

Gov. Warren Seeks Seizure Of Farm Tools

California Legislature Will Get Bill to Take Over Evacuee Equipment

SACRAMENTO — Governor Earl Warren of California said on April 2 that seizure of farm implements and machinery now allegedly stored by evacuated Japanese farmers will be provided for in a bill to be proposed to the California legislature.

The governor said it was imperative to get this machinery into agricultural use because much acreage in the state is lying idle through lack of machinery and equipment.

According to Warren, the proposed bill would give the state power to seize this machinery under authority of eminent domain. Just how it would be used for the planting and harvesting of crops remains to be worked out, Governor Warren said.

He emphasized that it is not the intent to grant power to recover machinery, either new or second hand, from dealers.

It was stated that the bill is being prepared by Attorney General Kenny's office and would be ready for presentation to the legislature in a few days.

Acquisition of farm production machinery to meet emergency situations ultimately will be in the hands of the new Farm Production Council, under the Wartime Food and Fiber Act, when that measure becomes effective in June.

Nisei Buddhist Volunteers as Army Chaplain

Rev. Kumata Bids For Service With New U. S. Combat Team

The Reverend Masaru Kumata, American born clergyman of Buddhist faith, has volunteered to serve as a chaplain in the United States Army.

If inducted, the Rev. Kumata will become the U. S. Army's first chaplain of Buddhist faith and the first chaplain of Japanese descent. It was indicated by Wm. R. Arnold, chief of chaplains, that the Rev. Kumata would be assigned to the nisei combat team at Fort Shelby, Mississippi, since a number of the nisei volunteers will be members of the Buddhist faith.

The Rev. Kumata, at present serving with the Buddhist church at the Topaz WRA center, was born on Feb. 11, 1909, a Seattle, Washington. He received his elementary and high school education in Seattle and also attended a business school there.

He has a degree from the Ryukoku university in Kyoto, Japan, a school maintained for the training of clergymen for his Buddhist denomination (Jodo Shinsu).

The Rev. Kumata has served with the Buddhist church at Los Angeles and at the headquarters of the North American Buddhist Mission at San Francisco.

Evacuees at Arkansas Center Leave For South Dakota Farms

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Twenty five evacuees from War Relocation Authority centers in Arkansas have gone to Belle Fourche, South Dakota, to work in sugar beet fields, according to E. B. Whitaker, WRA official.

"They are going with the intention of staying," Whitaker added. "We are trying to get these evacuees back into circulation on a regular basis—not just as seasonal workers. Families of these twenty-five men will follow."

Joe Masaoka Speaks At Greeley Meeting

GREELEY, Colo. — General problems of Japanese Americans were discussed by Joe Masaoka, chief of the associated members division of the National JACL, at a meeting here on April 3.

An audience of 150 heard the talk.

Findlay Resolution Described As Anti-Democratic by Iowans

Grinnell College Paper Raps Legislative Attack On Japanese Americans

Branding it as a "serious threat to American democracy," the weekly newspaper of the Grinnell college, in Iowa, criticized sharply in a recent editorial the Findlay resolution placed before the Iowa state legislature, which would return to the WRA centers the nisei students now attending Iowa colleges.

"In our opinion there is no more serious threat to American democracy than that amendment pending today in Des Moines," the Grinnell "Scarlet and Black" declared, directing its remarks to the author of the resolution. "Worse than the threat of segregating certain people is the threat of elevating others, inherent in your amendment. If a state legislature begins to judge who shall not be allowed participation in community life, we think there is an intrinsic danger of the selection of those who can participate, and more important, who can lead."

The editorial thought that the author of the resolution had been moved to his action by "a theoretical analysis of the situation" and suggested that he "spend a weekend on Grinnell campus to get back to realities."

Pointing out that there were nisei students on the Grinnell campus, and that there had been no trouble since their arrival, the editorial said:

"Has there been trouble? Not since they came. Please note that: not since they came. Before they arrived there was discussion, argument, and a terrific excitement because here was a real chance to test those high-sounding principles of democracy to which we have been rendering detached lip-service since the Civil War.

"There were some people who thought it wouldn't work. With pleasure, we delegate them to your camp. Those of us who did not graduate last spring, who remained here and actually met the 'problem' have found it doesn't exist. The students in question have proved themselves, they have improved us.

"The Japanese students in Grinnell have become an integral, valuable, enjoyable part of our student body. Semester grades came out a month ago, Mr. Findlay. Every one of our Japanese students was on the president's list of honor students. They live in our dorms, and we like them. They are part of our social life, and we don't want to lose them."

"In America, we talk of selection of talent," the editorial also pointed out. "Yet we have failed in many ways to live up to the principles of equality. This country is shamefully full of racial, religious, and economic intolerance. War usually has a nice way of eliminating some of that feeling. Witness England today. If America fails to erase the intolerance she had, that is a bad thing. But if she adds to her intolerance at the time we are supposedly fighting to end a racial myth—that, Mr. Findlay, is pure dragon seed."

The act of forcibly removing the nisei students from the colleges would make them conscious of race, the editorial said, and this would be "a dangerous firecracker."

"In Grinnell we have not been smitten by any differences. We've forgotten about them. They have not made us conscious of race. But if we remove them from colleges like Grinnell, we shall make them conscious of race."

The students at Grinnell did not wish to bring up this question of race, the editorial declared. But that the author of the resolution had "brought race consciousness to the field of necessary attention."

"We have been reminded," the editorial said. "We don't like it. We think such reminding renders you a man who endangers this nation, this people, this ideal we are seeking, and which we call America."

Iowa Legislature Action Rapped

Findlay Resolution Passed by Both Houses

DES MOINES, Iowa—The Iowa legislature's resolution that American citizens of Japanese ancestry be denied the privilege of attending colleges in the state was criticized here by E. Raymond Wilson, associate secretary of the American Friends Service committee, according to the Church Times.

The resolution, passed by both houses of the legislature, was introduced by Senator Findlay of Fort Dodge. There was no record vote and only a scattering of "noes" was heard.

Addressing a conference sponsored by the American Friends Service committee here, at which ministers and church workers of several denominations were present, Wilson said:

"That act of the Iowa legislature will result in repercussions for the next 50 years. They are saying to the 13 million Negroes in the United States that the state with the highest percentage of literacy is not willing to extend freedom and equal rights to American citizens of a different color."

Wilson added that the legislature's action would also serve as an affront to the Chinese, the people of India, and others who are not members of the white race.

"You cannot recall the concern and the suspicion that such action creates," he said, "even if the legislature should reconsider and recall the resolutions."

Evacuees Will Be Used on Western Farms, Senate Told

WASHINGTON—About "25,000 Japanese and Japanese Americans now in relocation camps" will be offered a chance to work on farms outside of defense areas in the west, the Senate appropriations committee was told at a closed meeting on March 22, according to testimony made public Tuesday.

The statement was made by Wayne H. Darrow, director of the Department of Agriculture, labor division.

New York Committee Supports Bill to Aid Oriental Aliens

Marcantonio Proposal Extends Naturalization Privilege to Asiatics

NEW YORK — In a statement made public today, Hugh DeLacy, chairman of the American committee for Protection of Foreign Born, voiced the support of his organization for the bill, H. R. 2011, introduced by Rep. Vito Marcantonio, of New York, to end racial provisions in the naturalization laws of the United States.

Mr. DeLacy pointed out that, under present law, non-citizens in the United States who were born in China, Philippine Islands, India, Japan, and elsewhere are barred from becoming American citizens only because of their race. Congressman Marcantonio's bill provides that, "The right of a person to become a naturalized citizen of the United States shall not be denied or abridged because of race, color, creed or national origin."

Dr. DeLacy stated that the enactment of H. R. 2011 would serve to broaden American democracy for the greater protection of the rights of all Americans, and would bolster national morale and unity in the war effort for victory.

"The enactment of H. R. 2011 would eliminate one of the most flagrant violations of our basic principles of equality and democracy," Mr. DeLacy declared. "The

Sen. Wallgren Proposes New Plan for Supervision, Control Of Evacuees in WRA Centers

Sponsorship Program Urged in Releasing Loyal Japanese Americans

WASHINGTON, D. C. — A new plan for supervision and control of evacuees now in War Relocation Authority centers has been proposed by Senator Mon C. Wallgren (D., Wash.), a member of a special subcommittee of the Senate Military Affairs committee, according to the International News Service.

Asserting that "there is no question but that a more satisfactory program of segregation is badly needed in the relocation centers where Japanese are now being held," Wallgren declared he proposes to suggest to military authorities a sponsorship plan under which loyal citizen-evacuees would be placed under the direction of trustworthy citizens in communities where they could have freedom and work.

Wallgren's plan follows closely a suggestion made by Senator A. B. Chandler (D., Ky.), another member of the subcommittee, that loyal citizen-evacuees of military age be drafted into the U. S. Army; that other loyal evacuees be given employment so that they can be self supporting; and that those who still hold allegiance to Japan be placed in concentration camps and be treated as enemies.

Both senators, as members of this subcommittee charged with making an investigation of the relocation centers, recently visited centers in California, Arizona and Arkansas.

In presenting his plan, Wallgren said:

"There are a number of Japanese in these camps who declare themselves loyal to this government and are willing to be law abiding and yet there is a considerable number who openly declare allegiance to Japan.

"There has been some effort on the part of camp directors to weed out the loyal ones and put into other camps those who still hold loyalty to Japan. But they can't go on the individual Japanese and there must be a careful survey to provide them with information on which to segregate them properly.

"If no other satisfactory arrangement can be worked out, the army should be charged with responsibility of taking care of the camps."

Utah County Farms Hope For Help From Topaz WRA Center

PROVO, Utah — Plans to use workers from the WRA center at Topaz on Utah county farms were outlined at a recent meeting here of the labor committee auxiliary of the USDA war board.

Lyman Roberts of the FSA reported at this meeting that the migratory labor camp recently moved here from Thatcher, Arizona, is now ready for occupancy at the old CCC camp. To house 400 workers, it is Utah's first experiment with such a camp.

It was agreed that Topaz labor would be the most feasible for this camp, and W. Leslie Miltenhall, director of the U. S. Employment Office at Provo, said his agency would begin immediately to recruit workers from the Topaz center.

Volunteers at Topaz Issue Publication Explaining Nisei Role

TOPAZ, Utah — A publication dramatizing the role of Japanese American volunteers for the army from the Central Utah relocation center is being published here by a special commission selected from members of the volunteer group.

The publication will be titled, "Fighting Americans, Too," and will be distributed nationally to interested individuals and groups.

The Topaz group also issued a pamphlet, "Volunteers for Victory," to spur enlistments within the center.

Murray Youth Passes Army Test For Combat Team

George Utsunomiya of Murray, Utah, is the first Japanese American in the Salt Lake area to pass his army physical examination preparatory to induction into the army's new Japanese American combat unit. One of the first to volunteer for the combat team, Utsunomiya passed his physical at Fort Douglas, Utah, on April 6. He is a farmer by occupation.

Gila Slayer Gets Jail Term

Tsukawa Sentenced to 15 to 25 Years in Arizona State Prison

FLORENCE, Ariz. — Joe Tsugawa, 46-year-old issei evacuee, this week began serving a term of from 15 to 25 years in the Arizona state prison for the second degree murder of Jinkichi Nitao, 49, his neighbor at the Gila River relocation center.

Tsugawa pleaded guilty to the charge and said he beat Nitao with a hammer after having warned him repeatedly to stay away from Kujomi Tsugawa, 35, attractive wife of the slayer. Before killing Nitao, Tsugawa beat his wife with the same hammer, but she recovered from her wounds in the hospital at the center.

Tsugawa had been a prisoner in the Pinal county jail here since last January 19 when he was brought in by WRA officials. He was sentenced on April 2 and began serving his term on April 4.

Before being evacuated, Tsugawa was a vegetable grower at French Camp, a small settlement near Stockton, Calif.

Manzanar Editor To Leave for Utah

Manzanar, Calif. — Kiyotoshi Iwamoto, editor of the Free Press Japanese section, was scheduled to leave this week for the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, according to that newspaper.

Toshiaki Kunisada has been named acting editor.

provisors in our naturalization laws barring certain people from becoming naturalized American citizens solely because of their race reflect fascist principles of race superiority, against which this war is being waged. This discrimination against Oriental groups weakens the structure of our democracy and affects the rights of all Americans.

Immigrants Helped Build Nation "This country was founded and built by the labor and sacrifices of peoples of all races, all creeds all nationalities. The Chinese immigrant helped build our railroads and towns; the immigrants from India and Japan plowed the fields; the Filipino has fought and died in battle against our enemies. Barring these Oriental groups from naturalization promotes discrimination not only against them and all other Americans but especially against their children, who are usually American-born citizens.

"The enactment of H. R. 2011 is vital not only to our war effort but also to the war effort of the United Nations. Its enactment would eliminate the basis for one of the most effective propaganda tools in the hands of the Axis powers and serve to win the people of Asia to the cause of the United Nations. It would be a demonstration of our sincerity in this war against the Axis. I urge every American to write to his Congressman in support of H. R. 2011."

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LARRY TAJIRI EDITOR

EDITORIALS:

Nisei in the Draft

Recent press dispatches from Washington have hinted strongly at the possibility of re-institution of selective service for the nisei.

Senator Albert B. Chandler of Kentucky announced this week semi-formal approval by the War Department of a plan incorporating the use of Japanese farm labor and the drafting of eligible nisei.

It is over a year now since that right — the right to fight for one's country — was suspended in the case of all Japanese Americans. It is time that right was restored.

The 5,000 nisei already wearing the uniform of the U. S. army have acquitted themselves well. They attest, too, to the fact that free Americans, unconfined by the barbed wire of the relocation centers, realize more strongly for what they fight. Other nisei must be made to feel that they, too, are needed by their country.

The restoration of civil rights to a people dispossessed is always a long battle. Recognition by the army of the nisei in its recently formed volunteer combat unit was a long step forward. From this step the only logical one is selective service.

The Marcantonio Bill

"Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that section 303 of the Nationality Act of 1940, approved October 14, 1940 (54 Stat. 1142 8 U. S. C. 703), be, and hereby is, amended by striking out the said section and enacting a new section replacing it to read as follows: 'The right of a person to become a naturalized citizen of the United States shall not be denied or abridged because of race, creed, or national origin.'"

This is the bill introduced in the House of Representatives by Rep. Vito Marcantonio. It is a good bill and an honest one, but more, it is a necessary one, for a nation's naturalization laws ought not belie the precepts upon which that nation was founded — equality of all men before the law, the people and God.

Enactment of this bill into law would remove many an evil paradox that confronts us today. It would permit naturalization of alien Japanese parents who today send their American sons off to war. It would no longer force into the no-man's land of being without a country the many alien Japanese who have repudiated Japan and yet cannot become Americans, for these are truly without a country. It would permit many an alien to fight in the service of the country he loves, the country he adopted but cannot truly claim as his own.

The world may someday come to the realization that oneness with the democratic ideal makes kindred millions from among the many peoples of the globe. We approach that today, with the Russians and the Chinese, with the many peoples of Europe and with the North American nations united in the common cause of man.

No nation before has had the chance we have of showing that truth to be more than theory. No nation before has had the responsibility we share for the maintenance of that ideal.

Men of this country died to found a nation based upon the principle of the equality of all men. And millions more throughout the world have died not to prove, for they already know it, but in defense of the prin-

Teapot Tempest

The Denver Post, which believes that a "dog fight in Champa Street" is more important than a "war in Europe," is the biggest and probably the most influential single newspaper in the whole Rocky Mountain region. The Post is one of the more fabulous daily journals of our time, a newspaper which has sometimes even exceeded the Hearst press in its sensationalism and its exploitation of the extremes of yellow journalism and has been matched in its illiberal bias only by that isolationist herald, the Chicago Tribune.

It is therefore not surprising that the Denver Post appears to be currently engaged in a campaign of vilification of Japanese Americans. Some weeks ago the Post published a vicious cartoon which showed an evacuee family being overfed by an unctuous Uncle Sam while an "American" family looked hungrily in through the window.

This week the Post blew up a "teapot tempest" to front-page proportions. It declared that Colorado authors were boycotting a luncheon at which a Japanese American was the main speaker. The Post declared in its report on the luncheon that only seven members out of the 81 in the Authors League had attended. However, the Rocky Mountain News, the other Denver newspaper, in a sober report on the luncheon reported that not seven but 45 members of the Colorado writers group were present "an even better than normal turnout." The Post has apparently been caught in a deliberate distortion of the news.

Lee Casey, one of the editors of the Rocky Mountain News, summed it up in his editorial column this week:

"The controversy, in which the Colorado Authors League finds itself involved springs from one issue, and one only:

"Mary Oyama, guest of honor at a recent luncheon, is an American citizen of Japanese descent . . .

"It is to the credit of the Colorado Authors League that despite the protests of some members, despite the efforts to drum up unreasonable hate, the officers stood firm and there was a better turnout for the luncheon than might otherwise have been expected. The authors, in the main, took the only possible civilized position. They listened to Miss Oyama with attention and respect. They accorded her the courtesy due a member of their craft.

"They held the serene view of another Oriental — the beloved Mme. Chiang Kai-Shek. As the representative of the people that have suffered most, she had never swerved from civilized thinking . . .

"Let's not try to insult and humiliate a gifted fellow American just because her eyes are capped by a Mongoloid fold. Let's not try to show patriotism by ignorance, cruelty or wanton rudeness.

"In short — let's not be childish."

N. Y. Times: Pro Patria

Two thousand, six hundred American soldier-citizens — who happened to be of Japanese ancestry — paraded in Honolulu this week, led by a band and cheered by 20,000 onlookers. At the palace of the Territorial Governor, Ingram Stainback, they listened to eight speeches, including one by the Hawaiian-Chinese Secretary of State, Ernest Kai. Then they started on their long journey to Shelby, Miss., where they will complete their military training. Their feet hurt in the unaccustomed military footwear, and they may have felt embarrassed in the leis, or wreaths, which, according to ancient Hawaiian custom, were hung around their necks. Some of their relatives wept as they said good-bye. But they were on their way to serve in a good cause. They were American citizens born under the American flag, volunteers in the defense of their native land. They were of Japanese ancestry — and good Americans. Perhaps they prove that it isn't what is in the blood that counts, it is what is in the heart. — From an editorial in the New York Times, March 31, 1943.

principle that men of all races were free and equal.

When soldiers give their blood in defense of such unalterable truths, it behooves our lawmakers to put into law these truths, and rescind those laws contrary to them.

Nisei USA

by LARRY TAJIRI

Movie 'Treachery' in Hawaii

The "Mary Ann," one of a flight of Boeing "flying fortresses," rides the boundless Pacific sky on a Sunday morning. The crew is happy, Hawaii lies ahead. Suddenly, radio communication with Hickam Field on Oahu is broken. Instead the air waves are full of shrieking foreign voices. "Chinese?" asks a pilot. "No, Jap," another crew member answers. There are the sounds of machine guns and planes zooming. The "Mary Ann" is riding into Hawaii on the morning of December 7.

Hickam Field finally comes through. The radio operator on the B-17 is told that enemy planes are attacking. The flight of Boeings is ordered to emergency landing fields on other islands. The "Mary Ann" steers for Maui Island.

The powerful bomber glides on to the emergency field. There the plane is suddenly attacked by snipers from the cane fields. Japs — but how did they get here? "These are local Japs," an officer says tersely. Bullets from the snipers' guns puncture the plane. The crew hurriedly gets aboard and the bomber takes off again, this time for the devastation that is Hickam Field.

Landing at Hickam amid the flames of burning hangers and charred skeletons of planes, the captain of the "Mary Ann" is asked by the commanding officer why he did not stay at Maui as ordered. "We were attacked by snipers," says the captain. The Hickam commandant accepts the explanation.

The new arrivals at Hickam Field notice that most of the planes were caught on the ground and wrecked before they could get into the air. "Why?" they ask. They are told that on that morning, December 7, shortly before the attack, three vegetable trucks arrived at Hickam Field from Honolulu, driven by "local Japs." On arriving at the field, the vegetable truckers turned into saboteurs who wrecked the tails of the P-40 pursuits, so that they are unable to get off the ground. The sabotage is synchronized with the treacherous attack from the air. Here again, the "local Japs" are the saboteurs.

One of the members of the B-17's crew has a sister in Honolulu. He finds that she is seriously injured in a hospital near Hickam Field. He and his friends rush to the hospital, find her in pain. They are told that she was driving along a highway near the field on that morning with a member of the Army air force. There is a truck stalled ahead of them on the road. They stop behind the truck. Suddenly the driver, a "local Jap," emerges with a shotgun. He shoots at the Army flyer, hits the girl.

The "Mary Ann" is ordered to Clark Field in the Philippines and arrives there two days later. The commandant at Clark wants to know what happened at Hickam. "Fifth columnists," he is told.

Such is the record of the "treachery" of Japanese Hawaiians on December 7, as told in the new Warner Brothers film, "Air Force," the cinematic argosy of a Boeing B-17. Yet it is all terrible fiction, terrible because of the damage such callous misrepresentation can do to the lives of Americans of Japanese ancestry. "Local Japs," the picture accuses as it points to sabotage. But the War and Navy Departments, the FBI and the Honolulu police have said that there were no acts of sabotage by residents of Japanese ancestry, "local Japs," in Hawaii on or before December 7 or subsequent to that time. Blake Clark, writing in his book, "Remember Pearl Harbor," remembers no acts of sabotage by Japanese Hawaiians, a fact to which Speaker Roy Vitousek of the territorial house also attested during a recent visit to the mainland.

"Air Force," is both one of the biggest and most entertaining pictures of the year. It is effective because it tells with newsreel simplicity the adventures of a group

of ordinary Americans, the crew of the flying fortress, in the war in the Pacific. And throughout the film the story is documented by dates and facts: The attack on Hawaii on December 7, the valiant marines at Wake, the fall of the Philippines, the American counter-offensive in the south Pacific.

To the Japanese American, evacuated from his home on the west coast, the film is heart-breaking in its brutal use of lies and rumors, the same sort of lies and rumors about Hawaii which spread like wildfire along the west coast in those tense days preceding evacuation and which had much to do with creating and maintaining the atmosphere of public suspicion which readily accepted wholesale evacuation.

Specifically, the film "Air Force" claims:

1. That local Japanese "fifth columnists" on Maui attacked an American plane. (The Tolcan Committee's fourth interim report to congress contains affidavits attesting to the fact that there were no acts of sabotage by Japanese Hawaiians).

2. That "vegetable trucks" from Honolulu arrived at Hickam Field on the morning of December 7 and that local Japanese manning these trucks committed sabotage at the air field. (Robert Casey, noted war correspondent of the Chicago Daily News, investigated a similar rumor while in Hawaii and found it baseless. The rumor which Casey checked had claimed that trucks driven by resident Japanese arrived at Hickam Field before the attack and that once arriving at the field the sides of the trucks fell away, revealing machine guns which were turned on the planes and air field personnel).

3. That a truck, driven by a Japanese Hawaiian, blocked a highway leading to Hickam Field. (Blake Clark in his article, "The Japanese in Hawaii," in the New Republic reports that rather than blocking the highways, Japanese Hawaiians were so anxious to lend aid that their cars, carrying medical and other equipment, arrived at Hickam while the attack was still in progress and were hit by flying shrapnel).

There is no need here to detail the record of Hawaiians of Japanese ancestry on and after December 7. Their contributions to the territorial defense have elicited warm praise from Lt. Gen. Emons, commanding the Hawaiian department, and from others, both military and civilian. The Japanese Hawaiians on Maui, described in "Air Force" as saboteurs, are the same people who have given some 5000 young men of Japanese ancestry to the United States Army, including some 3000 volunteers in the new Army combat team.

Japanese Americans on the mainland have reason to be proud of the record of loyalty and belief in democratic ideals and principle which the Japanese Hawaiians have made in the months since Pearl Harbor. And it should not be forgotten that 10,000 Japanese Americans in Hawaii volunteered for combat duty in the United States Army in February, the highest percentage of volunteers of any group in the entire United States, for 10,000 volunteers is 40 percent of all males of Japanese ancestry in Hawaii between 18 and 38.

The motion picture, "Air Force" does these loyal Americans a grave injustice. "Air Force" is an important picture. It will be seen by millions of persons in America and abroad. It is deeply regrettable that it sacrifices the integrity and good name of the loyal Hawaiians of Japanese ancestry for a few thrilling minutes of dramatic action on a flickering screen. It circulates again the vicious rumors which had been proven to be totally untrue a year before the picture's release. It will serve the forces of reaction and bigotry by using the motion picture as a medium to accuse a racial minority of crimes uncommitted.



Myer Refuses Dies Committee Request to Halt Resettlement; Asks Restraint on Investigation

Committee Hearings Begin at Los Angeles with Officials from Poston Testifying in Executive Session; Expected to Continue Over Ten Days

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Director Dillon S. Myer of the War Relocation Authority has in effect refused to comply with the request of the House Committee investigating un-American activities, headed by Rep. Dies of Texas, to withhold release of evacuees from the relocation centers until the committee completes its inquiry into pre-Pearl Harbor affiliations and activities of Japanese Americans reputedly connected with subversive groups, Warren B. Francis, staff correspondent of the Los Angeles Times, reported last Friday.

The WRA head, according to Francis, also asked to have the Dies Committee restrain its chief investigator, Robert E. Stripling, on the ground that his "irresponsible" accusations against Japanese Americans and the WRA are "interfering" with the war effort and hampering the evacuee resettlement program.

The Times correspondent added that Myer, in letters to all members of the Dies Committee, brushed aside a demand by Rep. Thomas of New Jersey, a member of the committee, that the plan of relocating evacuees over different sections of the country be shelved because of the possibility that dangerous individuals might be turned loose.

Thomas had suggested that the WRA wait for the committee's findings before granting freedom to more evacuees.

Myer, the Times report said, repeated previous denials that evacuees are receiving special treatment, and asked the committee to produce detailed evidence in support of charges that American-born Japanese specially trained in sabotage and espionage are among those released.

The WRA chief also stated that

all persons permitted to leave the centers are subject to being apprehended and returned if they commit hostile or disloyal acts, it was added.

LOS ANGELES — Hearings on evacuee relocation conducted by a subcommittee of the Dies Committee on un-American activities opened here in the federal building Tuesday with officials of the Poston, Ariz., relocation center appearing to testify in executive session, the Associated Press reported.

Ralph M. Gelvin, associate director at the Arizona center, testified at the first day's hearing that 2000 of the 17,000 evacuees originally sent to the center have been released, either permanently or on a seasonal basis.

Gelvin also told the investigating group that meat was available at the center in adequate quantities, and admitted that new and inexperienced help had been the cause of food wastage.

Asked if the "gangster element" at the camp was centered around exponents of jiu-jitsu, Gelvin said he had once thought so, but that a later inquiry disproved that belief.

Previously the witness stated that Poston evacuees worked when they wished to and that when they declined, other labor was employed. He said evacuees are paid from \$16 to \$19 a month, while other workers are paid \$8 a day.

If the evacuees have any money, they do not have to work, he testified. "Their subsistence is provided, though they don't have to work if they don't want to," he was quoted.

Gelvin expressed the belief that the small wages paid evacuees

Dies Committee Opens Hearings On Japanese Americans

(Continued from Page 1). were the main reason for some refusing to work.

On Wednesday the subcommittee, headed by Representative Costello of California, heard from A. W. Empie, chief administrative officer at Poston, that there had been some instances of insubordination by evacuees at the center, but that the strike there last November had been free of violence. The only loss of government property at that time, he said, was one case of milk.

Empie testified that the WRA, the secretary of the interior and the Indian service had agreed on establishing the evacuee center at Poston as part of a long-range program under which is planned an eventual settling of southwest Indian tribes in that region. He disclosed that \$10,000,000 was set aside for the extension of the irrigation system on the Indian settlement project. He estimated the cost of reclaiming the 5000 acres for the evacuee camp was about \$3,000,000.

The Poston official said the older evacuees were glad to work the land, but that some of the younger ones were not too enthusiastic. Sixty per cent of the evacuees at the center were farmers before evacuation, he added.

Empie disclaimed knowledge of any WRA plan to return evacuees to California after the war, and told Representative Costello that he did not know of any section where they would be welcome.

The hearing, originally scheduled to open Monday, was postponed one day pending arrival from the east of two subcommittee members. Representatives Herman P. Eberharter, Democrat of Pennsylvania, and Karl E. Mundt, Republican of South Dakota.

It was believed the inquiry will continue from ten days to two weeks. According to previous announcements, the Los Angeles hearing will be followed by a public hearing in Washington at which Director Dillon S. Myer of the WRA will be called to testify.

JACL Will Contest Legality Of Restrictive Law in Arizona

MASAOKA NOW BUCK PRIVATE IN U. S. ARMY

Mike Masaoka, Executive Secretary of the National Japanese American Citizens League, returned to Salt Lake City from his duties in Washington on Thursday, June 3, and was duly inducted the next morning into the U. S. Army as a buck private. His induction took place at the induction station.

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Middle West Suggested for Resettlement

Residents of Centers Are Urged to Consider Rich Farming Areas

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White disclosed that truck cropping is not practical except on farms near large cities. The relatively stable rewards of diversified farming are more attractive to the Mid-Westerners, he said.

According to White, the average farm raises milk cows, beef cattle, pigs and sheep, and grows plenty of fodder. Each one has a small plot of ground for a vegetable garden. Much of such vegetables are canned for consumption in the winter months.

In certain areas sugar beets are grown extensively, and in others fruit farming plays an important part, White said.

Program Being Arizona Desert

40 Models for Navy; More Than 40 Middle of March

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"Although the law is framed with specific reference to persons not eligible to citizenship, which would include the issei, this is not true with respect to 'free zone' nisei who were not evacuated," Masaoka pointed out. "No restrictions of movement have been placed on 'free-zone' nisei, except that they cannot enter prohibited areas without special permission. But there are numerous defense zones and factories which are closed to all citizens without special passes, and therefore this law could not be applied to the nisei without applying it to all residents of the United States."

"However, its application has been confined to persons of Japanese ancestry. Undoubtedly, the Standard Oil company has sold gas to others to whom this law could be made to apply, but action was taken against the company only in regard to sales made to native-born Arizonians of Japanese ancestry. The Standard Oil company, in this instance, pleaded guilty and paid the fine required."

"Fearing similar state action against them, the residents of Arizona, in general, are refusing to deal with persons of Japanese ancestry because they do not want to go to the trouble of making a public notice and a report to the secretary of state, and they do not want to be persecuted for 'violations' of the law."

The law provides that "failure to comply with any provision of this act is a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of not less than \$100, nor more than \$1000, imprisonment of not less than 30 days, nor more than six months, or both. The making of any false statement, in either the notice or the report prescribed by this act is a felony, punishable by not less than one nor more than three years' imprisonment."

"This situation," Masaoka continued, "has apparently been created by unscrupulous parties, taking advantage of wartime hysteria, as a means of driving residents of Japanese ancestry out of the state."

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"We are told," he said in his statement, "that we are doing a patriotic duty by evacuating from the west coast. Now demagogues are telling the American people that we were evacuated because we were disloyal."

"The government owes it to us, as loyal Americans despite our Japanese faces, to refute the attacks of sensation seekers who further their selfish aims and vent their prejudices on people who cannot answer back."

Hosokawa added: "Ask the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Justice where the disloyal Japanese aliens are."

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Santa Barbara Chamber Against Evacuee Return

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. — Directors of the Santa Barbara Chamber of Commerce, claiming authorization by a referendum of the membership which expressed overwhelming anti-evacuee feeling, last week planned the immediate drafting of a resolution opposing any return of evacuees to the Pacific Coast for the duration, the Los Angeles Times reported.

Copies of the resolution, it was announced, will be forwarded at once to officials at Washington and to the Army command.

Six pertinent questions were asked in the membership referendum, with the following results:

First, Do you believe it desirable that Japanese who are considered loyal to the United States be permitted to return to the Pacific Coast during the war? Yes, 14; No, 197.

Second, Does the opinion expressed in answer to question No. 1 represent the attitude of your neighbors or the community in which you live? Yes, 177; No, 13.

Third, Would return, in your opinion, involve danger to our war operation? Yes, 180; No, 23.

Fourth, Is there any probability that return of Japanese would jeopardize their personal safety? Yes, 177; No, 21.

Fifth, Would their return cause resentment which would interrupt war production? Yes, 158; No, 34.

Sixth, Is it desired that Japanese be permitted to return so that their labor may be utilized for agriculture or industry? Yes, 21; No, 162.



Myer Refuses Dies Committee Request to Halt Resettlement; Asks Restraint on Investigation

Committee Hearings Begin at Los Angeles with Officials from Poston Testifying in Executive Session; Expected to Continue Over Ten Days

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Director Dillon S. Myer of the War Relocation Authority has in effect refused to comply with the request of the House Dies Committee investigating un-American activities, headed by Rep. Dies of Texas, to withhold release of evacuees from the relocation centers until the committee completes its inquiry into pre-Pearl Harbor affiliations and activities of Japanese Americans reputedly connected with subversive groups, Warren B. Francis, staff correspondent of the Los Angeles Times, reported last Friday.

The WRA head, according to Francis, also asked to have the Dies Committee restrain its chief investigator, Robert E. Stripling, on the ground that his "irresponsible" statements against Japanese Americans are "un-American and un-American in character."

all persons permitted to leave the centers are subject to being apprehended and returned if they commit hostile or disloyal acts, it was added.

JACL Will Contest Legality Of Restrictive Law in Arizona

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"The State has done some inventory work and that's about all," Cecil said. "We will turn over the information we have gathered to the war boards and they will do the work."

Assemblyman Lloyd Lowery of Rumsey, who sponsored the move to put idle agricultural equipment at the disposal of California farmers, declared the Federal government's willingness to take over the program would save the State both time and money.

"The legislation was introduced primarily to stimulate Federal action," he said. "With the war boards administering the program, the State will be able to concentrate on recruiting and placing farm labor."

Lowery declared, however, that should the Federal government fail to do "an adequate job" the State always could "fall back on its own resources, granted under the new law."

Colorado

Denver University has more than 100 students of Japanese ancestry. The Student Christian Movement there has indicated their desire to write to college people within out of their way to make evacuees here feel at home. Thousands of Japanese American students are in classrooms throughout American colleges and universities. To carry the story to their experiences before school and social club meetings.

Some nisei maids have been equally guilty in bringing evacuees into disrepute. After coming out for housework, they have developed a boy-crazy complex — even to the extent of dating almost every night. Some employers report they have to reprimand their sleep-eyed housemaids to keep more regular hours. One placed several nisei housemaids casually through the want ads.

Some nisei head back to the center. When those are exhausted, they blithely head back to the center. When those are exhausted, they blithely head back to the center. When those are exhausted, they blithely head back to the center.

By contrast, there's the young nisei who came from Manzanar to drive a school bus for one of the rural parochial schools. He found he didn't like the work, but who were interested enough in me to get me out of the center. I'm staying on for a couple of three months, then I'm going to tell them, but keep on until they find someone to take my place."

Ships for War Program Being Constructed in Arizona Desert

Crew of 25 Evacuees Build Models for Navy Use at Gila River Shipyard; More Than 40 Warships Launched Since Middle of March

RIVERS, Ariz.—Ships are being built in the Arizona desert, the Associated Press reported last week. The ships will never fire a shot, but they are nevertheless playing an important part in the war program.

They are model ships — exact replicas of the von Tirpitz and Admiral Scheer and a host of other battlewagons of the Axis enemy — and are being constructed by loyal Japanese Americans who were evacuated from the Pacific Coast.

The supervisor of the Gila River shipyard is Oscar Julius, who formerly operated a model ship factory in New York and supplied ship models to the United States Navy. Julius has trained 25 Japanese American workers who are working in his "shipyard" here.

Mr. Julius, according to the AP, saw the possibility of employing loyal nisei at the relocation center on ship model construction and arranged to secure the plans for the start of the work from the navy department. The plans were

supplied and three models of each ship were constructed to be submitted to naval authorities for approval. They are used in training programs and for identification purposes. The third naval district also uses models in camouflage experiments.

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Editorial

The Dies Committee, Again

In the nation's capital this week the Dies committee began an all-out investigation into this nation's so-called "Japanese problem." The Japanese American Citizens League, the War Relocation Authority, and in fact all Americans with Japanese faces are the "whipping boys" in the face of a series of charges—extremely fantastic and ridiculous on face value; extremely serious to the national safety if true—which have been aired recently through sensational releases carried primarily by the Hearst press.

So far nothing has been revealed in these disclosures that can be held up before a court of justice as subversive or un-American. Rather, the publicity has been heavy with innuendos and insinuations unsupported by anything so substantial as names, dates and places. Thinking persons with any sense of justice may be confused by the lack of substance in the charges, but they cannot be deluded for long by the obviously unnecessary fanfaronade.

One would be led to think by the Dies committee that this particular issue supercedes all others in insuring the winning of the war. Actually, while the problem of Americans with Japanese faces embraces fundamental concepts of democracy, Americanism and war objectives, it is but one of thousands, and a minor one at that, facing the leaders of the American people in prosecuting a global conflict to total victory.

So far the federal agencies entrusted with the "Japanese problem" have carried out their duties humbly, and generally in a commendable manner. They have acted on the understanding that the vast majority of those concerned are Americans, in both citizenship and outlook, that even the non-citizens are for the most part not subversive.

If, on the other hand, the Dies committee's charges of rampant, unbridled subversiveness can be substantiated in a convincing manner, then surely the responsible government agencies must be investigated for neglect of duty. In short, at the same time the Dies committee pounds the tomtoms against an American minority and its friends, the integrity of the Department of Justice, War and Navy departments, WRA and others are being seriously challenged.

We, as Americans of Japanese descent claiming no allegiance to other than the United States, would be the first to protest a government policy calculated to weaken our war effort, even if that meant personal inconvenience and suffering. The sincerity of this protestation has been proven by action: 100,000 individuals cooperated with their government in a mass evacuation based solely on race, because they believed it was their patriotic duty as a wartime measure; they did not protest temporary suspension of civil rights if it were for the national good.

During the past few days the FBI demonstrated by seizure of Nazi spies that it is well qualified to keep the nation safe from internal enemies. These latest feats merely buttress a long-standing record of efficient, alert, relentless federal policing of foes to peace. The FBI is the authority responsible for national internal security, and there is no reason for anyone, Dies committee or not, to challenge its motives. It is only logical then that the Dies committee and others who have made the "Japanese problem" their own pet axe to grind, leave the work to the duly constituted authorities. That is the only way to avoid overlapping authority and duplication of effort involving large costs and more badly-needed manpower.

It is incontrovertible that the people of the United States have confidence in the FBI, the Army, and other agencies dealing with the evacuees. The same cannot be said of the Dies committee.

Appeal To Reason

Manzanar Free Press Aug. 14, 1943

The movement to arouse hatred against persons in the United States of Japanese ancestry is rapidly getting out of control. The thing is dangerous. It is a threat to the rights of all minorities; it is striking down the barriers to race hatred; it is furnishing fuel for Japanese propaganda against the United Nations in the Far East and for German propaganda against the United Nations in South America. It has got to be stopped by rational people before it becomes too big to handle in any peaceful and reasonable fashion.

WAVE OF RESOLUTIONS

A wave of resolutions is passing through the Chambers of Commerce, American Legions, and city councils of the state urging that the Japanese, both citizen and alien, be kept out of California not only for the duration of the war but forever after.

Results of the mounting tide of irrational feeling against people of the Japanese race, whatever their background, have been to undermine the faith of the citizens of Japanese descent in the democratic principles professed by the land of their birth, to greatly impede any satisfactory settlement of the problem of the Japanese in the relocation centers, to arouse widespread disparagement of the rights of citizenship, flagrant attempts to disregard them altogether, and to provide fuel to the enemies of the United States for propaganda maintaining the claims of this country to be fighting for the freedom of all men and the rights of all minorities are hollow.

DELIBERATELY FOMENTED

This hatred of the people of the Japanese race in the United States is not simply a manifestation of the national hatred for the Japanese empire which American soldiers are fighting to destroy. It has been deliberately fomented for economic reasons. Its greatest strength is in rural districts, where the Japanese have been economic competitors to white farmers. Its greatest proponents have been large farmers in these districts. Hence the insistence that the Japanese be forbidden to return to the west coast ever.

This, then, is the problem that faces citizens of rational mentality and of the more restrained type of patriotism. It is our thesis here that the problem is particularly the concern of college students, who belong, for the most part, to the above class of citizens. It is further our thesis that this class of citizens has a decided responsibility to combat a situation which is becoming an actual menace to the nation.

Students on this campus have a very good opportunity to help combat it. The President of the University, Robert Gordon Sproul, is honorary chairman of an organization formed to meet the situation known as the "Pacific Coast Committee on American Principles and Fair Play." The Berkeley headquarters of the organization is right outside Sather Gate.

The policies of this committee are as follows:

1. Segregation of all disloyal persons of Japanese ancestry.
2. The protection of the right of loyal Americans of Japanese ancestry to serve in the armed forces of the United States.
3. The opportunity for loyal Americans of Japanese ancestry to resettle in the manner which, in the judgment of the federal government, is the best designed to meet the manpower shortage.
4. Fair play for Americans of Japanese ancestry who are loyal.

COMMITTEE SHORTSTAFFED

The committee is shortstaffed. It needs help. It needs people to send out form letters, to prepare lists of groups to which material may be sent, to handle publicity for the program, to compile information and facts about the problem, and to perform numerous odd jobs. But above all, i

needs people to combat as individuals the virulent propaganda against the Japanese in the United States with solid facts and intelligent reasoning.

Yes, this is a plug. We admit it shamelessly. We hereby urge all interested students to go down to the office of the committee at 2234 Telegraph avenue and volunteer their services for an hour or two each week, or at least to look over the material which has been compiled there. We think it would do a lot of good.—The Daily Californian, July 28, 1943.

Los Angeles Examiner

Chicago Sailor-Jap Battle Probed by Three Agencies

CHICAGO, July 14.—(INS)—Three investigations were undertaken today into a Chicago riot in which four young Japanese-Americans and a group of sailors were involved.

When the fight was over, two of the Japanese bore knife wounds and a third had been clubbed on the head. The fourth was found later in his home. All recently were released from relocation camps. Two of them were seriously wounded.

Three of the sailors, Filipinos, were held for questioning by the police. The others left the scene before they could be apprehended. Detectives said they found no weapons.

Ill-feeling between the Japs and sailors arose, police reported, earlier in the evening when one of the civilians cursed a naval man's uniform.

Separate investigations of the clash are being made by the police, by authorities at the Glenview Naval Air Base where the sailors were stationed, and the third by Elmer L. Shirrell, midwest director of the War Relocation Authority.

Shirrell interviewed all those in custody, but refused to reveal what he had learned. He said:

"The situation is so serious I will have no statement until later."