

The Commission on Wartime Relocation and
Internment of Civilians

Established July 31, 1980

Duties of Commission:

1. Review facts and circumstances surrounding Executive Order 9066 and its effect on Japanese Americans.
2. Review relocation and, in some cases, detention of Aleut civilians and permanent aliens of the Aleutian and Pribiloff islanders.
3. Make recommendations of measures to be taken.
4. Hold public hearings in appropriate cities.
5. Submit a written report of its findings and recommendations.

Commission Members:

1. Joan Zeldes Bernstein, Chair
Partner with Wald, Harkrader & Ross. Has served as General Counsel for the Department of Health and Human Services
2. Daniel E. Lungren, Vice-Chair
Second term Congressman from Long Beach, California
3. Edward W. Brooke
Partner with O'Connor and Hannan. Former U.S. Senator from Massachusetts.
4. Robert F. Drinan
President of Americans for Democratic Action. Member of the House of Representatives from 1970-1980.
5. Dr. Arthur S. Flemming
Chairman of the United States Civil Rights Commission.
6. Arthur J. Goldberg
President of the American Jewish Committee.
Has served as Secretary of Labor, Associate Justice in the United States Supreme Court, and U.S. Representative to the United Nations.
7. Father I.V. Gromoff
Active in the Aleutian/Pribilof Island Association. Was sent to Funter Bay camp during World War II.
8. William M. Marutani
Serves as judge for the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania.
9. Hugh B. Mitchell
Was appointed to the U.S. Senate from Washington and served in the House of Representatives for two terms.

Brief Chronology

- Prior to 1941 FBI, Army, and Navy conduct surveillance of Japanese in Hawaii and the mainland to assess the strength of the community's ties to Japan.
- Oct.-Nov., 1941 President Roosevelt appoints Curtis B. Munson as a Special Representative of the State Department to obtain as accurate a picture as possible of the loyalty of Japanese residents in Hawaii and the West Coast. His 25-page report concluded that "there is no Japanese problem."
- December 7, 1941 Japan attacks Pearl Harbor. Presidential Proclamation No. 2525 is issued to give the Attorney General blanket authority for a sweep of suspects.
- February 19, 1942 Roosevelt signs Executive Order 9066 giving the Secretary of War or any military officer designated by the Secretary the authority to establish "military areas" and to exclude "any or all persons" from them.
- March 22, 1942 The evacuation begins with the transport of the first large group of Japanese from Los Angeles to Manzanar.
- August 7, 1942 Completion of the evacuation of 110,000 Japanese from their homes to assembly centers or to relocation camps.
- December 6, 1942 Violence at Manzanar. An angry demonstration protesting the unjust treatment of a Kitchen Workers Union spokesman, Harry Ueno, who attempted to expose corrupt practices in the management of the camp's kitchen, results in the tear-gassing and the firing upon them by prison guards. Two of the demonstrators died of gunshot wounds. Martial law was imposed on the camp for a period of two weeks.
- February 8, 1943 All internees, 17 years and older, are required to answer two controversial questions affirming their allegiance to the United States (the loyalty oath).
- Sept.-Oct., 1943 Mass relocation of 9,000 "disloyals"--so identified, largely on the basis of a "no" response to the "loyalty oath"--to Tule Lake.

November 1, 1943	5,000 internees at Tule Lake demonstrate during a visit of National Director of WRA Dillon Myer to protest conditions in the camp. Martial law imposed on the camp from November 4, 1943 to January 15, 1944.
December 17, 1944	Exclusion and detention orders rescinded allowing Japanese Americans to return to their homes on the west coast, effective January 2, 1945.
August 15, 1945	VJ Day
September, 1945	Public Proclamation No. 24 revokes exclusion orders and military restrictions against Japanese.
June 30, 1946	War Relocation Authority program officially over.
July 2, 1948	Evacuation Claims Act gives internees until January 3, 1950 to file claims against the government.

Sept. 1948

Was relocation of 3,412 "disloyals" identified as traitors on the West Coast response to the "loyalty" program.