







# To Secure These Rights

(Editor's note: President Truman's fifteen-member civil rights commission, recently released its 178-page report entitled "To Secure These Rights." THE NORTHWEST TIMES today publishes excerpts which deal with problems of Japanese Americans.)

The most striking mass interference since slavery with the right to physical freedom was the evacuation and exclusion of persons of Japanese descent from the West coast during the past war.

The evacuation of 110,000 men, women and children, two-thirds of whom were United States citizens, was made without a trial or any sort of a hearing, at a time when the courts were functioning.

These people were ordered out of a large section of the country and detained in "relocation centers." This evacuation program was carried out at the direction of the Commanding General of the West Coast command, who acted under an Executive Order authorizing the Secretary of War and the military commanders to prescribe military areas from which any persons or group could be excluded.

The ground given for the evacuation was that the military security of the nation demanded the exclusion of potentially disloyal people from the West Coast.

**Disturbed by Implications**

We have not felt that it would be proper or feasible for this committee to try to review all of the facts of the evacuation program.

We remember well the doubts and fears of the early months of the war and we recognize that the evacuation policy seemed a necessary

precaution to many at the time. But we are disturbed by the implications of this episode so far as the future of American civil rights is concerned.

Fundamental to our whole system of law is the belief that guilt is personal and not a matter of heredity or association.

Yet in this instance no specific evacuees were charged with disloyalty, espionage or sedition.

**"Mass Quarantine Measure"**

The evacuation, in short, was not a criminal proceeding involving individuals, but a sort of mass quarantine measure. This committee believes that further study should be given to this problem.

Admittedly in time of modern total warfare in such discretion must be given to the military to act in situations where civilian rights are concerned. Yet the committee believes that ways and means can be found of safeguarding people against mass accusations and discriminatory treatment.

Finally it should be noted that hundreds of evacuees suffered serious property and business losses because of governmental action.

The War Relocation Authority, charged with the administration of the evacuation program, recommended in its final report that some provision be made in Federal law that claims for evacuation caused property losses be "considered promptly and settled with a minimum of delay and inconvenience." Over a year has passed since then.

The status of citizenship is basic to the enjoyment of many of the rights discussed in this report.

First of all one must be a citizen in order to participate fully in the political process of the United States.

**Only Citizens Can Vote**

Only citizens of the United States are accorded the right to vote. Only citizens may hold public office. Only citizens, for these reasons, have an effective voice in the nation's affairs.

Second, those barred from citizenship are thereby barred from many avenues of economic and social advancement open to American citizens.

All persons born in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside. These are the words of the Constitution.

They set an ideal of native citizenship by which all persons born in this country are citizens without regard to race, color, creed or ancestry. They also describe our practice, for we have in fact followed the ideal very closely. American-born children of aliens have encountered no barriers to citizenship.

In gaining citizenship by naturalization, a democracy may establish reasonable tests of the individual alien's eligibility for citizenship. But some of the standards of eligibility in our naturalization laws have nothing to do with a person's fitness to become a citizen.

These standards are based solely on race or national origin, and penalize some residents who may otherwise have all the attributes necessary for American citizenship.

The largest group of American residents presently subject to this discrimination are those born in Japan. Residents of Korean origin, as well as persons born in certain other Asiatic countries and Pacific island areas, are also denied citizenship status.

Although many of these people have lived in this country for decades, will probably remain here until they die, have raised families of native-born American citizens, and are devoted to American principles, they are forbidden an opportunity to attain the citizenship status to which their children are born.

**Many Barriers Eliminated**

We have recently removed many citizenship barriers. Until World War II, the Chinese had been specifically barred from immigration and from naturalization by the Chinese exclusion laws.

Other groups, such as the Filipinos, Western Hemisphere Indians and people indigenous to India were denied citizenship through interpretation of the naturalization laws which limited eligibility

to "whites" or "persons of African nativity or descent."

We have made eligible for naturalization the "races of the Western Hemisphere"; we have made special provision to permit the naturalization of Chinese, Filipinos and persons indigenous to India.

In addition to the disabilities suffered by ineligible aliens at the hands of private persons—in employment, housing, etc.—they are singled out for additional discrimination under the law, Arizona, California, Idaho, Kansas, Louisiana, Montana, New Mexico and Oregon forbid or severely restrict land ownership by ineligible aliens.

California also forbids ineligible aliens to engage in commercial fishing and excludes them from equal benefits of old-age pensions and other state relief. Many states admit only citizens to the bar and to the medical, teaching and other professions, which means that the ineligible alien is permanently barred from these fields.

The bar to land holding—the "alien land law"—most seriously impairs the alien's economic opportunities. The first of the alien land laws, enacted by California in 1913, made it illegal for aliens ineligible for citizenship either to buy land or to lease it for a period exceeding three years.

Other western states passed similar laws. However, the alien laws were not rigidly enforced, partly because it was often advantageous to lease or sell land to the Japanese and partly because of loopholes in the laws. During the second World War the California laws were made much more stringent.

California is now vigorously enforcing its amended alien land law. This law goes much further than to forbid ineligible aliens to own land. In effect, it forbids Americans of Japanese ancestry to support their ineligible alien parents with money derived from the beneficial use of land. It has put in jeopardy the legal title of land purchased for American-born children by alien Japanese parents.

Two examples of the effects of this law were cited before the committee by a Japanese American veteran. In one instance, Japanese American soldiers killed overseas made battlefield wills deeding their land to their parents. The parents could not, under the law, receive the land. Accordingly, it escheated to the state.

**Escheat Cases**

The other involved two Japanese American brothers who returned from overseas service to find that California had attacked the validity of the title of land purchased for them as children by their parents, and which they had cultivated as their own before entering the service.

Those land laws and other manifestations of discrimination against ineligible aliens have been made possible by the discrimination provisions of our naturalization laws. The moral impact of this situation is indicated by the words of the Japanese American veteran already referred to:

"...I would like to say that I believe most of us fought as we did because we felt that, in spite of the way we had been kicked around, America was still the land of opportunity for all of us.

"I know my mother sent five of her sons. Every one volunteered for combat. One was killed. The rest of us were wounded. We have over thirty individual decorations and medals among us. Well, my mother wants to become a citizen. It is for people like my mother and for a lot of Americans of good will throughout the United States who have a lot of confidence in us and our loyalty that we did the job we did."

**EQUALITY UPHELD**

MEXICO CITY, Nov. 18.—UNESCO's program and budget commission unanimously passed a resolution upholding the equality of race, color, sex and religion in the selection of teachers.

Precepts and maxims are of great weight; and a few useful ones at hand, do more toward a wise and happy life, than whole volumes of cautions that we know not where to find.—C. Simmons.

## 100 Classes Scheduled by YW For Winter Year Starting Nov. 24

More than 100 hobby and educational classes are on the schedule of the Young Women's Christian Association for the winter session which opens on Monday, Nov. 24. Registration is still open but classes are filling so rapidly according to Mrs. Dewey Bullock, program registrar, that persons interested are urged not to delay in registering in room 6, of the YW, at Fifth and Seneca. Further information may be obtained at EL 4800.

"Office Manners" new class being offered for the first time this term meets each Thursday evening from 6 until 7 o'clock. It will cover the problems of the young career woman including office behavior, relations with other office personnel, the boss, and the public. The value of a good telephone voice will also be stressed and advice given on poise, office dress and makeup. Mrs. Lois Sandall is the instructor.

"Stardusting Your Personality" the two-hour course in glamour and charm that proved so popular in September that three sections were filled will be offered again

## Nisei Calendar

- NOVEMBER**
- 22—Baptist ice frolic at Civic Ice Arena.
  - 22-23—Rissoho club to sponsor Japanese movies in Seattle Buddhist auditorium.
  - 27—Mercury to give Thanksgiving dance for couples only from 8:30 p.m. to 12 midnight in Buddhist auditorium.
  - 29-30—SNGBO handicap and Nisei handicap sweeps in Main Bowl.
- DECEMBER**
- 6—Pre-All-Oriental basketball tournament dance, "A Country Ball," will be co-sponsored by Cathay Post 186 and Nisei Veterans Committee in Seattle Buddhist auditorium. Dancing hours from 9 p.m. to 12 midnight.
  - 13—Main Drug basketball team's stag-stagette dance in Buddhist auditorium.
  - 19—Tokuda Drug A. C. will sponsor ice-skating party from 10:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. in Civic Ice Arena.
  - 24—Anna Kay's and Lotus YBA will co-sponsor a Christmas Eve dance.
  - 26-27-28—All-Oriental National Basketball Tournament co-sponsored by Cathay Post 186 and Nisei Veterans Committee at Seattle College.
  - 31—South End A. C. to present New Year's Eve dance in Buddhist auditorium.

## Pacific Group Sifts Issues on Far East

Some of the great problems which stand in the way of a peace treaty to Japan were graphically explained to delegates attending a joint conference of the Pacific Northwest division of the Institute of Pacific Relations and the Canadian Institute of International Affairs, which was held last Saturday and Sunday at the Olympic Hotel.

Clarence A. Buss, wartime member of the Office of War Information, now on the Stanford University faculty, said the problems to be considered will have a far reaching influence on the future of all Eastern Asia.

Of prime importance, Buss said, is assurance that Japan's ability to produce for war is permanently impaired. Relations of other Asiatic powers to Japan also must be considered, he said, since most of them have been victims of Japan's conquests.

The China may fall completely or at least disintegrate before militant forces of Chinese communism was expressed by John E. Fields of San Francisco, publisher of the Far East Trader at the Institute banquet Saturday night.

Fields, who has correspondents

## Church Notices

- BAPTIST**
- 9:30 a. m. Sunday School.
  - 11 a. m.—Nisei worship service.
  - 7:30 p. m.—BYF.
- The Okazaki Class meets every Monday evening from 8 to 9 p.m. at the Fujin Home. All those above high school age are invited to the class.
- CONGREGATIONAL**
- 9:45 a.m.—Sunday School.
  - 11 a.m.—Christian Endeavor
  - 11 a.m.—Issel service.
- MARYKNOLL**
- 9 a. m. and 10:30 a. m.—Low Mass.
- Benediction will be held following 10:30 Mass.
- NICHIREN**
- 10 a.m.—Sunday School for kindergarten children.
  - 11 a. m.—Young People.
  - 2 p. m.—Japanese Service.
- BUDDHIST**
- 10:00 a. m.—Kindergarten Classes.
  - 11:00 a. m.—Young People's Service.
- The Rev. Kono, young Issel Buddhist priest of the Midwest Chicago Buddhist church, will speak at the young people's service Sunday in the Seattle Buddhist temple. All young Bussel and persons interested are urged to attend.

## Classified Ads

- FOR SALE:** Cleaning shop with living quarters. Ideal for couple. Call CA. 7967.
- FOR SALE:** Barber shop, five chairs, cigar counter, shoe shine stand. Living quarters upstairs. Price \$1,600. MA. 9625.
- WANTED—SECRETARY** who majored in Commercial Course. Experience Unnecessary, at least High School Graduate. Good Steady Position. AMERICAN CHICK SEXING ASSOCIATION SCHOOL, Department E, 151 E. MI. Vernon Street, Lansdale, Pennsylvania.
- WANTED:** Young girl to learn reweaving of damaged clothing. Some pay while learning. Evening instruction. The Weaverettes, 316 Joshua Green Building.
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