

Myer Discharge Urged in Report on Tule Riot



JUSTICE DEPT. CONTROL ASKED BY DIES GROUP

List of Japs Responsible for
Attack on Camp Director
Demanded for Congress

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—(AP)—The Dies committee today recommended the removal of Dillon S. Myer, national director of the War Relocation Authority, and Ray C. Best, Tule Lake camp director, "because of their evident inability to cope with the problem of disloyal Japanese."

The committee said its recommendation was based on a lengthy study of the riot which occurred at the Tule Lake camp in California in November.

Other recommendations made by the committee were: That the Tule Lake center and the disloyal Japanese segregated there be placed under the jurisdiction and administrative control of the Department of Justice.

ASKS REPORT

That a report be submitted to Congress listing the Japanese responsible for the attack on Dr. Reese M. Pedicord, director of the camp hospital, on November 1, 1943, and the Japanese guilty of inciting the riot which occurred the same day and also what disciplinary or legal action has been instituted against such persons.

That the duty of policing all Japanese relocation and segregation centers be carried out by Caucasians and in sufficient strength to guarantee protection to all persons residing in the centers.

The subcommittee which conducted the inquiry was composed of Representatives Costello (Democrat), California, as chairman and Representatives Mundt and Eberharter (Democrat), Pennsylvania.

Eberharter did not agree with the majority report and announced he would file a minority opinion.

ISSUES STATEMENT

The Pennsylvanian issued a statement saying:

"The two majority members of the special subcommittee refused to let me have a copy of the report. In effect, they wanted me to sign an indictment without the opportunity of really knowing with what crime the accused is charged. It seems to me the other two members of the subcom-

(Continued on Page 5, Cols. 6-7)

DENVER.—(Continued on Page 5, Cols. 6-7) Goldstein of Omaha addressed a congregation of over one thousand persons at the Trinity Methodist Cathedral on Sunday, Feb. 13, which was observed in Denver churches as "Race Relations Sunday."

Invocation at the service addressed by Rabbi Goldstein was offered by Rev. Jun Fujimori of the California Street Community church. A city-wide choir of 100 voices, including nisei, gave rendition. The service was attended by persons of many racial groups. About fifty nisei were present.

At the morning services of the California Street Community church, seven nisei were elected to the church board. They are Yoshiko Arikai, Margaret Uemura, James Haratani, Harry Matabo, Aiko Fukuyama, Joe Grant Matsuoka and Charles Kamayatsu.

American-Japanese beats prejudices, acclaimed hero

The "most honorable son" of the "Eager Beavers" squadron was resting up here today, after 15 months overseas and 30 combat missions as a top turret gunner on a Liberator bomber.

T/Sgt. Ben Kuroki, 25-year-old American Japanese, who had to fight a valiant personal struggle before he could be accepted to fight the enemy, is taking things easy at the army air forces redistribution station in Santa Monica while waiting for reassignment.

Between the time that Ben and his brother enlisted in the army two days after Pearl Harbor, and the time that his squadron affectionately dubbed him "most honorable son," (as distinct from the Japanese enemy known as "dishonorable sons") lay many bitter months during which Ben fought to be recognized as a loyal American, though his name was Kuroki, his eyes were slanted and his skin yellow.

Today, there can be no question of his loyalty or his courage. He has twice been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross—once for the Ploesti raid and later for the completion of 25 heavy bombardment missions. He wears the Air Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters. One medal was bestowed because he volunteered for five bombing missions beyond the 25 constituting his tour of duty.

To the few Japanese families who lived in Hershey, Neb., prejudice was an unknown thing. It was only when he entered the army that Ben got his first taste of exclusion.

"My brother was with me at basic training," he said. "We used to go to mess hall and everybody would just stare at us. It just about drove me insane those first three months."

His aim was to get into the air forces and when he was accepted, at last, he was sent to school for clerical training, and when he got overseas, at last, he was ticketed as a clerk.

More pleading, more perseverance resulted in his being sent to gunnery school, only to discover, upon graduation, that no flying crew would have him.

Pilot after pilot turned him down, until one flyer, Maj. J. B. Epting Jr., gave the young American Japanese a chance.

Whether it was because Kuroki proved to be a miraculous turret gunner, or because Major Epting's sympathy for the young man was a happy omen, the fact remains that the gods were good to the "Tupelo Lass," (so named because the major came from Tupelo, Miss.).

During 24 missions the plane came through without serious injury, no enemy machinegun bullet ever touched her, she rode through the Ploesti raid "without a scratch" and without a man injured.

And during the entire 24 missions only one man sustained battle injury.

After the African campaign, after Sicily, after the first raid on Rome, after Naples, after the terror of Ploesti, Kuroki had completed his 25 missions. He could go home now.

He immediately volunteered for an additional five missions.

"Why? I guess it was patriotism," he explained shyly. "And the fact that I felt I ought to do something for my brother; he wasn't overseas yet."

When "Ted's Flying Circus," the famed bomber group of which the Eager Beavers were a squadron, wasn't coming up to the air front from the African end, it was making "trips" out of England — to Wilhelmshaven, Bordeaux, Danzig, Vegasack, Munster, La Pallice.

There were a lot of tight places — none of them so horrifying as Ploesti, the mission of 177 Liberators over the Rumanian oilfields — but the crew of which Kuroki was a member got through.

The first "Tupelo Lass" came to an unhappy ending, however, through no fault of her own.

On the way to England from North Africa after that campaign, the ship ran out of gas, the navigator "got lost" in the rotten weather and the radioman could not get a message through.

The pilot said the men could take to the silk if they wanted to, but, as Kuroki explained, "I would



T/Sgt. BEN KUROKI
"Most honorable son"

rather take my chances with the pilot than on my jumping out."

A hole opened up in the clouds and the pilot swooped through and into a little valley. Immediately, the ship was surrounded by about 100 Arabs who interned them and took their ship away. They had landed in Spanish Morocco and were later transferred, via Junkers-52, to an airbase in Spain. How they got out, Kuroki wasn't saying.

Some embarrassment was caused when Spanish authorities refused to believe Kuroki was an American Japanese, their theory being that an American Japanese would not be fighting the Axis.

Kuroki now wants to fight the other half of the Axis—Japan. He left his beloved squadron and the men with whom he lived so long in the hope that he would be assigned to the Pacific.

The "most honorable son" has come a long way since the days when the men at "basic" treated him as an outcast and refused to speak to him, for he has received an invitation to speak to the Com-

OUSTER ASKED—Removal of Dillon S. Myer, national director of the War Relocation Authority, was recommended by the Dies Committee yesterday because of "inability to cope with problem of disloyal Japanese."



CAMP DIRECTOR—The Dies Committee urged removal of Ray C. Best, who is in charge of the Tule Lake camp where Japanese internees rioted November 1. The Committee said "considerable responsibility" for the riot "can be attributed to the lack of discipline and to the appeasement policy by which the camp was run."

Denver Dedicate To Race

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2/26/44

In the Salt Lake Telegram: Loyal Citizens Should Have Right to Return to Coast

Japanese Americans who "show wholehearted support of and loyalty to America" should have "full freedom as citizens to go where they please and make their homes where they please—including back to California," the Salt Lake Telegram declared in an editorial on Feb. 21.

The Telegram commented that California "pulled such a neat one when it prevailed upon the government to ship all Japanese out of Pacific coast states under the excuse of national security, although for some strange reason the proportionately far more numerous Japanese population of our far more strategic and imperiled Hawaiian islands were not such a menace to our security that they had to be relocated."

The Telegram's comments were made in an editorial, "We Have an Amendment to Offer," which discussed the pending bill by Rep. Gearhart, R., Calif. which would require all persons of Japanese ancestry in this country to renounce any and all allegiance to Japan on pain of loss of United States citizenship and ultimate deportation to Japan.

"We can't see any objection to that on the part of the American people or of loyal Americans of Japanese ancestry in this country (to the Gearhart bill.) There is no room in Amer-

ica for anyone, regardless of his race, color or ancestral nationality, who is not loyal to this country. If they put another country before America in their hearts, then let them put themselves where their hearts are. We don't need them here—and we don't want them here.

"And while we're on the subject of loyalty of enemy aliens, we can see no reason why there should be any distinction between enemy nationalities, Germans and Italians in this country should be just as 100 per cent loyal to America as the Japanese should and, if they are not, they, too, should be deprived of any rights of citizenship and deported. After all, the German-Italian problem has been just as serious as the Japanese. A check made in Salt Lake county after Pearl Harbor, for instance, showed almost three times as many German and Italian aliens as Japanese aliens in this area.

"We would just like to make one suggestion to Representative Gearhart of California for an addition to his plan. That is, that those Japanese who foreswear all allegiance to Japan and show wholehearted support of and loyalty to America have full freedom as citizens to go where they please and make their homes where they please—including back to California. . . ."

Wash; Anonymous \$2.00, Lincoln, Nebraska; George Muramatsu, \$2, 30 East Haven Ave., Salt Lake City, Utah; Mr. and Mrs. Fred Kataoka, \$10.00, 110 Cedar Ave., Peoria 5, Illinois; and Mrs. Yoshiko Koizumi \$3.00, RFD Box 277, Glenview, Illinois.

BUCK-A-MONTH CLUB

The Buck-a-Month Club gains six new members this week with the following pledging \$1.00 a month to the General Fund of National Headquarters; Tom Yego, Dr. George Hiura, Dr. Harry Y. Kita, and Mr. and Mrs. Robert K. Nagata. The 23 members that we have now nearly assures 6 months rental expenses of National Headquarters. A few more members and we will be assured of a roof over our heads.

CREDIT UNION

The National JACL Credit Union in January had its best month since its incorporation in September of last year. The total amount deposited in shares totaled \$833.85, making total shares purchased since incorporation \$2738.05. Loans totaling \$760.00 were made in January plus the purchase of a Series G War Bond amounting to \$1000.00. There are no delinquent loans. May we call to the attention of the members that the Credit Committee meets on Thursday to act upon loans, so if you need a loan, be sure to figure accordingly. If you are going to need money to pay your income tax, let your credit union help you out.

JUST ROUTINE

There seems to be some confusion about the Pacific Citizen subscription rates, for we receive various remittances that make extra work for our one-girl circulation department. The yearly rates are as follows; JACL member \$2.00 per year, and non-members \$2.50 per year. The half a year rate is \$1.50. The Pacific Citizen permits one change of address and any additional change must be accompanied with a remittance of 10c. Leading publications require from thirty to ninety days for change in address to be effective, so if you do not get the correction from the following issue after your notice, please bear with us as they are taken care of on the day of the arrival of the notice at the office.

Denver Churches Dedicate Day To Race Relations

DENVER, Colo.—Rabbi David Goldstein of Omaha addressed a congregation of over one thousand persons at the Trinity Methodist Cathedral on Sunday, Feb. 13, which was observed in Denver churches as "Race Relations Sunday."

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Deseret News Hits 'Reckless' Charges Against Nisei Group

The Deseret News, Salt Lake City daily newspaper, this week strongly condemned the injection of racial hysteria into the consideration of business licenses for persons of Japanese ancestry and questioned the action of importing speakers for the purpose of rais-

ing resentment against Japanese Americans.

"One would suppose that the consideration of questions of such local concern would not warrant the importation of speakers to raise resentment. Irresponsible persons can do more harm than good to any cause," said the Deseret.

"It is ~~never~~ convincing to make denunciatory generalizations about a whole race of people indiscriminately. There are good and less good and bad people among every race and in the citizenship of every nation. No one believes in sane moments that all the people of any race or country are wholly bad. Nothing but hysteria could induce anyone to pretend to the contrary.

"In recent weeks we have heard loud demands that the soldiers be given the right to vote even though constitutional provisions governing the conditions of voting had to be trampled underfoot. The cry was 'if they are good enough to fight for our country they are good enough to vote.' Yet the same organizations who have been most raucous in the shouting of this slogan are the very ones who have been most unrelenting and extreme in their denial of the right to carry on business by the families of American born Japanese who are out fighting in the ranks of our armies in this war . . .

"Reckless and unsubstantiated charges seem to have been made and the right to speak in their own defense was denied in a tone and manner unworthy of a people who make pretense of having risen above savagery.

"The Japanese were not injured half so much as their assailants who permitted themselves such extremes of hatred, bigotry and intolerance.

"It is to be hoped that the City Commission will not permit itself to be swayed by such despotic demonstrations . . . This is no time to become hysterical, nor to embark upon discriminatory courses of action. Let's wait the return of calm judgment and the rule of reason and right."

The Deseret News is regarded as the spokesman for the Mormon church.

Interior Department Takes WRA

Ickes, Myer in harmony on WRA aims

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—(UPI)—Secretary of Interior Harold L. Ickes, assuming jurisdiction over the war relocation authority, revealed today that WRA director Dillon S. Myer—whose ouster has been demanded by several west coast congressmen—will continue in that capacity.

The WRA and Myer have drawn frequent criticism in congress for their operation of camps for Japs and for Americans of Jap descent. The authority was added to the long list of agencies under Ickes' control under an executive order issued by the White House last night.

Ickes and Myer, in separate statements, said they welcomed the switch which makes the WRA an interior department unit. Ickes said the WRA program developed by Myer will be continued and "I hope it will be made even more effective in the department of the interior." Myer said his agency "welcomes the resources and facilities available in the department of interior to help us do our job and do it better."

Ickes said he will bear in mind "the international implications involved—particularly the effect of this program on the treatment of war prisoners and civilians in the Japs' hands."

Disorders last year at the Tule Lake, Calif., center for disloyal Japs were cited by the Jap government as one reason for refusing to consider another exchange of nationals with this country. Some members of congress blamed Myers' policies for the troubles there.

Ickes said that in carrying out the WRA program—which involves 110,000 American residents, two-thirds of them citizens by birth—he also will keep in mind the need for recognition of the rights of United States citizens regardless of ancestry.

A White House statement accompanying Roosevelt's executive order explained that the WRA was being transferred in its entirety for reasons of administrative simplification and "in accordance with the president's frequently announced belief that the number of independent agencies should, when practical, be reduced."

Myer, whose latest clash with congress resulted from a WRA pamphlet inviting Japanese internees to come to Ohio and Michigan to "teach the farmers sanitation and cultivation," was not immediately available for comment.

Congressmen from California, Oregon and Washington had exerted strong pressure for Myer's removal but they wanted the authority transferred to the department of justice instead of to Ickes.

WRA operates nine relocation centers and one segregation camp for loyal and disloyal Japs removed from west coast war zones. Myer had been attacked repeatedly on the ground that his administration of the camps was lax.

Eighteen to Two--

In 20 letters published in the Open Forum of the Des Moines Register last Sunday only two were unfavorable toward Americans of Japanese ancestry.

Among the contributors were C. F. Littell, professor of history and political science at Cornell college, two ministers, a soldier,

Rep. Ford last fall inserted a resolution of the Los Angeles Church Federation which asked for fair play for Americans of Japanese ancestry into the Congressional Record.

He recently joined with several other liberal west coast congressmen in a statement on issues concerning Japanese Americans, which the congressmen condemned statements by public officials, newspapers and others which sought to inflame against Japanese Americans.

a number of rural residents and others from small Iowa towns. Both unfavorable letters were from women, while six other women wrote favorable letters.

Most of the favorable comments were prompted by the valorous action of the 100th battalion. One Register contributor wrote: "The young Japanese Americans are, to me, just a group of brave American boys who, in line of duty, have rendered their country valuable service and as such, are deserving of our gratitude, trust and honor."

Another wrote: "I read about the 11 American Japanese who came back from 'A Rendezvous with Death.' Do you think for a minute that if they were loyal to Japan they would have done that for us?"

Another remarked: "The things that seem to set races apart are the things that make a Texan different from a Bostonian—environment."

ns Deny Report Parades Held

FSA Modifies Stand Barring Farm Loans

WASHINGTON — The Farm Security Administration has announced that it has modified recent order prohibiting FSA loans to all persons of Japanese ancestry to permit such loans American citizens of Japanese extraction if they meet the agency eligibility requirements.

Loans to enemy aliens, however, will remain prohibited under the modification, it was stated.

FSA officials said their coun-

Steps Adopted For Nisei Establishment

DELTA, Utah, March 15—The Japanese Americans in the Topaz Relocation Center, today are organizing to overcome, by peaceful means, racial persecution hardships of their pioneering trek eastward to establish new permanent homes, stated Staff Writer William Flynn of the San Francisco Chronicle.

They realize they face opposition, inspired by war engendered hates and fears of economic competition.

- Their plan is:
1. Self-discipline of those pioneering to prevent them from congregating in so-called segregation districts because of social, business and blood ties.
 2. Evidence of their loyalty to the United States through actions rather than words.

INDORSEMENTS

The program is reported to have the indorsement of individual leaders and the Japanese-American Citizens' League, one of the most powerful Americanization forces of the evacuated racial group. Caucasians aiding the Japanese-Americans in defense of their democratic rights as citizens also indorse the program.

The first part of the program would prevent the spotlighting of public attention on individuals by "scattering" the 112,000 people throughout this nation of more than 130,000,000 persons.

Evidence of loyalty is the most vital concern of the Japanese-Americans at the present time. They buy bonds, they donate to the blood banks—and their men fight and die for the United States, in the Pacific and on the shores of Italy.

DAs Planning Land Grab

RIVERSIDE, Calif.—District attorneys of southern California have announced plans for a drive to force, by court action, the surrender of all property held illegally by Japanese aliens in the name of minor children born in the United States.

Under the plan such property would be returned to the state and sold at public auction, according to Earl Redwine, Riverside county counsel and president of the prosecutors association.

President Orders Shift To Place Agency Under Cabinet Administration

President Roosevelt announced this week that he had ordered the transfer of the War Relocation Authority to the Department of Interior for reasons of administrative simplification and to bring the work of the agency under supervision of a cabinet officer.

The agency will be moved in its entirety into the Department of Interior in accordance with the President's frequently announced belief that the number of independent agencies should, when practicable, be reduced.

In announcing the transfer, the President stated that he considered the program of the War Relocation Authority sound in principle, and the work already accomplished by the agency highly satisfactory.

With the President's announcement Secretary of Interior Harold L. Ickes said: "The President has directed that the War Relocation Authority be transferred to the Department of the Interior. I am glad to welcome the director and staff of the War Relocation Authority into this department. The authority was established nearly two years ago as a result of the army's evacuation of west coast residents of Japanese ancestry. Since that time, the authority has worked closely with this department. Five relocation centers are situated on Interior Department land, one center was directly administered by this department until January 1, 1944. As a consequence, I know something of the problems with which the War Relocation Authority has been confronted and have come to appreciate the effectiveness with which these problems have been dealt.

"War Relocation Authority has been confronted with the difficult task of caring for a minority group of enemy ancestry in time of war. To handle this problem with proper regard for the national security and in accord with sound principles of American democracy, the authority has developed a three-fold program: 1.—Maintenance of all evacuees who require support in administered relocation-

plications which are involved, and particularly the effect of this program on the treatment of war prisoners and civilians in Japanese hands.

"The Department of the Interior will, I am sure be able to make an effective contribution to the relocation program. I should be reluctant, however, to assume the responsibilities involved in bringing the War Relocation Authority into the Department of the Interior if I did not know the ability and devotion of the staff of the War Relocation Authority and were not assured that Dillon Myer and the organization he has built up and directed were coming under my direction as a unit."

In commenting today on the transfer of the War Relocation Authority to the Department of the Interior, WRA Director Dillon S. Myer said: "The War Relocation Authority was created by the President almost two years ago to perform a necessary wartime task, aimed at preserving our American democratic principles and at the same time protecting the national security. The program which we have developed to meet the needs of 110,000 American residents, two-thirds of them citizens by right of birth, has had the endorsement of the congress as well as the executive branch of the government.

"Our primary objective is to see that it is carried out in the most effective manner. We welcome the resources and facilities which will be available in the Department of the Interior to help us do our job and do it better.

"I know that Secretary Ickes and I can depend upon the continued loyalty of the WRA staff and a continuation of the good relations between residents of

Lewis Pleads for Distinction Between 'Loyal and Disloyal'

DENVER.—A plea that a distinction be made between loyal and disloyal persons of Japanese ancestry and between the Tule Lake camp and nine other relocation centers was made by Jesse H. Lewis, acting field assistant director of the War Relocation Authority here, before an American Legion luncheon recently.

Lewis declared that the Tule Lake camp is a segregation center for Japanese who have expressed a desire to be expatriated and should not be confused with relocation centers, which house persons of Japanese ancestry who are under no suspicion of disloyalty.

"The people in relocation centers who have been granted leave clearance are people

against whom this country has made no charge," Lewis said. "They are not charged with any crime nor are they accused of disloyalty. The only charge is that they are people of Japanese ancestry."

He asserted that "the problems which confront the War Relocation Authority are not problems which concern the War Relocation Authority alone, but are of vital interest to every citizen of this country."

"Little prominence seems to have been given," he added, "to the fact that the 100th infantry the battalion composed almost entirely of American citizens of Japanese ancestry have suffered more than 40 per cent of the total personnel of the battalion."

that would list only a few of the most brazen disloyalists for deportation."

Efforts of a west coast congressional bloc to pass the Johnson deportation bill were defeated by a House vote recently.

Interior Department Takes WRA

Saturday, February 26, 1944

Rep. Ford Hits Sensational Headlines on Nisei Issues

WASHINGTON — Rep. Tom Ford, D., Calif., charged on Feb. 19 that continued publicity and criticisms regarding problems concerning persons of Japanese ancestry in the United States are endangering the lives of thousands of American prisoners held by Japan.

Criticizing newspaper headlines on domestic issues concerning Japanese Americans, Rep. Ford stated he understood that disturbances at the Tule Lake segregation center have been responsible for the Japanese refusal to accede to recent Red Cross efforts to assist our prisoners abroad.

"I think we could have handled

this whole Japanese question, including the Tule Lake issue, without smearing it all over the press in glaring headlines."

Rep. Ford last fall inserted a resolution of the Los Angeles Church Federation which asked for fair play for Americans of Japanese ancestry into the Congressional Record.

He recently joined with six other liberal west coast congressmen in a statement on issues concerning Japanese Americans, in which the congressmen condemned statements by public officials, newspapers and others which sought to inflame against Japanese Americans.

Auburn Citizens Deny Report Anti-Evacuee Parades Held

AUBURN, Wash.—Auburn citizens believe the Denver Post has a somewhat exaggerated view of their attitude toward evacuated Japanese Americans.

The Denver Post reported recently that sentiment in Auburn was so strong against the return of the evacuees that "even the mayor carried an anti-Japanese banner in an anti-Jap parade."

The Globe-News, Auburn weekly, in a headline asked last week: "Did you see Mayor Gove carry banner in anti-Jap parade?"

The Globe-News said that the Denver Post article told of the "alarm and indignation" against Japanese Americans voiced by Auburn citizens. The Post declared:

"In Auburn, Wash., it was reported that aroused citizens held mass meetings and marched in parades in which even the mayor carried anti-Japanese banners. Auburn is in the heart of Washington's Japanese belt."

The Globe-News summed up the local situation in a paragraph:

"Aside from some signs bearing the words, 'We Don't Want the Japs Back Here, Ever,' appearing in some of the display windows about the city, there has been no local action against the return of the Japanese and the Globe-News could find no one who had attended a mass meeting or seen a parade of this description. About the only authentic statement in the paragraph about Auburn is that portion which refers to the city being in the heart of Washington's Japanese belt and that should really have been 'was' instead of 'is.'"

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WASHINGTON — The Farm Security Administration has announced that it has modified a recent order prohibiting FSA loans to all persons of Japanese ancestry to permit such loans to American citizens of Japanese extraction if they meet the agency's eligibility requirements.

Loans to enemy aliens, however, will remain prohibited under the modification, it was stated.

FSA officials said their county committees will refer to appropriate federal agencies any cases in which the applicant's loyalty is doubted.

Sacramentan Seeks Business Ban on Japanese Americans

SACRAMENTO—An attempt to get the city of Sacramento to pass an ordinance prohibiting business operations by persons of Japanese ancestry after the war is being pushed here by A. J. Harder, an attorney who is the president of the Home Front Commandos.

Harder appeared before the city and declared he was "frankly aiming at the Japs" in suggesting amendments to the present business ordinance.

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"In carrying out my responsibilities under the order, I intend to keep in mind the need of recognition of the rights of United States citizens regardless of ancestry, the internal security of the United States during war time and the international im-

plications which are involved, and particularly the effect of this program on the treatment of war prisoners and civilians in Japanese hands.

"The Department of the Interior will, I am sure be able to make an effective contribution to the relocation program. I should be reluctant, however, to assume the responsibilities involved in bringing the War Relocation Authority into the Department of the Interior if I did not know the ability and devotion of the staff of the War Relocation Authority and were not assured that Dillon Myer and the organization he has built up and directed were coming under my direction as a unit."

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"Our primary objective is to see that it is carried out in the most effective manner. We welcome the resources and facilities which will be available in the Department of the Interior to help us do our job and do it better.

"I know that Secretary Ickes and I can depend upon the continued loyalty of the WRA staff and a continuation of the good relations between residents of the centers and the staff which have been enjoyed in the past."

Native Sons Praise Coast Congressmen For Deportation Bill

SAN FRANCISCO — Officials of the Native Sons of the Golden West, meeting in San Francisco Sunday, praised efforts of west coast congressmen who continue to work for the deportation of "disloyal" Japanese Americans.

Walter H. Odemar, chairman of the Japanese legislation committee of the Native Sons, commented on the recent prediction made by Rep. Bertrand Gearhart, R., Calif., that 30,000 Japanese Americans would be deported when the west coast congressional delegation completed its present efforts.

"We are fortunate," Odemar said, "to have loyal representatives in congress who refuse to recognize as a setback the action of the House in passing a bill that would list only a few of the most brazen disloyalists for deportation."

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PACIFIC CITIZEN

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LARRY TAJIRI EDITOR

EDITORIALS:

Action By Congress

The House of Representatives last week, by a vote of 82 to 76, rejected the Leroy Johnson bill, under which any statement construed as disloyal and made at any time by an American citizen would prove sufficient cause for his denationalization and deportation.

Refusal of the House to be stamped into voting for this measure, which was heavily pushed by the West Coast congressional bloc, is a heartening sign. The Johnson bill was aimed directly at Japanese Americans, but it might at any time have turned into a legal method of denationalizing and deporting any citizen upon the discretion or prejudice of officials in charge.

The bill was fraught with dangerous implications, and if passed, would have proved a menace to the civil liberties of all American citizens.

The substitute bill, which passed by a vote of 111 to 23, is eminently more fair in method and application. Under its terms a native born citizen can renounce his citizenship in time of war with the sanction of the Attorney General. Specific forms will be provided and the process of denationalization will be voluntary.

The Sleepy Lagoon Case

In the opinion of the Sleepy Lagoon Defense Committee of Los Angeles one of the most significant contributions it has received is the sum of \$10.00 which was sent recently from the Manzanar relocation center.

The now-celebrated Sleepy Lagoon case involves one of the gravest miscarriages of justice in California history. It is a sorry tale of racist prejudice on the part of police and judicial officials. Two years ago seventeen Americans of Mexican ancestry in Los Angeles were convicted of murder on circumstantial evidence and were railroaded to long terms at San Quentin penitentiary. It is evident now that these young teen-age Mexican Americans were falsely convicted, that race prejudice on the part of public officials was a major factor. The Sleepy Lagoon case exemplifies a type of dangerous racist attitude held by many police and public officials in Los Angeles, a type of attitude which contributed to the so-called "zoot suit" riot in that city last year.

Carey McWilliams, Los Angeles attorney and authority on race relations, heads the Sleepy Lagoon Defense Committee which is making a determined effort to rectify the injustice which has resulted in the placing of innocent Americans in prison. To this committee recently came the donation from other teen-age young Americans who are victims of a similar type of racist thinking. These contributors were 12th grade students of the high school at the Manzanar relocation center. These nisei students had been taking up the study of the problems of minority groups in their social studies and had come across a pamphlet explaining the Sleepy Lagoon case. Their response was immediate. They spontaneously collected their nickles and pennies, and perhaps it isn't necessary to note that these are scarce around a relocation center.

The young Japanese Americans of Manzanar high school are showing that they are not self-centered in their consideration of minority problems. It is a lesson, in fact, that Japanese Americans generally have learned through experience, the lesson that their problems are inextricably bound with those of other minorities.

Fact Versus Fiction

The recent squabble in Salt Lake City over the matter of business licenses for Americans of Japanese ancestry has occasioned a good deal of public talk and debate.

It seems strange that serious debate can be held on the subject of whether or not American citizens are entitled to the rights of American citizenship. The negative viewpoint is so thoroughly untenable a position that to give it hearing gives it undeserved credibility and worth. It is like giving serious hearing to the question of the value of the Bill of Rights.

But in times like these, when illogical thinking, fantasy and hysteria guide a large part of the "thinking" on the Japanese American problem, it is necessary to combat this hysteria with the facts.

And it is with facts, strongly contrasted with the fiction of the race-baiters, that Japanese Americans and their supporters have been countering this propaganda.

The radio forum on KOVO Wednesday night was typical of the type of thinking engendering race hatred and the type of thinking that will eventually defeat it.

The AFL representative made many charges, interlaced with rampant emotional appeals against the "Jap invasion" of Utah. One speaker charged that 30,000 Japanese Americans have come into the state. Another declared that "Japs" were flooding the schools, apparently referring to Brigham Young University. One speaker declared that while other Americans were fighting in the army, Japanese Americans were not subject to the draft.

The facts in the case, as told by Arthur Goeth, Elmer Smith and Ariel Ballif, were these: 6,000 Japanese Americans have settled in Utah, and the area is now closed for any further resettlement. Brigham Young University has been "flooded" with exactly 15 Japanese American students, of whom several are subject to imminent call by the draft. And certainly we know that 10,000 Japanese Americans are in the army.

Nisei will do well to remember, in the midst of these verbal forays, that is only a small segment of the population that attempts to stir up race antagonism. Certainly in Salt Lake City the AFL has shown it has little support. Their attack is an attack not even by labor, but by a small segment of labor. The CIO has steadfastly retained its position on the rights of all minority groups and many AFL members themselves have proven that they disagree with the present tactics of some of its members.

The AFL technique has only nuisance value, but it has a good deal of that. Preposterous though their claims and accusations, they must be answered.

They can be countered, they are being countered with facts. The fiction they dream up is dissipated by the light of clear thinking. And the majority of the people are anxious to be fairminded on the whole problem.

A Promise Kept

Proper recognition must be given the stand of NBC in presenting Ben Kuroki on the Ginny Simms program after attempts were made to bar him from the air. Though the first attempt was successful, NBC later countermanded the ban on Sgt. Kuroki.

When Ginny Simms announced that Sgt. Kuroki would not appear on her broadcast, she expressed her deep regret and promised that she would try to have him appear at a later date.

That promise was kept, and for that, thousands of Japanese Americans are grateful.

A good deal of pressure was undoubtedly brought to bear upon NBC in this matter of banning the nisei soldier from his scheduled radio appearance. We are glad that the network was courageous enough to reverse a former stand and right a former wrong.

We like reading about the boys of the 100th Infantry. We enjoy reading about their amazing bravery, their resourcefulness, their dogged determination.

But we get our biggest kick out of reading of their capture of Hitler's "unconquerable Aryans." And we wonder what happens, then, to the Nazi theory of white supremacy.

We hope that by war's end, these men of the 100th and the 442nd and other Japanese Americans in our fighting forces will have shown their worth to some of the white supremacy crowd at home.

MR. TOJO OF JAPAN By Taro Yashima



Nisei USA

by LARRY TAJIRI

Fascism Has Many Faces

The first Japanese American to die in the war of the democratic peoples against fascism was Jack Shirai, the New York restaurant worker who became a machine-gunner in the Abraham Lincoln battalion. Jack Shirai was killed in action on a hot summer's day at Brunete and his body is buried on some thirsty hillside in Spain, but the bullet which drilled a hole in his forehead was fascist. Spain was a bloody prologue to global conflict. Spain provided the stage for a dress rehearsal of the wholesale aggressions to come.

Across the world in Manchuria in 1931 and later in Ethiopia there had been other transgressions upon the ragged pattern of peace which had been half-heartedly woven on the loom of collective security. With the gift of hindsight it is not difficult to perceive today that fascism could have been stopped—at Corfu, in Manchuria, Ethiopia and Spain. Fascism, and all that the ugly word connotes, could have been caged, if not thoroughly destroyed, before Liukuochiac in 1937, before Czecho-Slovakia and Poland, and before Pearl Harbor when anti-fascism became the business of the American nation. Perhaps Jack Shirai knew this when he left his job and his girl in New York to fire a machine-gun in far-off Spain. On Christmas Day, 1936, he said as much over the Madrid radio. He said: "I fight for all men of Japanese ancestry who oppose fascism and militarism."

The American volunteers of the Lincoln battalion called Jack Shirai "the man with the laughing heart." He died at Brunete and his body is buried alongside other Americans who died there, Americans with names like Ray Steele, Harry Hynes, Rubin Schechter and Jean Bronstein. Of course, the assistance of these young Americans to the Loyalist cause was wholly unofficial. The democratic powers believed then in non-intervention. There were not enough Shirais, Steeles, Hynes', Schechters and Bronsteins to stem the fascist tide. The plunderers marched on. And on Dec. 7, 1941, Pvt. Torao Migita and thousands of his fellow Americans died at Pearl Harbor.

Fascism is not race, color or creed. Fascism is an idea. It is the very antithesis of democracy. It is the theory of the master race and the enslavement and persecution of all others. It is reaction, armed and on the march. It is the anti-Christ, destroying cathedrals. Fascism believes in the rule of the few and the submission of the many. In Germany it restricted the business licenses of a lesser favored peoples, and segregated them into ghettos. But fascism is not native to any single land, owes fealty to no single flag. It breeds wherever live the germs of intolerance and bigotry.

Today Americans of Japanese ancestry like Americans of all

racial extractions, are deeply involved in the war which fascism has spawned. Already more than one hundred Japanese Americans have died on the sanguinary trail from Salerno to Cassino. Unannounced hundreds are in daily action against the Japanese representatives of the new order of total aggression.

But the fascist mind is encountered not alone on foreign battlefronts. There is a war against fascism to be fought at home against the intolerance and prejudice which are its manifestations. Hitler began in the streets and beer halls of Munich with his anti-Semitic poison, and there are those who would make similar scapegoats of the Japanese Americans in the United States. The Nuremberg race laws of the Nazi are no more severe than the Arkansas anti-evacuee law, which forbids forever the ownership of land in the state to any person of Japanese ancestry. And there is the angry minority on the west coast which would exclude Japanese Americans forever, or would deport them en masse to some shell-rocked Pacific island. But the bitter men, whose minds are warped with unreasoning hatred and prejudice, will not win, for those who believe in democracy are beginning to speak out, as they begin to identify the fascist mind at home with the enemy overseas. The bigots are in full voice, but they will be drowned out by the chorus of democracy. Recent events point the way.

The State Senate of Colorado, recognizing the implications behind a move for punitive action against a small group of the state's residents, defeated the anti-alien property bill. An effort to revive the bill through the medium of the initiative is now being fought by a group which represents some of the most vital forces within the state. Members of this group which fights today for racial justice for loyal residents of Japanese ancestry, include legislators and housewives, educators and other professional men, trade union representatives and members of the various racial and religious minorities. And throughout the intermountain area, in the Salt Lake valley and elsewhere, similar groups of citizens have risen to combat those who would flaunt the constitutional rights of a minority. These citizens know that fascism has many faces.

The Japanese Americans have the support of those who believe in and are willing to fight for democracy. But Japanese Americans must also participate in that fight, as American men of Japanese ancestry are already combating the fascist enemy in the Pacific and in Italy. Jack Shirai was the first Japanese American to fight and die in the war against fascism. He is not the last to fight nor the last to die.

Close Quotes

"My job is not glamorous and it's full of miseries."—Lundgren T. Main, supply officer, Heart Mountain.