal Island, where hundreds of Japanese, many of them alien, reside. One proposed solution is for the Navy Department to buy the entire property, in which the federal government already has large ownership. This would necessitate wholesale removal of the Japanese population, and would be the less embarrassing and most effective reply to the problem. Otherwise the situation rests in civil hands, and the question is 'who's who?' in this regard. What is the loyalty test, and how can it be infallibly applied?

"Unless the Navy does take over, or pending some other satisfactory and safe answer to this query, the issue is up to the American-born Japanese to prove their worth as American citizens. They must 'watch their steps' and take no chances as being labelled 'fifth columnists'."

January 29, 1942: More from Long Beach again today.

The Terminal Island situation is growing more acute; it looks like the exodus is going to be en masse. The Long Beach Press-Telegram is following through in its news columns with the ideas expressed in its editorial of yesterday. Another editorial appeared today, under the title 'Yellow Peril Extremes'. It is the lead editorial again. It said:

'Yellow Peril' Extremes

AMERICANS in all sections of the country are receiving instructions in the meaning of the 'Yellow Peril', a term that was common in the early California 'sand lot' days, when San Francisco was stirred by labor agitation due to the influx of Asiatics, who were attracted by the gold rush, and who also were encouraged to migrate to America by the call for workers on the first transcontinental railroad. This issue was the foundation for the exclusion laws, which later raised a bar against both Chinese and Japanese, and denied naturalization and landowning privileges to Oriental aliens.

Now the problem has arisen in new and more virulent form, but it is directed solely against the Japanese, because of their treachery at Pearl Harbor. Even American-born Japanese may be subjected to restrictions if a constitutional method to such end can be devised, for many of the American-Japanese during the Hawaiian invasion were as dangerous to American interests as were alien Japanese.

Characteristic of the misconception of the average easterner as to the real meaning of the new American prejudice against the Japanese is the recent editorial comment by the New York Times, pointing out that less than one-tenth of 1 percent of our continental population is Japanese. "Of this small fraction," says the New York newspaper, "47,305 are foreign born, 76,642 American born. California has nearly three-fourths of the total, the single city of Los Angeles nearly one fourth. Many of the American born do not speak Japanese and are out of touch with its ideas or culture." There is where a grave mistake creeps in, for Japan has been careful to require its expatriates to keep in touch with the homeland, and to perpetuate the native language, through special instruction in priest-taught class-

es.

The New York Times, moreover, placed the blame for the fifth column activities in Hawaii and western America on Nazi agents, which may be true insofar as Hitler can control the situation, but for clever imitation of German subversive practises the Japanese have no equals.

Counterbalancing this erroneous belief as expressed by the New York newspaper is the hatred aroused on the Pacific Coast toward faithless Japanese, whose banishment, regardless of American birthrights, is being vigorously demanded.

* * *

On another page of the same edition, the same newspaper carries the following news article:

"Alien Peril
Question for
Government

Local Legislative
Bodies Are Asked
to Keep Hands Off

"Directors of the Chamber of Commerce this morning in a resolution asked local legislative bodies to keep hands off the question of Japanese deportation from Terminal Island and Southern California and leave it with the FBI, the Department of Justice and the Intelligence Departments.

"These agencies 'are better equipped to study and reach dispassionate conclusions than any local body', read a resolution prepared by Director Bruce Mason and approved unanimously.

"Mason said he saw no reason for singling out the Japanese 'when the Italians and Germans are dangerous and probably would be the ones who would attempt the sabotage.'

"Removal of the Japanese population would bring about 'far-reaching dislocations', the resolution read.

"The resolution was drafted by Mason after receipt of a letter from Congressman Ward John-

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son asking for an expression from the chamber. It was seconded by Director Spearl Ellison. The resolution follows:

"Whereas, the presence of great numbers of Japanese, both alien and American concentrated in Southern California is a potential problem from the standpoint of possible espionage and sabotage; and

"Whereas, on the other hand such Japanese have been and now are performing tasks and carrying on businesses that have become an integral part of the economic life of Southern California; and

"Whereas any deportation or removal of such Japanese population will bring about serious and far-reaching dislocations of the social and economic life of Americans as well as Japanese in this community; and

"Whereas, the solution of the problem requires intelligent consideration after a thorough and careful investigation of all the facts, and cannot be made justly under the stress of war hysteria; and

"Whereas, the F.B.I., the Department of Justice, and the Intelligence Departments of the Army and Navy are better equipped to study and reach more dispassionate conclusions than any local body; now, therefore, be it resolved

"By the Board of Directors of the Long Beach Chamber of Commerce as follows:

"1. That we have the utmost confidence in the ability, sincerity and patriotism of the FBI, the Department of Justice and the Intelligence Departments of the Army and Navy.

"2. That we believe said agencies of the federal government are thoroughly and fully equipped to solve this problem.

"3. That all legislative and governmental bodies should be guided and governed entirely by the recommendations of said agencies of the federal government in adopting and enforcing such measures as may be necessary to the protection of the United States against the activities of all enemies both alien and American, in

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Southern California.

"That copies of this resolution be forwarded to such interested officers and governmental agencies, commissions and bodies as the president of the chamber may decide."