

About Abbr'v'ns:

Gov't Prntg Ofc Frowns on "Jap"

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Busy watchdogging the use of the abbreviation "Jap" by governmental agencies, Rep. Patsy T. Mink (Dem., Hawaii) and Dr. Clifford Uyeda of the San Francisco Center for Japanese American Studies, recently uncovered one plus and one minus in this regard.

The U.S. Dept. of State uses "Jap" in its official "Biographic Register" as an abbreviation for Japan and Japanese.

Apprised of this, Rep. Mink wrote the agency, in part, "I do not believe it is proper for an agency of the United States government to use a racial epithet termed derogatory in an official publication, and vehemently protest its inclusion."

When Marshall Wright, assistant secretary for congressional relations, responded that "No identification of personnel of ethnic origin is made in the Register," adding, "The language qualification of each officer are listed in abbreviation form, e.g., Fr. for French, Ger. for German, and similarly Jap. for Japanese."

Dr. Uyeda wrote back, "In this instance, because the abbreviation happens to be identical to the derogatory noun, we ask that agencies of the U.S. government help avoid the use of this abbreviation which is considered derogatory and offensive by Japanese and Japanese Americans."

Rep. Mink learned from T. F. McCormick, public printer for the U.S. Government Printing Office, that his agency is instructed not to list abbreviations for countries other than the U.S. and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. In cases of special exceptions involving space limitations, Japan would

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be abbreviated "Jpn," he said. He went on,

"The Style Board maintains an empathetic stance in areas of race and nationality. It is agreed that the term 'Jap' is uncomplimentary, and you may be assured it does not have the sanction of this office."