

AGENDA

A

Humanities Advisors' Meeting - 442nd/100th/MIS Film Project
Center for Educational Telecommunications, Fort Mason Center, San Francisco
May 7, 1983

PROGRAM:

- 9:30 - 10:00 - coffee & donuts
10:00 - 10:30 - Progress Report - Production Schedule, Grants Update
10:30 - 11:30 - Archival Film Footage from National Archives
videotape screening
11:30 - 1:30 - Advisors' Discussion - "Issues within the Japanese American
Community" (see questions)
1:30 - 2:15 - Lunch
2:30 - 5:00 - "The Policymaking Process - Evacuation, Internment,
and the 442nd/100th/MIS" (see questions)
6:30 - Dinner

PARTICIPANTS:

Franklin Odo, Professor of Ethnic Studies, U. of Hawaii
Ed Kawahara, Associate Professor of Asian American Studies, U.C. Berkeley
Richard Polenberg, Professor of History, Cornell University
Eric Saul, Curator, Presidio Army Museum
Jere Takahashi, Associate Professor of Asian American Studies, U.C. Berkeley
Mark Juergensmeyer, Professor of Religion, Graduate Theological Union
Ronald Takaki, Professor of Ethnic Studies, U.C. Berkeley
Sylvia Yanagisako, Associate Professor of Anthropology, Stanford University
Dr. Clifford Uyeda, Center for Japanese American Studies
Loni Ding, Project Producer/ Director
Kent Hori, Interviewer
Yoichi Shimatsu, Associate Producer, researcher

ISSUES WITHIN THE JAPANESE AMERICAN COMMUNITY:

- How should we treat the divisions within the community which arose over the reinstatement of the draft, the loyalty questionnaire and the formation of the 442nd? What images can best reflect the divergent actions of the nisei servicemen, the draft resisters and "no no" boys?
- What caused the different attitudes of the niseis from Hawaii and the Mainland? What images of plantation life, family farms, school, sports albums, etc. would best reveal these differences?
- With the loss of authority of issei parents due to FBI raids and internment and the separation of brothers to the battlefield, nisei women often assumed responsibilities for family survival and unity. Besides June Goto and Mary Masuda should we select other types of nisei women for interview?

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION: "THE DECISIONMAKING PROCESS"

The Popular Press and Media:

How should we treat the role of the mass media in shaping public attitudes towards Japanese Americans before the war and after Pearl Harbor?

Where can we locate the strongest visual images (newsreels, cartoons, posters, still photos, etc) and sound recordings (radio, speeches, statements) of the key policymakers or commentators which best reflect the stance of the popular media?

What images of popular culture mostly sharply capture "the American way of life" in the late 1930s and 40s (styles, sports, work, inventions, etc.)?

Race Relations:

During 1930-40s, there existed a clear-cut double standard toward minorities which was reflected in government policies concerning Japanese Americans. For example, Assistant Secretary of State John McCloy, the architect of the evacuation and internment, would later personally support the formation of the 442nd as a chance for Nisei to "prove their loyalty".

What images can best portray this double standard in that era's race relations?

THE POLICYMAKERS:

Which key decisionmakers should we focus on? How should we portray differences of opinion between hardliners (like Stimson, Dewitt, Stone) and "moderates" (like Biddle, Eisenhower and Justice Murphy)?

Which dramatic statements by key policymakers on Japanese Americans currently exist as sound recordings or newsreel footage?

Are there any policymakers or other white persons involved in policy towards Japanese Americans who should be interviewed as persons sympathetic to the Japanese American condition or opposed to the evacuation/internment decision?