

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

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(This issue of the DAILY PRESS REVIEW includes a digest of the most important news items, articles and editorials appearing in newspapers and periodicals reaching the San Francisco Regional Office in the last 24 hours. If you wish to refer to any clippings, please telephone Miss Elinor Bauman, Head of the Documents Section, Branch 300, Room 362).

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Letters to Editors

McMinnville--J.K. Knox stated that the reasons given in the editorial "Myopic Iowan" for the evacuation of the West Coast Japanese, namely, that "the evacuation policy originated wholly with military and other government authorities..." was not the truth. Letter stated: "There was a great deal of local agitation, as you very well know..."

Ore. The editor answered: "The evacuation was an exercise of the war powers of the federal government and was a military precaution... The military authorities are prosecuting a war, not assisting in local law abidance, or governed by local sentiment..."--The Oregonian (Portland), June 19, p. 8. #705

Spokane--Excerpt from a letter from Mrs. John Fukasawa to her friends in Santa Barbara describing Manzanar. "...This reception center is much better than I ever dreamed it would be..."--Spokesman-Review, June 21, p. 1, Magazine section. #706

Sacramento--H. Clayton protested appeals to race prejudice. "...Those of us who know the Japanese Americans are more than willing to certify to their loyalty... Remember in America we claim we judge each person on his merits, but not on his skin color..."--Sacramento Bee, June 19, P. 24. #707

Seattle--M.M. Pixley wrote: "War with all its horrors may have some good, at least it is our temporary pleasure to be able to pass about the market places without having to hear the monkey like jabber of a lot of Japs..." Letter suggested that the people of the Pacific coast should form some idea concerning the future of the Japanese now

here. "They are not builders but always destroy..." Writer suggested "as a condition of peace the Japs should be required to receive back all their citizens now here; all Japs here who wish to return and agree to an absolute prohibition to any further Jap immigration..." Constitution should be amended to deny citizenship to anyone born here except those of the white race... --Seattle Post Intelligencer, June 22, p. 8. #708

Elk Grove--Mrs. M. Waegell protested the banning of citizenship to all Japanese. "...True Americanism is synonymous with justice and it would be unjust to convict anyone without a hearing... We must keep in mind that this is not a war against the Japanese people, Calif. but against a form of government hateful to all Americans... The older Japanese came to America for the identical reasons that you and I came here--to better our lot..."--Sacramento Bee, June 22, p. 18. #709

Sacramento--George J. Nakamura wrote "For over a month, Sacramento's entire Japanese population experienced a life of inconveniences in a hurriedly erected camp on the sun baked meadow of Walerga..." Description of Walerga assembly center given. "...But again, they are being removed. This time to Tule Lake. There is no bitterness in Calif. their hearts, but a feeling more of a realistic approach to problems than of disparity. There is a confidence that a world of tomorrow will be a peaceful one, a world of better understanding among all mankind..." Writer praised the center's manager, Gene Kenyon, for his humane treatment of the evacuees.--Sacramento Bee, June 22, p. 18. #710

Sacramento--Mrs. V. Schneider protested against banning all Japanese from citizenship. "...Is it possible to give me one reason why all citizens born of ancestry from the other countries with which we are at war should not also have their citizenship dissolved? The Calif. thing that seems most obvious to me is that most people are far too race conscious and do not realize that we really are not fighting a war of the races, but a war of ideas..."--Sacramento Bee, June 23, p. 20. #711

Sacramento--E.D.S. believed that "once a Japanese always a Japanese... How can any living mother in the United States feel kindly Calif. toward the Japanese? We have been kind to the Japanese. We are Americans and are fighting the Japanese and Hitler to win our war..."--Sacramento Bee, June 24, p. 24. #712

San Francisco--Katherine B. Hirschey believed that Japanese should not be allowed to become citizens. "In the first place, they are inferior as a race, no matter how many times they marry into the white Calif. race, the men have those little short arms..." She also stated that they multiply too rapidly and would control the vote.--San Francisco Chronicle, June 24, p. 14, col. 7. #713

San Francisco--Glenn E. Hoover protested amending the constitution to deny citizenship to American-born children of Japanese ancestry. "...This agitation indicates that there are still many Americans who do not know what the war is about... If we, as the leading democracy, should now discriminate against native-born children on the basis of race, color, creed or national origin, it would be worth 40 divisions to the Japanese who are attempting to unite all of Asia against us..." --San Francisco Chronicle, June 25, p. 12, col. 7; San Francisco News, June 25, p. 14, col. 5. #714

Calif.

San Francisco--Ernest Besig, Director Northern California Branch, A.C.L.U., in answer to John Colby's letter June 23 (Colby asked what the American Civil Liberties Union was and if the Union were trying to hinder the country from winning the war by defending a Japanese-American violator of evacuation orders) explained the aims of the Union. As to the second question Besig wrote: "...Since the evacuation is an accomplished fact, and the legal issues cannot be decided by the U.S. Supreme Court for from one to two years, it cannot be said that the test cases in any way interfere with the necessary defense plans of the military..."--San Francisco Chronicle, June 26, p. 14, col. 8. #715

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San Francisco--E.D. Hornbrook asked if American-born Japanese were allowed to own land in the United States. Answer was: "The right to hold property in this country depends upon eligibility to citizenship, therefore only Japanese who are citizens of the U.S. by virtue of their birth here may own real estate..."--San Francisco Examiner, June 24, p. 11, col. 2. #716

Calif.

"Navy Opens Jap Language School"

Boulder (AP)--"Sixty carefully selected naval enlisted men are enrolled in the Navy's Japanese language school just established in permanent quarters at the University of Colorado..."--San Francisco Call-Bulletin, p. A, col. 3. #717

Colo.

"Senate Debate Near on Bill To Restrain All Japs in U.S."

Washington--Feature story by Ruth Finney staff correspondent. Author of the bill, Senator Tom Stewart of Tennessee, hopes it will bring about a reversal of the Wong Kim Ark decision of 1898 which led to recognition of Japanese born in this country as citizens. Decision was based on an interpretation of the 14th amendment. Senate Immigration Committee, of which Hiram Johnson is a member, reported the bill favorably to the Senate. "Committee directed the attention of the Senate to the fact that under the laws of Japan, a Japanese is considered to be a citizen or subject of the Empire of Japan regardless of the place of his birth if his father is Japanese, unless by his own voluntary act he acquires a foreign nationality and renounces Japanese nationality..."--San Francisco News, June 26, p. 8, col. 1. #718

Nat'l.

"Trial Opens to Outlaw Japs"

San Francisco--"The right of Japanese and other persons of Asiatic ancestry to hold American citizenship went under fire yesterday in a Federal Court action aimed at disenfranchising perhaps 70,000 persons evacuated from the West Coast's Military Area, No. 1..." Former State Atty. Gen. U. S. Webb appeared on behalf of John T. Regan, secretary of the Native Sons of the Golden West, Asst. City Atty. Walter Dold is representing the city. Webb based his argument generally "on the thesis that our naturalization laws and also the 14th Amendment were meant to bar from citizenship persons other than the 'whites' except for the American Negroes..." But he said later, Congress had the power "and should pass an act citizenizing all Chinese born in the U. S."... In answer to Webb, who made no mention of Japanese 'dual citizenship' Dold said Webb's argument had 'come too late; the law has been established..."

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Charles R. Garry and Harold Sawyer both representing the National Lawyers Guild and appearing as friends of the court were present. Garry said: "What would our allies think if we came out today and said, 'only those are Americans who are Whites?'" Sawyer told Judge St. Sure: "If you had taken the authorities cited by General Webb and changed the word 'white' to Aryan you would have had the same language as in Hitler's 'Mein Kampf.' Any attack on the right to be a citizen is not democratic. We are fighting a democratic war and cannot adopt fascist principles."--San Francisco News, June 26, p. 8, col. 1; San Francisco Examiner, June 27, p. B, col. 3; San Francisco Chronicle, June 27, p. 1, col. 3. #719

"Canada Jails Japs for Striking in Work Camp"

Vancouver (Canadian Press)--"Work strikes among Japanese evacuated from the coastal defense zone to two road camps near Jasper, Alberta, have led to the arrest of thirteen of the ringleaders, the British Columbia Security Commission announced... The strikes were reported to be in protest against the separation of Japanese men from their families and delays in receiving their pay."--San Francisco Examiner, June 27, p. 4, col. 4. #720

Suit to Disenfranchise Japanese Citizens

San Francisco--Editorial. "...A Constitutional amendment to specifically enfranchise Chinese, or to disenfranchise Japanese, doubtless would be approved and ratified in record time. Either would be a 'quickie,' bad in a matter of fundamental law. It is equally bad at this time to seek legal definitions which must be inconclusive in matters bound to undergo readjustment, even if that be only an affirmation of existing formula. It is true as Mr. Webb says, that the Declaration, and the Constitution for that matter, was written by

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white men. It is not true that it was exclusively 'for' white men. These charters are of human, not race principles, and to suggest otherwise now is to furnish excuse for unjustified accusation that America is not true to its principles."--San Francisco Chronicle, June 27, p. 1, col. 3. #721

"Restricted Axis Aliens Allowed to Work Crops"

San Francisco--"German and Italian aliens who have been restricted from approximately 100 specially designated California areas will be allowed to enter them to help harvest the State's crops, according to a special proclamation issued yesterday by Lieut. Gen. J. L. De-Calif. Will... The new ruling requires aliens to comply with curfew, residence and travel restrictions as originally laid down, and bars them from entering naval and military installations within the designated zones."--San Francisco Examiner, June 28, p. 8, col. 2. #722

Herb Caen Items

San Francisco--"The Japanese interpreters at KGEI, whose job is to transform Jap propaganda programs into English, have been moved to Denver--despite a check proving them to be 100 per cent O.K.; they'll continue to do their important work there... Which reminds me that a young Japanese down at Tanforan was filling out a questionnaire the other day--and puzzled a few seconds over the question: 'Any known physical defects?' A pal nearby noticed his predicament and offered wryly: 'Just tell 'em you're a Jap!'"--San Francisco Chronicle, June 29, p. 9, col. 1. #723