

SIXTY-SIXTH ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH
SEPTEMBER 3, 4, 5, 1984

RESOLUTION NO.: 318
CONVENTION COMMITTEE: CREDENTIALS AND INTERNAL AFFAIRS, SECTION II
SUBJECT: SPONSOR AND SUPPORT LEGISLATION OPPOSING THE WARTIME
RELOCATION AND INTERNMENT OF CIVILIANS

WHEREAS, In 1942, Presidential Order #9066 caused approximately 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry, the majority of whom were United States citizens, to be forcibly evicted from West Coast states; and

WHEREAS, Without trials or hearings in total violation of the protection guaranteed by the Bill of Rights and the Constitution of the United States, were incarcerated in concentration camps, with armed guards; and

WHEREAS, When these Japanese Americans were evicted from their homes and placed in concentration camps, seven of the articles of the Bill of Rights were arbitrarily suspended; and

WHEREAS, The Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, after a series of nationwide hearings, concluded that because of war hysteria, racial prejudice and political expediency, an entire group of loyal Americans and their family members were deprived of their Constitutional rights; and

WHEREAS, While the Issei (parents or first generation) were incarcerated in these concentration camps, the Nisei (second generation) volunteered to serve in the Armed Forces in our war with Japan; and

WHEREAS, It has been acknowledged by the top military officials that the Nisei serving in the Military Intelligence Services helped to shorten the war between the United States and Japan and thus saved thousands of lives of American combat troops; and

WHEREAS, The Nisei serving in the 100th Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, 34th Division, contributed to the success of General Mark Clark's landings on the European Front and in so doing became the highest decorated unit in the history of the United States Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, Upon their return to civilian life after discharge joined and looked to The American Legion as their veterans organization that would uphold the civil rights and constitutional guarantees of all Americans; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Salt Lake City, Utah, September 3, 4, 5, 1984, That The American Legion urge Congress to set forth principles against a recurrence of such a tragedy in deprivation of human rights, to uphold the ideals for which this nation fought, and that the rights of citizenship in no way depend on race of ancestry; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion continue to champion the rights of all Americans so that the rights of citizenship will never depend on race or ancestry; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be forwarded to all members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives.