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Stockton Union Suspended In Ban On Japanese

ILWU Panel To Hear Nisei Case

STOCKTON, — Stockton Local 6, International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (Congress of Industrial Organizations), was under indefinite suspension from its parent organization, San Francisco Local 6.

The action followed the Stockton local's refusal to accept a delegation claiming its members' refusal to work with Japanese Americans, in defiance of the International Union's policy against racial discrimination.

Richard Lyden, president of the San Francisco local who recommended the suspension, said approximately 500 members of the Stockton unit, said the order would continue until the senior organization decides the Stockton group "can resume its functions."

Members refusing to sign a pledge to abide by the union constitution by 8 p.m. last Wednesday were to be brought to trial for expulsion from ILWU.

The pledge card which members were asked to sign concluded with the statement: "As a member of the International Longshoremen and Warehousemen's Union, will not refuse to work with any person because of such person's race, color or creed, including Americans of Japanese origin."

Between 50 and 60 per cent had signed by Wednesday morning.

Harry Bridges, president of the International Union of which Local 6 is a part, issued a statement quoting what he told the meeting of the Stockton unit at which Lyden announced the suspension action.

"Either you are in favor of discrimination, or not in favor of it," Bridges told the Stockton members. "If you are in favor of it, you have no place in our union. We will not back away from this fight."

The Stockton resolution was adopted after three Nisei were hired at a local warehouse. The Union explained its ban with the statement that "they did not work here before the war and there is no reason why they should now."

A panel of ten members of the executive board of CIO Warehousemen's Local 6 was arranging Thursday for a trial board to hear charges against members of the suspended Stockton unit.

The panel, which endorsed President Richard Lyden's suspension of the unit, was instructed to hear charges promptly, especially against five persons alleged to be ringleaders of the move to refuse to work with Japanese Americans.

Bridges and Lyden circulated

The ILWU And Racism

The International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union, in our opinion, is acting with complete disregard for openly fighting a number of its own members in Stockton charged with refusing to work beside Americans of Japanese descent.

We are not speaking here of the proposed trial of members of the union. In any case, we believe that the Stockton issue, against the background of the whole Nisei situation, is such as to evoke a larger issue.

For the spirit behind the union's present action, there can be no question. The Trade Unions in the United States, more than any other group, are going to have to live with the race-discrimination issue and solve it. It is certain to require every effort to do so. The unions must solve it under American principles, and that means no half-heartedness, no mock hearings, no union policy short of seeing that racial minority rights are established and maintained within the union's proper domain.

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San Francisco Chronicle "PUNISHMENT" IN SEATTLE

California is all too familiar with half-heartedness or worse on the part of peace officers regarding outrages against persons or property of Americans of Japanese descent. Now the State of Washington furnishes an example of the kind local law enforcement officers.

In the Seattle affair, it is not disclosed whether or not it is Americans of Japanese descent. If not, the chances are strong that at least one of the four houses was the home of an son or sons of Americans, many of whom will make no difference anyway, the hoodlum probably would not have been stopped by a service star in the window, they haven't been in previous cases; and even if there were no Americans, the hoodlum, in his desire to do his job, cannot condone the foul and sneaking crime of arson against whom ever directed.

Together with his complementally "puzzled" colleagues at the police department, Judge Lawler has assumed responsibility. He has praised this kind of our law with faint flattery, with faint flattery.

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Supreme Court Case Winner Seeks Job In Windy City

CHICAGO. — A determined little Japanese American girl who won an important Supreme Court case for her people arrived here today—looking for a job.

Fresh from a relocation center at Topaz, Utah—her freedom brought about by the court's ruling last December—Mitsuye Endo, 23, had words of praise for Chicago.

"I am determined to live here," the stocky, dark-haired stenographer explained as she arrived at the North Western Station, "because I understand Chicago people hold no resentment against Americans of Japanese ancestry."

"From what I read and hear, I don't see the situation on the West Coast, including my hometown of Sacramento," she added.

Mitsuye Endo, whose brother, Kuniro, is with the Army intelligence service, left Okinawa, Japan, with his two sisters, Mrs. George Yamamoto and Rayko Endo.

Mrs. Yamamoto's husband is in the Army, at Camp Robinson, Ark.

In the near future Miss Endo plans to bring her parents here to the relocation center at Topaz. "Maybe after the war, we'll all move back to Sacramento," she said.

She was modest, but proud of her test case before the Supreme Court which held that as an American citizen, she could not be confined against her will at Topaz.

The Representatives particularly objected to a WRA brochure entitled "Nisei in Uniform" describing activities of a Japanese American combat unit in Italy.

Burning Nisei Home Draws \$1,000 Fine

SEATTLE. — Harold S. Burton, 25-year-old Vashon Island farm worker who admitted burning homes of evacuated Japanese, pleaded guilty to second degree arson and was fined \$100 by Superior Judge James T. Lawyer.

Burton, father of two children, said he thought burning the houses would prevent return of the Japanese to the Puget Sound Island.

Prosecutor's Deputy Duane T. Shinns said Burton and two youths set fire to four homes before January 1, 1942, and February 1st. The youths were ordered over to juvenile court.

Judge Lawyer remanded Burton to custody of the sheriff until he pays the fine or elects to serve in the county jail at rate of \$3 a day or about 11 months of hard labor.

WANTS PARLEY HELD

FRESNO. — Means to protect Japanese evacuees who recently have returned to their homes from relocation centers are being sought by county, city, and military officials here, in a series of meetings in which the homes of a score of evacuees have been attacked.

Sheriff George J. Overholts, Dist. Atty. John M. Tabor, and Sheriff Chief Ray T. Wallace, and military intelligence agents here, seeking a coordinated plan for halting the attacks, which peace officers lay to hoodlums.

sympathizing with returning Japanese are partially to blame for the series of attacks upon the homes of returned evacuees.

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Nisei At Home In Iowa

MOUNT VERNON, Iowa. — Five hundred and twenty-five Japanese Americans have returned in 50 Iowa communities, about half of them in Des Moines.

In the cities, their adjustment has been without incident; industrial employers have been enthusiastic about their reliability as workers and many have entered business and professions. One has even completed a successful year as a high school principal. More than 100 students have been received on exchange programs to complete secondary education. But in rural areas the Nisei have not been so well received. In southwest Iowa their effort to purchase land met with such protest from farmers that the state legislature passed a bill to prohibit Japanese from buying land in the state. At West Branch, protest of farmers through the American Legion blocked a resettlement project for farm labor at the Quaker hostel there.

Petition Filed for Estate of Nisei Killed in Europe

SACRAMENTO. — The first Sacramento County petition for letters of administration in the estate of a Japanese American killed in Europe was filed in the Superior Court by Louise Hayashi of Perkins, sister of Pfc. Torao Hayashi.

The petition stated, Private Hayashi died October 28, 1944, while serving in the Vosges Mountains in France with a Japanese American combat outfit. His estate consists of personal property valued at \$1,901.

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