

JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

Proceedings/Special Emergency Meetings

San Francisco, March 8-9-10, 1942

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

In reading again, after some 28 years, the official minutes of the special emergency meetings held by the National JACL Board and National Council in San Francisco in early March 1942, I am reminded again of those grim and trying days when it was up to a youthful, inadequately prepared, financed, and staffed organization to try to keep watch and ward over the welfare and destiny of more than 100,000 persons of Japanese ancestry mostly on the West Coast of the United States during the period of their greatest travail.

While I am aware that some students, researchers, and critics may now be able to question the correctness and validity of certain decisions and actions taken by the JACL in those hectic and challenging times with the advantages that hindsight and lack of responsibility then may provide, I continue nevertheless to wonder at the remarkable perception and vision that JACL officers and members demonstrated in that era under the greatest and most unfair pressures ever placed on any nationality minority in American history.

That those of Japanese ancestry today, not only in the United States but also in Japan, are generally held in such high repute by most Americans is clear and solid evidence -- as far as I am concerned -- that JACL's decisions and actions in the main were most appropriate and proper to those times and those situations.

Had JACL reacted differently, it is quite conceivable that the relatively favorable status enjoyed by most Japanese Americans today would not have been possible. Corrective and remedial laws have been enacted on the national, state, and local levels; litigation has resulted in the nullification of most, if not all, discriminatory statutes and practices; economic, educational, employment, housing, political, social, and recreational opportunities not even dreamed of in pre-World War II days are now available to those of Japanese origin; Hawaii, with its relatively large percentage of Japanese Americans, is now a State in the Federal Union; United States-Japan relations are closer and more mutually profitable and advantageous than ever before.

The official minutes of the special emergency meetings unfortunately do not present enough of the background of those times to enable present day readers to fully understand and appreciate the reasons for the many difficult decisions and actions that were voted by the officers and delegates to that JACL conclave.

To begin with, it should be kept in mind that the Commanding General of the Western Defense Command, with the approval of the President, the Secretary of War, and the Attorney General, had already announced his exclusion and evacuation orders. Moreover, there was much more known about the Army's plans and the Government's program than could be revealed and recorded in any official minutes of any meeting of JACL officers and members.

And, language cannot begin to describe the hostile attitude of the public and of government against those who by accident of birth happened to look like the enemy who had recently attacked American territory at Pearl Harbor, or the personal emotions of those involved, or the heavy responsibility that the JACL and its officers and members had to assume for the short-range and long-time well-being of those of Japanese ancestry.

The words of then National JACL President Saburo Kido perhaps are the best indicator of the awful feelings then felt by most of those who attended the emergency gathering.

The official minutes are only summaries of what was said by the delegates and of the decisions and actions agreed upon. But, if one reads "between the lines" with an understanding and sympathetic eye, one may be able to better comprehend some of what was involved in those dark and gloomy days for those of Japanese "race" in this country.

In a sense, history has more than vindicated the judgments of the JACL officers and delegates to that now historic special

(over)

continued-

emergency meeting so long ago. That the JACL as an organization has thrived and grown through that experience and its aftermath is just another evidence of the statesmanship and acumen of those who met in March 1942 and determined the course of Japanese American destiny for decades yet to come.

It is my hope that those who read these official minutes will be inspired to devote and dedicate themselves to the service of the community and to the improvement of the quality of life for all, even as did those who worked in JACL in those tragic times of suffering and sacrifice almost three decades ago.

Mike M. Masaoka

Washington, D.C.
December 31, 1970

JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE
San Francisco, March 8-9-10, 1942
(Reprinted 1971, Southern California JACL Office)

INTRODUCTION by Mike Masaoka

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A G E N D A

SPECIAL NATIONAL BOARD MEETING
(Closed Session)

JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

National Headquarters, San Francisco
Sunday, March 8, 1942

- 9 A.M. Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Discussion, procedure in recognizing new chapters
- Special report, George Shigekawa, attached to Governor Olson's staff, on evacuation
- Discussion on general evacuation principles
- Discussion, sending and keeping of official representative to Washington, D.C.
- Discussion as to future of the JACL, organization set-up and program of activity
- Nomination of Officers
- Nomination of Committee Chairmen and Members
- Special Business
- 12 Noon Adjournment

AGENDA

SPECIAL NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

(Closed Sessions)

JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE
National Headquarters, San Francisco
March 8, 9 and 10, 1942

First Session
Sunday, March 8, 1942

- 2 p.m. Call to Order National President S. Kido
Pledge of Allegiance Nat'l Vice-President K. Matsumoto
Roll Call Nat'l Executive Sec'y J. Sugioka
Recognition of new chapters National Sec'y M. Masaoka
Greetings, San Francisco chapter President Dave Tatsuno
Approval of Minutes, 1940 National
Council Meetings held in Portland
Treasurer's Report National Treasurer H. Okada
Financial Statement, National Headquarters and
National Secretary's accounts Office Sec'y F. Yaki
"Pacific Citizen" Statement Editor E. Kirimura
Reports and Recommendations
National Vice-President Ken Matsumoto
National Executive Secretary James Sugioka
National Treasurer Hito Okada
Northern California District Council Chairman Tom Shimasaki
Southern District Council Chairman Fred Tayama
Northwest District Council Chairman Tom Iseri
Intermountain District Council Chairman Bill Yamauchi
Appointment of Committee Chairmen and Members
Ways and Means of Continuing the JACL--
organization set-up and program of activity
Budget
Resolutions
Special committees
President's Special Message to the Delegates . . . Saburo Kido

RECESS

- Call to Order
Roll Call
Minutes of Special National Board Meeting, March 8, 1942
Reports on conditions in Intermountain Area
Delegates from Intermountain District Council
Special guests
Preliminary discussion on Evacuation
Announcements

- 5 p.m. RECESS until Monday morning, second session

- 7 p.m. Committee meetings
Ways and Means Room 9
Budget Room 7
Resolutions Room 6

* * * * *

Second Session
Monday, March 9, 1942

- 9 a.m. Call to Order
Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call
Continuation of Discussion on Evacuation
12 noon RECESS until Afternoon, third session

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Third Session
Monday, March 9, 1942

2 p.m. Call to Order
Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call
Declaration of Policy, JACL Ken Matsumoto
The Japanese American Creed James Sugioka
Special Guests
Colonel W. F. McGill, Provost Marshal, Western Defense
Command, General DeWitt's staff
Tom C. Clark, Alien Coordinator and Chairman, Civilian
Committee on Evacuation, Western Defense Command
Richard M. Neustadt, Director, Federal Social Securities
Agencies, Western States
(N.B. Pertinent and relevant questions may be asked after
each speaker concludes his remarks)

RECESS

Call to Order
Roll Call
Continuation of Discussion on Evacuation
Formulation of a national policy regarding evacuation
Adoption of basic principles and plans regarding evacuation
Announcements

5 p.m. RECESS until Tuesday morning, fourth session

7 p.m. Special meetings, if necessary

* * * * *

Fourth Session
Tuesday, March 10, 1942

9 a.m. Call to Order
Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call
Committee Reports
Ways and Means of Continuing JACL
Budget
Resolutions
Discussion, Ways and Means of Continuing JACL
Announcements

12 noon RECESS until Afternoon, fifth session

* * * * *

Fifth Session
Tuesday, March 10, 1942

2 p.m. Call to Order
Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call
Formulation of plans for continuing JACL and outlining of
program of activity

RECESS

Call to Order
Roll Call
Discussion of budget for the JACL for the duration
Adoption of Budget

RECESS

Call to Order
Roll Call
Discussion, Pacific Citizen status
Resolutions of National Council Meetings
Election of Officers for duration
Special business
Announcements

ADJOURNMENT

M I N U T E S
SPECIAL NATIONAL BOARD MEETING
JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

National Headquarters, San Francisco
Sunday, March 8, 1942

Meeting was called to order at 9:15 A.M. by National Secy. Mike Masaoka.

Roll call disclosed the following attendance:

President Saburo Kido
Vice-President Ken Matsumoto
Executive Secy. James Sugioka
Treasurer Hito Okada
Natl. Secy. & Field Executive Mike Masaoka
Past Natl. President Dr. T. T. Yatabe
- do - James Sakamoto
- do - Walter T. Tsukamoto
Northern California D.C. Chairman Tom Shimasaki
Southern California D.C. Chairman Fred M. Tayama
Intermountain D.C. Vice-Chairman Shigeki Ushio
Guests - George Inagaki, Exec. Secy. S.C.D.C.
George Shigekawa, on Governor Olsen's staff

BIDS FOR NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP:

Bids were presented by the chairman on behalf of the following chapters:

Berkeley	Mt. View	Santa Barbara
Big Horn Mountains	North Platte	Stanislaus-Merced
Delano	Pasadena	Venice
Fort Lupton	San Fernando	Ventura County
Lompoc	San Jose	West Los Angeles
Arizona(under special consideration)		Gilroy

Mr. Tom Shimasaki moved that the above 16 Chapters be recognized by the National Board provided they pay 1942 dues and obligations: motion seconded by Mr. Fred Tayama and passed unanimously.

Mr. Fred Tayama moved that Arizona be permitted to enter into the discussions as a regular chapter, providing that they meet the National obligations, past and present: motion seconded by Ken Matsumoto and passed unanimously.

FUTURE ORGANIZATION AND ACTIVITY OF JACL:

The following three-point program was presented by Mike Masaoka for discussion:

1. Maintain organization among the Japanese and Japanese-Americans for unity, such as welfare projects, etc.
2. Constantly keep in touch with the government in order that we may receive humane treatment.
3. Outside contacts necessary for public relationship.

Mr. James Sugioka moved that the JACL be continued inspite of all developments: seconded by Ken Matsumoto and passed unanimously.

Mr. Ken Matsumoto moved that the JACL be carried along three lines:

1. Home front.
2. Government front.
3. Public Relations front.

Seconded by Mr. James Sakamoto and passed unanimously.

It was moved by Mr. Ken Matsumoto the National Headquarters be moved to Salt Lake City as temporary headquarters of the JACL: seconded by Mr. James Sakamoto and passed unanimously.

APPOINTMENT OF NATIONAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN:

President Saburo Kido appointed the following:

1. Ways and means of continuing the JACL - Mr. George Inagaki.
2. Budget - Mr. Susumu Togasaki.
3. Resolutions - Dr. T. T. Yatabe.
4. Survey - (to draft uniform questionnaires regarding real and personal property) - Mr. Fred Tayama.

These men approved by the Board and the members of the committees were to be selected by the respective Chairmen.

NOMINATION OF OFFICERS:

The nomination of the officers was referred to the Ways and Means Committee. Mr. Walter Tsukamoto suggested that extraordinary powers be given to the above committee.

WASHINGTON REPRESENTATIVE:

It was moved by Mr. Hito Okada that we send a representative to the East, seconded by Mr. Walter Tsukamoto and passed unanimously.

SPECIAL REPORT, GEORGE SHIGEKAWA, (ATTACHED TO GOV. OLSON'S STAFF) ON EVACUATION:

Chairman Mike Masaoka introduced George Shigekawa, representative from the Governor Olsen Staff on evacuation. He stated that the Statement of Policy from Governor Olsen will be here by Monday if not by noon today which will be presented to the Board Members. He could not obtain Statement of Policy from Governor Olsen, but obtained permission from Mr. Neustadt, Social Security Administrator, to find out the opinion of the Japanese People about establishing some common meeting grounds for both Japanese and Federal Agencies in regards to the matter of evacuation. If necessary an informational booklet will be published, giving the answers to the various questions regarding the Japanese evacuation problems. Mr. Shigekawa stated in answer to Mr. Tayama's question that the finances for this publication are already available. In Conference with Mr. Neustadt, Mr. Shigekawa obtained the following results:

Q. Is there any possibility of getting the military zone changed?
A. There is not a possibility in the world.

Q. How about these people who have nothing to eat and no place to sleep?

A. There are legal difficulties on this problem, at the present time; however, everyone is entitled to food and shelter. Beginning Monday the County Welfare Commission will have funds for the Japanese in the State of California in regard to this matter. However, Oregon and Washington will not be considered in this matter in other words, the condition will remain as heretofore. In order to carry out this plan they have suggested that we bring all Japanese groups together on this problem in order to disseminate the information and the government will thus compile data to meet its own requirements.

Mr. Shigekawa stated that he had requested Mr. W. J. Cecil, director of State Department of Agriculture, Office #1, to take an account of the Japanese who are going into other states, immediately, as a result of which the California Population Committee will work on these statistics.

The most important problem at the present time is the question of where we are going, when we are going and how we are to go. Undoubtedly such questions are for the military authorities, however, the only reason why these problems have not been completed is because General DeWitt is very social minded on these problems. Owens Valley has been suggested by the Federal authorities but proved to be very unsatisfactory due to the intense heat.

In regards to the Japanese assets, Mr. Lawler has been appointed the Conservator of Japanese assets and no person can liquidate without his permission.

Mr. Shigekawa informed the Board that all social problems will be taken care by Mrs. Aaron and property problems will be taken care by Mr. Neustadt, and it is up to us to work out the details within the limits of the Federal authority.

Mr. James Sakamoto suggested that the Army should get in touch with the states and have them see to it that the sentiment will not be against us; also have the governors get in touch with the mayors and leaders of each community and work up public opinion in favor of the evacuees.

Mr. Shigekawa stated that the government wants one organization that represents the majority of the people to work in cooperation with them. Mr. James Sakamoto stated that JACL does reach most of the Japanese families. Outside the JACL there is no national organization. JACL is recognized by both first-generation and second-generation in all communities. No other organization can do what the JACL is doing.

Before leaving, Mr. Shigekawa asked for the opinion of the Board members, representing the entire JACL, whether we are willing to concede this evacuation as a matter of military necessity and expediency, which was thoroughly understood by all. Mike Masaoka stated that the above is understood; however, before the evacuation of Japanese Americans is ordered, the military should publicly explain that the American citizens of Japanese ancestry were requested to leave certain designated areas, not because the government questions the loyalty of the group, but because military expediency requires their removal.

Mr. Walter Tsukamoto gave a word of thanks for Mr. Shigekawa's report and that we should from time to time give him information and cooperation.

Mr. Mike Masaoka read the evacuation problem sheet presented to the meeting by Mr. James Sakamoto as follows:

(THIS PART OF REPORT MISSING)

properties, automobiles, to avoid foreclosures, seizure of properties for non-payment of accounts due or non-payment of taxes, cancellation of insurance, etc.

"13. Special consideration for farmers who can harvest crops by early summer. For instance, first crop in Seattle area can be harvested by early July if given assurance to go ahead with work now."

Mr. Mike Masaoka also read the statement of the National Board in regards to the evacuation, as follows:

"The stated policy of the Japanese American Citizens League regarding the problem of evacuation has been and is:

"1. We are opposed to the principle of evacuation, unless it is so ordered by the military as a national defense measure and is applied to all persons, citizens and aliens alike, indiscriminately and without reference to race, color, or creed.

"2. If the military authorities believe that national safety requires the removal of "enemy aliens" from any regions or areas, we believe that all "enemy aliens" from all countries with which the United States is now at war should be removed, and that no one group or nationality be singled out for special attention.

"3. If it becomes necessary to remove citizens from these areas or regions, as designated by the military, we believe that all citizens should be treated alike and that no single block of citizens be singled out for special consideration or attention.

"4. Even though our beliefs may not be recognized by the military and they should single out the American citizens of Japanese extraction, as they have done, for special attention, we believe that, as good American citizens, we ought to accept the word of those charged with the responsibility of national safety and that we should cooperate with them to the best of our abilities, trusting that our cooperation will inspire a reciprocal cooperation on the part of our government in the humane and reasonable treatment of our mutual problems.

"With the above thoughts in mind, we have recommended the following to the appropriate government agencies:

"1. The federal government, and the federal government alone, through its various agencies should conduct and supervise not only the actual evacuation but also the resettlement and allied problems relating to the evacuation of all Japanese from the Pacific Coast.

"2. Before the evacuation of Japanese Americans is ordered, the military authorities should publicly explain that the American citizens of Japanese ancestry were requested to leave certain designated areas not because the government questions the loyalty of the group but because military expediency requires our removal."

Mr. Mike Masaoka also gave out a brief idea of what the National has been working for in regards to evacuation. The following were mentioned:

1. Alien property Custodian should be appointed.
2. A citizen property Custodian should be appointed.
3. Release of all community funds.
4. Government pays all expenses on transportation, food, and shelter. People who receive such relief from Government are not obligated for such.
5. Active advisory board should be appointed.

*Comments in regards to Citizen property custodian were heard from Nobumitsu Takahashi. He stated that if you have American friends who can be Custodians for you, give these people the power of attorney and those who have not such friends should fall back as stated above.

6. Proper housing be contemplated before moving.
7. Family units must be preserved.
8. Churches, organization, recreational facilities, and educational facilities should be retained at the Camp.
9. Zones be militarized for protection of Japanese.
10. Civilian observers be sent out to aid military liaison officers.
11. Means be provided for the dissemination of news.
12. Freezing or moratorium of mortgages and debts. Comments on this were that no exception be made.
13. People to get jobs to which they have been accustomed if possible.

Mr. Walter Tsukamoto made an announcement that citizens with jobs with proper identification from military authority may travel freely in the non-prohibited zone.

14. Medical aid and facilities, dentist and farm equipment be moved to evacuation destination as community units.
15. Water supply adequate for housing, culinary, agricultural irrigation be assured.
16. Electricity, gas, telephone utilities be provided wherever practical.
17. Immediate food supply be available.
18. Position and constructive work for National Defense was requested.
19. ~~Demand for allotment of funds~~ (See 2nd Session Mar 9 Minutes)

Mr. Masaoka informed the National Council that the FBI requests all delegates to write today reports of actual or rumored cases of mob violence, such as lynchings, tarring and feathering, burning of Japanese schoolhouses, churches, business, homes, etc. Be as specific as possible. If causes of fire are unknown, give circumstantial or known evidence or facts. If persons have been lost "en route" to any destination, report same.

Mr. Walter Tsukamoto asked the Board to excuse him from the Monday session and permission was granted.

Mr. Masaoka also announced the request of the Federal Social Security agencies to all chapters to file written reports giving estimated number of persons and families who have left their homes to date; also approximate number by counties of destination if they remained within the state; also approximate number by states for those who left their home states.

Mr. Fred Tayama stated that in order to have some sort of a strong tie, we should impress the people that the JACL is the recognized organization and representative of the people and request them to give all information to the JACL in order that we may be of greater service to them.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 P.M.

MINUTES

SPECIAL NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

FIRST SESSION

SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 1942

Meeting was called to order by National President Saburo Kido at 2:10 P.M.

National Vice President Ken Matsumoto led in a pledge of allegiance.

Roll call was made by National Executive Secretary James Sugioka with all chapters present with the exception of Santa Barbara and Ventura County.

NEW CHAPTERS

Report from National Secretary recommending that the following 16 Chapters be admitted into the National Council and one other Chapter be re-instated:

Berkeley, Delano, Big Horn Mountains, Lompoc, North Platte, San Fernando, Santa Barbara, Venice, West Los Angeles, Fort Lupton, Mountain View, Pasadena, San Jose, Stanislaus-Merced, Ventura County, Gilroy, Arizona (Arizona re-instated)

It was moved by Mr. Mike Masaoka that the above Chapters be approved and recognized; motion seconded by Mr. Henry Fukuhara, Bay District, and passed unanimously.

GREETINGS

Words of welcome and greeting were given by San Francisco Chapter President, Dave Tatsuno.

INTRODUCTION OF NATIONAL OFFICERS

National officers were introduced by National President Saburo Kido as follows:

National Vice President Ken Matsumoto
National Executive Secretary James Sugioka
National Executive Secretary Mike Masaoka
National Treasurer Hito Okada
Past National President James Sakamoto
Intermountain District Council Chairman Shigeki Ushio
Past National President Dr. T. T. Yatabe
Northern District Council Chairman Tom Shimasaki
Southern California District Council Chairman Fred Tayama
Past National President Walter Tsukamoto
Northwest District Council Lefty Sasaki

REPORT ON NATIONAL TREASURY

Report on condition of the Treasury was given by Mr. Hito Okada as follows:

TREASURER'S REPORT JAN. 1, 1941 TO DEC. 31, 1941

INCOMES

National Chapter Dues	49 Chapters	\$	490.00	
National Membership Cards			575.05	
District Conventions	NCDC	\$	75.50	
	SCDC		91.50	
	NWDC		150.00	
	IDC		<u>110.00</u>	
			427.00	
1941 Budget Deficit Amount			173.18	
Miscellaneous Incomes			25.00	
Pending Account			<u>3.95</u>	
Total Incomes		\$1,694.18		\$1,694.18

TREASURER'S REPORT (con't)

EXPENDITURES

<u>Office of the President</u>		
Secretarial Expenses	\$345.00	
Office Supplies	39.12	
Tel. and Tel.	4.67	
Postage	83.57	
Rent	80.00	
Miscellaneous	13.50	
Legislative Committee	10.00	
Publicity	82.00	
Traveling Expenses	45.40	
	<u>\$703.26</u>	
Unitemized Expenditures	<u>423.29</u>	\$1,126.55
<u>Office of the Vice-President</u>		
Miscellaneous Travel. Exp.	18.83	
Arizona Trip	24.48	
Arizona Cabinet Dinner	<u>25.00</u>	68.31
<u>Office of the Executive Secretary</u>		
Traveling Expenses	31.53	
Telegrams	3.61	
Postage	<u>.60</u>	35.74
<u>Office of the Treasurer</u>		
Surety Bond	12.50	
Postage	52.31	
Express Charges	3.01	
Office Supplies	12.60	
Miscellaneous	6.50	
Office & Secretary	120.00	
Stationery	20.76	
Telegrams & Telephone	<u>2.21</u>	229.89
<u>Miscellaneous Expenditures</u>		
Membership Cards Printing	43.26	
Receipt Books	72.90	
Charter Expenses	14.91	
Endowment Fund Surety & Publicity	22.50	
Pacific Citizen Membership list	<u>36.00</u>	189.57
<u>National Board Expenses</u>		
August 1941 Meeting		288.59
		<hr/>
Total Expenditures		\$1,938.65
Total Income		1,694.18
Net Loss for period		<u>\$244.47</u>
Balance as of Dec. 31st 1940		\$1,299.37
Unitemized Expenditure	14.80	
	<u>\$1,314.17</u>	
Deficit	<u>244.47</u>	
BALANCE	<u>\$1,069.70</u>	

Respectfully submitted,

S/ Hito Okada
Hito Okada, Treas.
March 6th 1942

Membership Cards for 1941

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA DISTRICT

Alameda	70	Oakland	123	Sonoma	57
Fresno	107	Parlier	44	Stockton	109
Contra Costa	58	Placer	189	Tulare	192
Delta	44	Reedley	21	United Citizens	236
Eden Township	92	Sacramento	218	Washington Town.	126
Florin	43	Salinas	144	Watsonville	142
Kings County	none	San Benito	54	Yo-Selano	28
Lodi	3	San Francisco	119	Y. S. B. C.	142
Monterey	50	San Mateo	146		

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA DISTRICT

Arizona	none	Long Beach	104	San Gabriel	74
Bay District	68	Los Angeles	664	San Luis Obispo	65
Brawley	54	Orange County	47	San Pedro	31
El Centro	41	San Diego	152	Santa Maria	159
Gardena	229				

NORTHWEST DISTRICT

Mid-Columbia	33	Seattle	343	Valley Civic	238
Portland	247	Tacoma	70	Yakima	143
Puyallup	178				

INTERMOUNTAIN DISTRICT

Idaho Falls	42	Yellowstone	30	Salt Lake	102
Ogden	58	Pocatello	38		

Total Cards	5,767	@10¢	\$576.70	
			1.65	Less 33 cards at 5¢
			<u>\$575.05</u>	

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President Kido announced that the minutes of the last National Council, held in Portland, will be distributed to delegates for their perusal and action will be taken at the next session.

Mr. Mike Masaoka moved that the report be accepted. Motion was seconded and passed.

REPORT ON PACIFIC CITIZEN:

Mr. Vernon Ichisaka, Managing Editor of the Pacific Citizen, stated that a complete report will be made later. President Saburo Kido announced that there was \$844.00 worth of unused paper which could be converted into cash.

Mr. Mike Masaoka moved that the report on the Pacific Citizen be accepted. Motion was seconded by Mr. George Nakamura and passed.

SECRETARY'S ASSESSMENT:

Report of Secretary's assessment and contributions, from various sources was made by President Kido. Mr. Mike Masaoka moved that the report be accepted. Motion was seconded and passed.

MOTION OF THANKS:

Hito Okada made a motion expressing the Council's thanks to the San Francisco Chapter for the splendid cooperation in the emergency: seconded by Ken Matsumoto and unanimously accepted.

NATIONAL VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. Ken Matsumoto reported as follows:

Made a four day trip through Orange County, San Diego, Imperial Valley and Riverside in the company of Lt. Commander Ringle and Lt. Commander Whorle to study the Japanese problem relative to the forthcoming evacuation. Studies were made on the attitudes and reactions of both Japanese aliens and citizens as well as Officials of each respective area. It was keenly felt and expressed that the rising tide of resentment on the part of the White Americans, would soon get beyond control and that for the sake of protection of innocent lives, total evacuation was the only recommendation which could be given.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Mr. James Sugioka made a report as follows:

"During the past two years I have attended the National JACL Convention at Portland, Northern California District Convention in Monterey, Southern California District Council Meeting in San Luis Obispo, Northwest District Convention at Seattle, and most of the Northern California District Council Meetings and met with Governor Olsen of California.

"At these various gatherings, I have made reports and discussed various problems confronting the Americans of Japanese ancestry.

"As to future recommendations, I believe, as I have always believed since my first joining the organization years ago, that the likeness and not differences of racial groups should be stressed more; that the name, Japanese in the Japanese American Citizens League is a misnomer for an organization 100 per cent American as ours: and that changes be made so that other American racial groups that qualify be allowed to become members of the organization; and in conclusion that every effort be made to keep this organization functioning even better than it has in the past."

NATIONAL TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mr. Hito Okada reported as follows:

"The treasurers job is to collect money and see that it is spent in the best manner possible. National Headquarters felt that I should do addition work for a consideration, which I am receiving.

"The first convention that I attended was the Northwest District Convention in September on Labor Day. James Sugioka was also in attendance. Typical Northwest weather raining all the time. Discussion groups were very well attended and panel discussions held in the auditorium were very interesting.

"Invitations to the Southern and Northern California District Conventions were received. However, I had said that I would like to attend the Intermountain Convention, and had promised to be there.

"The Intermountain Convention was held approximately a week and a half before war was declared. Groups in Idaho and Utah and that district are very young but active. Their enthusiasm dispelled any fears that they were too young to hold a convention. They were go-getting young fellows doing something for that convention. Fred Tayama of the Southern District Council arrived by plane to attend the discussion. Governor Chase Clark was also present to give greetings to the delegates. Newspapers carried commercial ads with greetings to the delegates to that convention. Public address system cars participated in a Christmas parade and advocated attendance at this patriotic gathering.

REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF
THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA DISTRICT COUNCIL CHAIRMAN
1940 - 1942

Mr. Tom Shimasaki reported as follows:

HISTORICAL SURVEY (Project initiated March 16, 1940)

"Of special interest to every nisei and issei is the Historical Survey that the Northern California District Council of the J.A.C.L. will conduct this year.

"Every community that has a Japanese settlement should be able to uncover some interesting facts concerning the early Japanese pioneers--pioneers who despite numerous handicaps adjusted themselves to become a part of this great country. To recall a few of the historical pasts will be a small tribute to those isseis, many of whom are living today.

"Your District Council realizes the value of such a survey and with the aid of every chapter in Northern California, hopes to compile a thorough report. Not only will this survey cover the past historical data, but also facts concerning the present status of the Japanese. "-----General Chairman on Historical Survey Frank Nakamura is requesting the following information:

1. Historical facts concerning the first Japanese settlers in the various Northern California communities.
 - a. When the Japanese first arrived in the community.
 - b. Occupations of the first settlers.
 - c. First Japanese organizations.
 - d. Approximate number of Japanese then.
 - e. Racial prejudices, if any. Cite examples of persecutions and discriminations.
2. Facts concerning the present status of the Japanese.
 - a. Approximate Japanese population-number of issei and nisei.
 - b. Occupations of the present residents.
 - c. Japanese organizations existing at the present time.
 - d. Racial prejudices if any. Cite examples.
 - e. Contributions made by the Japanese to the community welfare, social, economic, and otherwise, developing or introducing new industry.
 - f. The relationship between the American and Japanese residents; prospects and projects for creating better understanding, such as participation in civic celebrations, donations of charities, and so forth.
3. Please collect old photos of interest whenever available.

NISEI VOCATIONAL SURVEY-----Chairman Hugh Kiino

Following information from all chapters to be compiled in book form:

1. What is the main industry in your community?
2. What different types of work are available for Nisei in the community?
3. About how many Niseis are employed in each different field of work?
4. What new fields have the Nisei developed for themselves in the community?
5. What are the fields developed by the Issei which have given employment to the Nisei?
6. Is there a labor union in the community?
7. Can the Nisei join the labor union?

REPORT OF CHAIRMAN OF COORDINATING COMMITTEES:

Mr. Walter Tsukamoto's report in brief was as follows:

"Northern California is divided into four regions; namely, Bay Region, Coast, Central and Sacramento region. The different regions hold meetings to discuss problems individually. Purpose of the council is to function until it no longer becomes practical to meet. Since JACL is the only organization of national scope to handle evacuation it is very important that we keep a united front."

REPORT OF SURVEY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN:

Fred Tayama reported as follows:

The survey is important because though simple, it should contain all necessary facts such as:

1. Name and address
2. How many in family - adult and children
3. Age and sex
4. Occupation
5. If farmer, what type and acreage control
6. Present financial resources

Members of committee were appointed as follows:

Dr. Kikuo Taira
Jun Kurumada
Shigemi Aratani
Kiyoshi Okura
Mamuro Wakasugi
Henry Tani

REPORT OF NORTHWEST DISTRICT:

Mr. James Sakamoto made this report as follows:

"Mr. President, I just want to say this as a matter of record. We had to give you a report of the JACL only the Northwest District Council. I would like to give it to you in detail, but as also mentioned as a matter of record, we say that whatever we passed at the 1940 convention has been followed through except for financial obligations. We speak now more about the war and we must realize that we are at war. It's dawning upon us with evacuation coming on. Since December 7th, the northwest chapter has taken the leadership in Tacoma, Portland, Seattle, Yakima Valley, Wapato, including Yakima Valley, Hood River and White River Valley. Emergency defense council combining efforts of Tacoma, and Puyallup has been started with emergency defense councils in Seattle and Pierce County. The JACL rented an office when the TFR-300 forms came to the Federal Reserve branches and handled answering the questions that had to be answered."

"Yakima Valley is not a prohibited area entirely and not concerned with evacuation problems, but money is not loaned to them and they cannot continue farming, without the borrowing of the usual \$30,000.00 or \$40,000.00. Almost three-quarters of a million dollars is what the Japanese farmers used to bring to Yakima Valley. Relief problems are coming up with one helping the other out as much as possible. The Seattle chapter alone is providing for at least fifteen families sending them a weekly portion of provisions, and we have continued that ever since the first week in January."

"Concerning the Tolan committee hearing, I stress the fact that Hito Okada of Portland has said nothing that would reflect upon anyone. I hope that it will be taken at free value, whatever criticisms or injustices there may have been. While we feel that Americans of Japanese ancestry are loyal, we cannot say that they are all loyal. We hope and believe and pray that they are loyal.

"If we were permitted to stay here, it would be easy to show our loyalty but we must show it the hard way, the difficult way of demonstrating that loyalty to our country but let's take it.

"If you feel bitter as you doubtless will, let us direct that bitterness against Japan, not against the United States Army or America."

REPORT ON INTERMOUNTAIN COUNCIL:

Mr. Shigeki Ushio, Vice-Chairman, briefly reported that:

The Intermountain District, although a young group, is functioning very well with membership of 100 percent. Everything is left to the JACL and we are returning good service.

APPOINTMENT OF NATIONAL COMMITTEES:

President Saburo Kido announced the appointment of these committees as follows:

Ways & Means: Chairman George Inagaki, Kay Hirao, Vernon Ichisaka, Yukio Inouye, Saburo Kido, Dr. Harry Kita, Dr. Yoshio Nakaji, Hito Okada, James Sakamoto, Tom Shimasaki, Shigeki Ushio, Newton Uyesugi.

Survey: Chairman Fred Tayama, Dr. Jun Kuramada, Kiyoshi Okura, Henry Tani, Mamaro Wakasugi.

Agricultural: Chairman Nobumitsu Takahashi, Representatives from each rural chapter.

Budget: Chairman Susumu Togasaki.

Resolutions: Chairman Dr. T. T. Yatabe, Kiyoshi Higashi, Fred Hirasuna, Dr. Goro Muramoto, Ted Nakamura, James Sakamoto.

R E C E S S

Meeting was called to order at 4:10 PM by President Saburo Kido.

Roll call, revealed Santa Barbara and Ventura County absent.

Since the Minutes of the special National Board Meeting were not ready as yet they are to be distributed Monday morning.

REPORT ON CONDITIONS OF DISTANT STATES

Miss Uesaka of Arizona reported that the Governor did not want evacuees to come in, as at the present time they have evacuees in their community. People there do not seem to want them at all as there is a possibility of Japanese in Arizona being evacuated.

Mr. Yukio Inouye of Idaho stated that there are about 400 families, who being Japanese including Isseis and Niseis in Idaho Falls. As to the evacuation problem, beet growers, grangers, offic-

ials of business men came to the same conclusion that if the evacuees are coming to Idaho, they want the government agency to keep guard on them. Immigration has already started in Idaho Falls. The sheriff would like a voluntary count of how many are coming in, what they do and what they are going to do. At the conclusion of the Monday meeting, detailed information will be available. Mr. Inouye expressed his heartfelt sympathy to the residents of the Coast.

Mr. Kasai added that Mr. Clark, the past Governor, who was an engineer himself by trade, would look into possible farming lands or some undeveloped section where evacuees might settle. Central Idaho has about 10,000 acres and has the irrigation facilities. Upon their return, they will find out all possible arrangements for settlement in that part of the state for evacuees coming in, other sections of the state might permit their entrance. On the west side of Idaho, lands may be purchased by the Japanese, but they are owned by Americans who object to Japanese farming in this area as these are near strategic defense areas.

Queried on the question of Alien Land Law, he answered that such a law did exist.

Average price of land in this state is \$100 to \$300 an acre. To date, there are 20 to 30 acres available, which eventually may be restricted. In Western Idaho all kinds of fruits, and field crops can be raised, but potatoes are the main crop of Idaho Falls. No heavy discriminations as yet, but such may be expected if a great number of evacuees come in.

Dr. John Kurumada, delegate from Utah, briefly gave the picture in Utah. The land is cheap, but it is not resourceful. Southern Utah is all mining territory. At the present time we are more or less deluged with several families from Venice and Gardena. The housing facilities in Salt Lake City are very poor. There are no apartments and no houses available. People are sleeping in cars or trailers as they come in. Farming is too late to start now because by the time the crops are ready to harvest, snow will fall. It is a matter of knowing the country and knowing how to farm before settling. The Federal government and State Welfare Commission is very much interested in the welfare of the Japanese families. Dr. Kurumada further stated that it is not advisable to come to Utah, unless you are prepared to live in tents. In case of an invasion to this coast by the enemy, they are afraid that Salt Lake City would be one of the first strategic areas to be bombed. If the evacuees are to come to this city, they would accept them provided that the government would give them sufficient housing, sanitation, large recreation center, etc. The Farm Labor group got together with the welfare committee in the capital, and they decided that they cannot use anyone outside of the state unless stamped and approved by the Federal government.

Mr. Ushio, Chairman of the Intermountain District, said the livelihood depends on mountain snow, and unless they have the water rights they cannot raise anything. Unless the government or friends make some arrangements for you, there is no room at the present time. One third of the population has already increased with friends and relatives migrating to this section.

Mr. James Sakamoto, Seattle delegate, stated that Yakima Valley is the place where we could go, but it is not fair for the Japanese residents who are settled there. He also thought it unwise for to go into the states of Utah and Idaho, because it is also unfair to those residents. His suggestions is that we obtain government aid.

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Mr. Mike Masaoka, reported on conditions in Wyoming, Nebraska, Colorado and Montana. At the Tolan hearing, to fifteen telegrams sent to governors, nine answered. Eight were in the negative and one qualified. This state was Colorado. Colorado, Wyoming, Nebraska and Montana will take Japanese, but the government must guarantee adequate protection. He recommends one of the three following methods:

1. Be put into Labor Concentration Camps to be farmed out to large sugar beet combines as cheap laborers.
2. The Japanese Internees be brought in for road making.
3. The Japanese be branded and stamped and put under the supervision of the Federal government.

Montana: The farming season is growing short.

Colorado: The best agricultural state is already occupied except for small patches here and there which is available.

Wyoming: Worse than Nevada, since it is a long and extensive prairie.

Nebraska: Japanese are welcome as they wish to build two highways. The best homestead lands are unavailable for those people who are interested in other things besides farming, prospects are very negligible. House conditions everywhere are very poor.

Mr. T. Slocum, delegate from San Fernando Valley, gave suggestions to the evacuation problems. He stated that it is a National, Federal, or individual proposition. He also added that a portion of various National Parks might be used to take care of our case. There are some fine agricultural lands in various parts of four National Parks. That is a Federal proposition. Yellowstone Park has some very nice cultivable land for our stay.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:15 PM until Monday morning at 9 AM.