

FEBRUARY 17, 1943
WEDNESDAY

CHAIRMEN'S MEETING
2:00 P.M.

CONFERENCE ROOM
SPECIAL SESSION

Absent: None

Special Session was called to discuss important matter of "registration"

Mr. Koide, Block Chairman of Block 29, reported on the situation in his block, and the action he had taken.

To wit:

That he advised the block people at noon time, at both mess halls, both in English and in Japanese, that the residents excepting those who had signed repatriation or expatriation papers, should register, although answers to each of the individual questions were up to those registering;

That in advising this he completely ignored the "decision" taken at the block meeting of previous evening from which he withdrew, after making statement that this is a matter that cannot, or should not, be decided by majority vote;

That in doing this, however, he had the majority support of the block committee members; and that, beginning at 1:00 p.m. residents started registering.

He expressed his confidence that registration of the residents in his block will be completed without much difficulty.

Chairmen of Blocks 7, 17, 21, 22, 23, and 24 reported on the situation within their respective blocks. In as much as Block 29 started registering, it was agreed, that registration would go on rather smoothly.

Mr. Koide requested that in as much as his action that morning would have repercussion in all the other blocks, he would like to have the opinions of other chairmen regarding his action.

It was suggested that the Council approve of Mr. Koide's action.
Approved.

Council's stand on the "Nisei movement"

- 1) It sympathizes with its motives; however
- 2) The Nisei "Congresses" leadership changed opinion too frequently, and that was disastrous
- 3) Problem remains for the future; hence, need for giving guidance.

Suggestion to draft clear cut statement expressing Council's stand and publish it was discussed, but no action taken.

Mr. Robertson:

Mr. Robertson explained the outcome of his meeting with Congress delegates that afternoon at 22-23. He stated:

That there is a penalty for agitating against registration; that every one including Mr. Inouye, "Congress" chairman, agreed that their residents should go ahead and register; and that the Congress delegates would go back and tell the residents to register; and that the crisis was over.

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(3)

To this, the following opinion was expressed by chairman:

That nisei want to believe that they are American citizens. But some how or other, they can't until such time when they see in actuality that they are free as any other Americans. That is the tragic situation into which this evacuation placed the American Japanese. To put them back to normal life in American Communities, that is the thing that should be done.

Issei residents supported nisei "Congress" because they felt the same way as Nisei. Caucasian administrators must understand this; otherwise there would be a tragic sequence to the present incident.

Suggestion was made that a petition to the President to draw up stating the real feeling of the nisei; and that the nisei registrants to sign this petition after signing the registration paper first.

Mr. Sashihara to contact Mr. Inouye and draft the same.

Meeting adjourned at 4:50 P.M.