

B R I E F     A N A L Y S I SOF PROBLEMS OF"ENEMY ALIENS" WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO SAN FRANCISCOPopulation Figures and Facts:

California ranks next to New York in the size of its alien population, a total of 526,937 as shown by report of 1940 registration. This high rank is due partly to the fact that the population of the State is made up of a larger proportion than any other state of Chinese, Filipinos, Hindustanis, Japanese, Koreans and other races ineligible to citizenship. San Francisco's alien population is approximately 85,000 of which there are (according to the S.F. News of January 31, 1942), 24,036 Italians, 14,977 Germans, 2,273\* Japanese. (The S.F. Chronicle gives an overall figure of about 30,000.) There is no comprehensive analysis available of these three groups.

German Aliens:

A breakdown of the German case load of the International Institutes of San Francisco and Oakland for the last five years indicates five different classes who have asked aid: (1) refugees from Hitler's regime, (2) older men who have been laborers employed in lumbering, on farms and ranches, in industry, (3) women without much schooling who were reluctant to try the citizenship examination, (4) derivative citizens who lacked proof of citizenship, (5) aged parents brought over by naturalized citizen children. The majority who have been here any length of time have American citizen family members. Although this small sampling gives no accurate picture of the German "community" it does suggest problems to be met as a result of orders affecting the alien segment of the population. Germans live all over the city of San Francisco and with the exception of service to refugees, there is no one German group or center giving special aid to them.

Italian Aliens:

There is a small number of Italian refugees, but so far fishermen are in the majority of those affected by federal orders and regulations. In San Francisco about 1,200 as a group entered the United States before the literacy test, was applied and there are many who are still illiterate. They have large families and a considerable number of sons who have been drafted into the army. The Italian community is large and complex. Although Italians are widely scattered, there are three districts in San Francisco where most of them live: North Beach; the Mission District in its larger boundaries including such sections as Precita Valley; the Marina. The Italian Welfare Agency in the North Beach District has been taking the lead in interpreting the needs and giving service to Italians in the emergency.

Japanese Aliens:

The Japanese live in a more or less segregated district with Fillmore and Sutter as the axis streets. There are cleaning establishments scattered all over the city and florists and small farmers down the Peninsula. Japanese immigration stopped in 1924. The ratio of men to women now is roughly 5 to 4. American citizens who number 3,004 are in large majority under 25 years of age. They are now assuming leadership in preventing breakdown in community life and in working out plans of cooperation with the government. The Japanese American Citizens' League has taken the lead throughout the states where Japanese live. Japanese have been affected so far by more restrictions than have Germans and Italians. Their difficulties are complicated also by racial difference.

\*(The number of Japanese has been verified by several sources.)

### Problems:

The rapidly changing scene makes a list of problems out of date almost before it is issued. There have been three principle stages in development. First stage was a heavy issue of federal orders: interning suspected aliens; blocking funds; closing newspapers and business establishments; restricting movement of aliens; requiring surrender of cameras, radios, weapons.

In the second, the reaction to the situation by local communities and the State showed cumulative effects: boycott of business; cancellation of certain forms of insurance; appreciable discharge of "enemy alien" employees; Filipino boycott of Japanese; regulations designed to remove American Citizen Japanese from Civil Service employment; rumors of more rigid application of "Alien Land Law"; withholding certain business licenses and state-wide discussion of cancellation of all business and professional licenses; resolutions by authorities in several localities calling for more drastic action against aliens. In farming areas Japanese have found difficulty in getting credit for seed and other expenses of cultivation, in employing labor, in marketing.

In the third, the federal government is again in the lead with alien registration under way, orders given for evacuation of enemy aliens from strategic areas, a curfew law and persistent rumors of a complete evacuation from the entire coast.

Throughout all stages, there has been difficulty in getting clarification of orders. Various official sources give different and at times conflicting interpretations which have added to the confusion of those affected. Because of family ties and close community relationships it is impossible to separate the interests of aliens and citizens. Many new American families are now torn with conflicting emotions and with fear.

### Community Organization:

The Committee of Immigrant Serving Agencies (organized a year ago by the Community Chest) has served as the "clearing house" for activities of local agencies seeking to be of service in the emergency. It was enlarged at the beginning of the war to include representatives of public agencies, churches, schools, civic organizations and nationality organization.

It has dealt directly or through member agencies with: plans for relief and health needs; problems of communication and dissemination of information among people affected by orders; interpretation to the public of problems of aliens; speaking and acting in the interest of the social welfare and protection of alien families wherever necessary; giving cooperation and support to nationality leaders and organizations in their social welfare activities and in their efforts to keep up morale; offering cooperation to the government in the enormous task of adjusting social welfare to the business of defense.

The Committee has met frequently and the member agencies dealing directly with the nationality groups have been operating during the last two months on an emergency basis with large increase in demand for case work, group work, and community organization services. The Committee has been in close touch with similar organizations in the East Bay, with the Northern California Committee for Fair Play to the Japanese, with state and local civilian defense councils.

### Looking Ahead:

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be more rigid restrictions and a major dislocation of sections of the population and that government agencies such as the Social Security Board and the Farm Security Administration will take the lead in plans for resettlement and rehabilitation. Communities involved will probably begin to relate their local welfare services whether private or public, to the plans of the federal agencies. At this time it is impossible to be more definite than to suggest that close touch be kept with such federal agencies and that a flexible conception of community organization be maintained.

A few principles of procedure still hold good for any community:

- (1) There is need of strong and active local committees free to plan and act in the interest of the social welfare of "enemy aliens" and their families, to coordinate community services and when necessary to provide professional leadership and funds for operation.
- (2) American citizen nationality leaders should, wherever possible, be brought into partnership in planning for the welfare of their people. Their service is indispensable to constructive resettlement.
- (3) Special attention should be given to safeguarding rights of American citizens and preventing unnecessary discrimination. It is important that no undue discrimination be shown the Japanese, because of racial difference.
- (4) There is general recognition that defense measures are vitally necessary and the people as a whole are ready for sacrifice. The manner in which orders are put into effect will be of enormous importance, however, in its implications for continued loyalty on the part of those affected and for community relationships when peace comes. The Post Office in the registration of aliens in 1940 set a fine example of courteous and humane service. Every local community should be alert to this problem.
- (5) Plans for evacuation, resettlement and rehabilitation should as far as possible take into consideration the cultural patterns of the different groups as an asset in the maintenance of family life and the rebuilding of social controls for satisfactory community relationships when the war is over. There is already evidence of the great strain upon young Americans with alien parents, and looking toward the future we might expect a large increase in "second generation" problems unless we are aggressive in safeguarding the interests of the new American family. A considerable number of boys in the armed forces will be anxious about parents and other family members.
- (6) Executive orders affect people en masse; it is vitally necessary for social agencies to continue to give attention to individual and family problems.
- (7) There are "hardship cases" affected by rulings. A discussion of their situation with a view to planning seems important. Examples are:
  - (a) Persons whose naturalization petitions have been long delayed because of excess of work in the Naturalization Office;

- (b) German refugees who have undergone persecution by the Hitler Regime;
  - (c) Austrians and others who may have registered as German in 1940 by misunderstanding of technical requirements.
- (8) Cooperation should be offered to:
- (a) Civilian Defense Councils in the interest of minority groups,
  - (b) and all agencies of the government in social welfare problems of aliens.
- (9) The idea that the defense of this country depends also upon safeguarding and extending as far as possible basic American principles should be vigorously applied in order that the supreme sacrifice of military defense may not in the end have been in vain.

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Committee to Prepare Statement

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