

NOTES ON SPEAKERS FOR THE MASS MEETING HELD IN GRESHAM,  
MARCH 13, 1945, sponsored by the Oregon Property Owners' Protective  
League to deport citizens of Japanese ancestry.

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C. G. Schneider, Gresham attorney and secretary of the Oregon Property Owners' Protective League (now Japanese Exclusion League) introduced Mr. Warren Erwin, State representative and the first speaker on the program.

(Speech only in small part taking the most salient points.)

Mr. Erwin: It was an Oregonian editorial which inspired the memorial to prohibit the return of the Japanese to the West Coast during the war; also an article in the Sunday Magazine Section of the same paper wherein a war correspondent talked with Japanese prisoners of war about their worship of the emperor. "It is because of this great paper's attitude and the action taken by the West Coast Command in evacuating these people who were deemed a menace to the army and navy that this memorial was drawn up. Why, then, would they be allowed to return when our boys are still dying by the thousands in the Orient. This harmless memorial is the result."

(He mentioned that this was a "harmless memorial" twice in his speech.) "There is nothing in it that attacks a citizens' constitutional rights but it has been buried in Committee and they haven't the intestinal fortitude to bring it out because they do not want to vote on it." (Telegrams and letters from Gresham land owners protesting the memorial probably had some bearing on the matter.)

He cites a case of a soldier tangling with a Japanese-American who would have been killed had not help arrived. States this to be another reason for the American Japanese removal. He mentioned the arson and attempted murder at San Jose but failed to present it properly so that those who did not know of the case probably thought it was at the hands of the Japanese."

"It is the foreign-born Jap who is controlling the actions of the others. That the alien Japs control the American-Japanese thoughts and actions was indicated in recent news reports." Mr. Erwin then told of the foreign-born Japanese from Heart M. Camp who was sent to Salt Lake City as a representative to plan the future of the Japs in the U. S. (I believe he said that this group asked for \$400,000,000 indemnity from the government for time and money lost during the evacuation period.)

Mr. Erwin said that all of the evacuees were hoping for the victory of Japan and that was another reason for this "harmless" little memorial and would ask again the President's consideration.

He stated that there would be guerilla warfare unless these people were removed; that our governor has been backward and timid in presenting this problem.

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Mr. Schneider next introduced and interviewed Dale Bergh. Mr. Bergh said he had "Stuck his neck out and was going to continue to stick." At Mr. Schneider's question of whether or not he intended carrying this on to a final conclusion, Mr. Bergh said, "I certainly do." (Mr. Levy heard Mr. Bergh say something about his exemption from the service while he was farming.) (Mr. Bergh was very nervous and could hardly be heard.) (In the meantime Mrs. Fujimoto has been classified IA. Mr. Bergh refuses to accept the court's decision that he vacate Fujimoto's property.)

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Mr. Frey of Hood River was next and the only member of his group present although four or five were scheduled to appear. He said they intended to reduce the American-Japanese population so they will "never again be a serious impediment to our progress." They have been reduced 80% and hope in a year to keep it down to one or two people. "I wish to maintain law and order, but let us do it as Americans, thoughtfully and decently; let us not put in with criminals and anti-Christ. We shall work slowly and carefully and do as we see the right to do it." (A recent letter from R. Maeda, evacuee at Hunt who fears to return to his home in Portland, states, "We hear that some people who went back to their Hood River homes can't buy anything in Hood River so have to buy in The Dalles or Portland, and in Portland some of the stores will not trade with the Japanese. It does not look safe to return....")

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Mr. Schneider introduces veteran (one-armed) from the South Pacific, Pfc. Pattee. He witnesses against the enemy's cruelties to our soldiers in the South Pacific but does not make any differentiation between the enemy and our American-Japanese citizens. Everyone in the audience must have felt the ordeal Mr. Pattee was put through in rehearsing these cruelties.

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Mr. Schneider introduces George Crandell, Seattle attorney.

Mr. Crandell said he had planned to follow the American Way, but this soldier (Pattee) had made him feel for violence...."The first policy of the United States government was an Act of Exclusion in 1880 (has his dates mixed) which meant they were not the material which made good citizens." "No American can compete with them; they live in hovels and spawn like fish; and from daylight to dark they toil, thereby lowering the standard of living of the American workers."

Mr. Crandell said that we do not raise people to higher standards; we, ourselves, sink to their level -- and that was philosophy.

"They keep to themselves and keep their own philosophy -- if you could call their fanaticism philosophy -- while they go to the American schools on week days, but on Saturdays you see those children sneak stealthily to some Jap school where they are imbued with Jap training. After four generations they continue in the same treachery, the same deceit. You just cannot assimilate them, so the federal government excluded them."

"There are several reasons why the Japs are not fit to live in this country. We are backed up in our conduct by the conduct of the U. S. Government. Although we did not want them, we let down the bars and let them have citizenship with the result of the experience of this young man in the South Pacific." (Motioning to Fattee.)

Mr. Crandell stressed the treachery of the Japs at Pearl Harbor.

"You just cannot trust a Jap. I have arrived at the conclusion that a good Jap is a dead Jap. So, since we are backed by the government, let us get rid of them, let us go as far as our government went and get rid of them. When the first Exclusion Act was adopted there was no war, no treachery, no treachery like this young man (Fattee) suffered." "The evidence of villainy is now magnified a thousand times since the government excluded them. Let us exclude, let us get rid of them, alien and American-born alike -- for they are all alike. You cannot distinguish between them either in facial appearance or conduct."

Mr. Crandell continues: "You cannot take away their citizenship? No lawyer would rest his case on that. I could go on until morning citing evidences of disloyalty, but one or two cases will suffice." (But he cites none.)

Mr. Crandell then said that all of the American Japanese are guilty of treason for not giving information on those who sabotaged at the beginning of the war. "Of course, we can make them forfeit their citizenship. Criminals forfeit their citizenship, why not these Japs guilty of treason? Forfeit the citizenship of every native-born (American) Jap and send them back to Japan."

"The few American Jap soldiers in our armed forces are directed by their emperor to make a show in this army."

"I have represented -- much to my shame -- some large Jap interests and I say they are ALL natural-born crooks."

"Is there a single American-born Jap who would not throw his hat in the ring if Japan was victorious?"

"We ought to organize. These little groups scattered here and

there ought to organize and get going."

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Mr. Schneider then introduces Ralph Hannan and says that Mr. Hannan has sold his grocery store to help organize this movement up and down the coast. When Mr. Hannan was asked for a statement he said, "I am not sorry that I started this. I have done some good in this community and think I can do more."

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Mr. Schneider then introduces the promoter, Mr. A. E. McCroskey (who is very smooth and knows how to handle such a crowd.)

Mr. McCroskey: ".....What are our boys going to do when they come back here and we flaunt these Japs in their faces?" (He then draws a picture of violence with the boys coming home, relaxing and drinking, murdering the first Jap they see, after which the government will take their lives after having taught them to kill Japs.)

"If we can't eliminate the Japs then don't call yourselves good American citizens." (He then draws attention to the two large propaganda pictures which have been placed on the platform on either side of the American flag; one, a Japanese soldier with dripping bayonet standing over a girl; the other, a grinning Japanese soldier with a dripping bayonet, background aflame.)

He said, "This is the first opportunity we have had to get rid of this menace. If we do not do it, we may still see this happen in this state"(pointing to pictures.)

"I am brought here to organize you. There will be Japanese resistance. They still have the desire to disturb the peace. You cannot look into a Jap's face and tell whether or not it is American or Shinto. The only reason they are bringing the Japs back is for servants, or because they are making money on them. There are a few left-wingers who wish to look big-hearted or get publicity. ....The Jap government is going to spend plenty of money to keep the Japs in America."

"This organization will first take the Pacific Coast states, then Idaho and Arizona -- and believe me Arizona is rearing to go ---." (He then briefly sketches the fight put up by Colorado's governor to oust the American Japanese.)

"Now it costs a lot of money to do this. ...It must be a little money from a lot of people. How many of you will give \$10 to get rid of the Japs?" (Probably half the audience raised their hands -- a crowd of between 600 and 800.) Mr. McCroskey said the plan was to send lobbyists to Washington, to print their own newspapers, to join in one group for one purpose. He said he couldn't take money from them.

"\$10 is the initiation fee, but we must have a steady income."

He then suggested they pay \$1 a month. "The purpose of the newspapers is to tell the group what is going on and what your representatives are doing in Washington."

"Let us remove ALL of them, get them out of the United States. They are not a part of us."

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