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On April 12, 1949, U. S. District Judge Louis E. Goodman entered a final judgment cancelling the renunciations of all renunciants in mass equity suits Nos. 25294-5 on the grounds that each renunciation was the product of fear invoked in each renunciant by the duress, coercion and intimidation under which each renunciant was held by the government at the time of renunciation. The judgment also declares that the coercion of pressure groups in Tule Lake was a mere incident to that government duress.

The judgment prohibits the Attorney General and the Secretary of State and their respective agents and consuls in Japan and all the other defendants from depriving you of any of your rights, privileges and immunities of U. S. citizenship. The defendants took an appeal to the Court of Appeals.

Until recently the defendants have refused to comply fully with the provisions of the judgment. Now, however, U. S. consuls in Japan, acting on instructions of the State and Justice Departments, will comply partially with the judgment until the appeal is decided by the Court of Appeals.

Inasmuch as the Court of Appeals will hear the oral arguments in the mass renunciation suits during the first week of May, 1950, you now are at liberty to apply to a U. S. consul in Japan for a passport if you have not already done so.

The consul will supply you with a passport application and also a special affidavit form for a renunciant to fill out. Thereupon the forms will be processed through the office of the consul, the Secretary of State and the Justice Department in Washington, D. C. If there is nothing in the affidavits or government records showing that you renounced U. S. nationality freely and voluntarily but that you renounced solely through fear induced in you by duress or coercion, the Justice Department will so instruct the Secretary of State's office and that office will instruct the consul in Japan and thereupon a passport will be issued to you so that you can return to the United States at your own expense.

However, if the special affidavit you fill out or the Justice Department files contain evidence showing that you renounced U. S. nationality freely and voluntarily and not through fear, duress or coercion the consul will notify you that it refuses you a passport. Then you must await the final decision of the Court of Appeals and if it decides in your favor the consul will be instructed to issue you a passport without requiring you to fill out that special affidavit form and thereupon you can return to the U. S. at your own expense.

All of the matters referred to in the special affidavit that the consul will supply you in connection with your application for a passport were matters which were involved in the mass suits and already have been decided in your favor and against the government. It is wrongful, therefore, for the State and Justice Departments to require you to fill out the affidavit form concerning the reasons why you renounced and why you became a member of an organization but until the Court decides the appeal they may continue to impose that requirement on you. It is likely, however, that they will relax that policy by the time the appeal is argued in Court because the government attorneys will not wish the Court to learn that the defendants have flouted Judge Goodman's judgment. Further, the work burden of processing passport applications for some 1800 renunciants will fall suddenly upon the State and Justice Departments and this also may convince them they should comply with that judgment without further delay.

If you apply for a passport you should fill out the special affidavit form truthfully and therein state as reasons why you renounced U. S. nationality (and asked for repatriation to Japan) the following seven (7) reasons showing why you were in fear and renounced:

1. I was discriminated against and was evacuated and interned without prospect of liberation simply because of my Japanese ancestry.

2. I was classified and treated as though I was an alien enemy simply because of my Japanese ancestry and was deprived of all my citizenship rights and I believed the government had repudiated my citizenship.

3. I had no reasonable opportunity to be relocated in the United States and feared mob violence in the event of being relocated.

4. Expecting to be removed to Japan involuntarily I feared that the Japanese in Japan would take reprisals against me if I had not renounced U. S. nationality before arrival there.

5. I feared I would be indefinitely or permanently interned and that there was no escape from internment except by renouncing citizenship.

6. I believed renunciation was necessary to insure continued internment because I was impoverished and had no place to go in the event I was released from internment and I feared mob violence if I was forced out of the Center.

7. The conditions prevailing in the Center kept me and my family in a constant state of fear of the future and for our safety.

In addition to the foregoing reasons you should also set forth in the affidavit the applicable reasons among the following reasons if they also played a part in causing you to renounce, and also any other special reasons you may have had:

8. I feared that the alien members of my family would be deported to Japan and that if I did not renounce we would be separated forever.

9. My parents (or parent, or husband) expected to be deported to Japan and compelled me to renounce in order to accompany them (or him or her).

10. Alien pressure group leaders coerced me into renouncing.

(Note: the above 10 reasons were declared by Judge Goodman's decision to have been factors which caused the renunciations.)

The special affidavit form may ask you whether you at any time refused to swear unqualified allegiance to the U. S. If you refused to answer Question No. 28 in DSS-Form 304A when detained in Tule Lake or in any other WRA camp or you answered it "No" you should state that you did so because:

"I was in fear because the question was asked only of detained citizens of Japanese ancestry and was discriminatory and Question No. 28 required me "to forswear any form of allegiance or obedience to the Japanese Emperor" and, therefore, a "Yes" answer to that question would have contained a false admission that up to that time I had such a foreign allegiance."

If you became a member of the Hoshi, Seinen or Joshi Dan you should answer that question truthfully in the special affidavit form. You should state therein that you became a member because you feared you would be deported to Japan and that you believed the authorities in charge wished you to become a member of that organization so that you would learn the Japanese language, culture and customs and so be prepared for life in Japan when you were deported and that you did not know the organization had any other purposes.

If you have any doubts as to how you should answer any of the questions in the affidavit form you are to fill out for the consul you should ask or write to Samuel Iseri, P. O. Box 646, Central Post Office, Tokyo, ~~or to him in care of the Northwest Airlines Inc., 138 Marunouchi Building, Marunouchi, Tokyo.~~ He is one of the committeemen for the Tule Lake Defense Committee. You may also write to me by air-mail for information.

Very truly yours,

Wayne M. Collins.