

Attended: Messrs. Nagata, Sam Horino and 5 other members of the Fair Play Committee.

Absent: None Tardy: Mr. Fujimoto

Mr. Nagata, the speaker for the Fair Play Committee delegates, stated the purpose, activities of said committee as per Council's request and issued demand that a few questions pertaining to the Council's drafting petitions in behalf of the center nisei and issei be clarified. Mr. Nagata declared that such persons desiring other methods of expressing opinions may do so without any concern to the F.P.C., and that in the event that the F.P.C.'s demands were unheeded by authorities the petitioners shall not answer to the call to armed forces until such time as discriminatory restrictions have been lifted and unconstitutional conditions were remedied and equal civil rights have been restored. The F.P.C. petition has been submitted to Secretary of War Stimson and Attorney-General Biddle almost a week ago. The Committee is well aware of the extent of penalty should their petition be deemed as evading the draft issue. The first question asked by Mr. Horino of F.P.C. was: "Who is responsible for drafting the petition?" which was answered by the Chairman of the Council as such that the Council as a body passed the petition, hence, no one councilman shall be deemed responsible. In reply to the second question of whether the petition represents the feelings of the resident nisei in the center, Mr. Fujimoto, vice-chairman of the Council asserted, quote: "If you knew what the councilmen represent, it is out of line to bring such a question." Unquote. Mr. Nagata of the F.P.C. pointed out that there has been in some blocks some misunderstanding. There is not any coordination in that respect. Mr. Frank Emi (FPC) voiced his desire to clarify the point wherein nisei in every block should be consulted as to their sentiment prior to drafting the petition. Mr. Kimoto enumerated three different categories of thinking among the nisei in the center:

1. Since the selective service is compulsory under the Federal Law, it is the duty of the American citizen to answer the draft call.
2. Unfair conditions such as discriminatory restrictions and unconstitutional treatments against the Japanese Americans should be lifted but service in armed forces will not be evaded if drafted.
3. Until many conditions have been rectified, the draft will not be complied.

Mr. Kimoto stated that the purpose or the goal of the petition drafted by the Council's Committee and that of the F.P.C. does not conflict with each other. The Council has chosen the demands that seemed to rule the majority of the center people.

Mr. Kay Kinoshita (FPC) expressed that the petition based on demands of a portion of the center nisei does not represent the majority and charged that before drawing up the petition, the individual councilman should have referred the matter to nisei in respective blocks which, he stated, Block 17 councilman had failed to do so. Mr. Kinoshita declared that nisei are "not in complete accord with the decision of the War Department". Parents would not desire to send sons to armed forces under the present conditions unaltered. Following block councilmen denounced the charge by the F.P.C. that they have not referred the matter of these petitions drafted by the Council Committee to the Block residents; namely, Blocks 14, 28, and 30. The F. P. C. charged that Blocks 1, 12, 14, 17, 22, 28, and 30 did not call any meeting to explain and clarify the Council's intentions in this matter.

~~Mr. Matsushige moved that discussion be suspended and the Council resume session on the petitions. Passed.~~

Mr. Horino (FPC) in conclusion expressed desire that the petition be referred to the center blocks for the consideration of nisei tonight. (The FPC delegates left. The second edition of the FPC bulletin was submitted for file)

Discussion resumed.

Mr. Matsushige moved that the ideas and intentions in demands contained in the petition be left unchanged while the phraseology be proff-read.

(Mr. Tokimasa left)

Mr. Motoyoshi contended that councilmen abide by the rules and regulations of the Council. Mr. Fujimoto moved that such councilmen who have failed to explain the Council's efforts in reference to the petition refer said petition tonight to the block residents. Mr. Matsushige joined his motion which had been suspended on the floor in Mr. Fujimoto's motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:45 AM.