

THE FOLLOWING IS THE COMPLETE TEXT OF THE SPECIAL MESSAGE OF THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT, SABURO KIDO, TO THE ASSEMBLED DELEGATES TO THE EMERGENCY NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING OF THE JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE, SUNDAY AFTERNOON, MARCH 8, 1942, AT THE NATIONAL JAFL HEADQUARTERS IN SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA:

Fellow Members:

This most likely may be the last National Council meeting we shall be able to hold for a long time to come. In a sense, this is a farewell gathering for most of us since we shall not know where we will be scattered, nor for how long. It is with a heavy heart that I say these words.

Events have transpired in rapid succession since we last met at Portland, Oregon, in 1940. Soon after we returned to our respective homes from that memorable convention, Japan definitely announced her military alliance with the Axis powers. Then in July, 1941, after Japan invaded Indo-China, our government took a positive stand by placing embargoes against that country and by freezing Japanese assets in the United States on July 26, 1941.

An Emergency National Board meeting was held in San Francisco on August 10, 1941. At that time a recommendation was made to secure the services of a full-time secretary. We fully realized the gravity of the situation arising from international tension and we thus took the step which necessitated the raising of \$5,000 for the office of National Secretary and Field Executive. We were fortunate that Mr. Mike Masaoka, who was then chairman of the Inter-Mountain District Council, was available for this newly created office. I am sure you all agree with me that we made an excellent appointment, and that we have attained excellent results with the meager funds at our disposal.

I shudder to think how helpless we would have been if we did not have the services of a full-time secretary. Mr. Masaoka has been working, day and night, traveling wherever he is needed most, in all sections of the Pacific Coast. His contacts with the various governmental agencies have been most valuable. He has relayed important information to the chapters, and his efforts at coordinating their activities have helped to maintain the morale of the Japanese communities. Through his efforts and through the splendid cooperation on the part of you officers and leaders of the chapters, our organization has come to be recognized as the representative body of the Nisei in this country.

When the first ominous signs pointed to possible Japanese-American hostilities, we began to make preparations to mitigate the blows which may be directed against us because of our Japanese extraction. All our chapters swung into public relations work. It is a fact that everyone worked hard to meet the emergency, although many of us were lulled into over-confidence because of the friendly expressions extended us by our American friends.

It has been our constant fear that race prejudice would be fanned by the various elements which have been constantly watching for an opening to destroy us. They included many of our economic competitors and those who believe this country belongs to the "Whites". Many of them wanted to indulge in the unpatriotic past-time of using us as a political football in this hour of America's greatest peril.

We had expected some form of persecutions in the various sections of this country. The experience of the first World War had made us anticipate such a course of events. On the other hand, we were counting on the better understanding we thought we had created. We all had expected that the public officials, at least, would serve as a buffer against possible mass hysteria. We never dreamed that such a thing could not happen in America again. We know now that disillusionment was in store for us.

Today we are preparing to go into temporary exile from the homes in which we were born and raised, or which we have purchased through the small income we have saved. The very foundations which have taken years to build up are being torn under us. Many of you are wondering where our Constitutional rights have flown to. Most of us still can not believe that we, citizens of this country, have been placed ahead of "alien enemies" for evacuation from military areas.

When we hear our erstwhile friends of peaceful days, those who praised us to the skies as model citizens, brand us as more dangerous than the so-called "enemy aliens", we cannot help but wonder if this is all but a bad dream.

The past few weeks have been a regular field day for those who have awaited for the day to "clean up the Japs". When many of our friends of long years standing begin to entertain doubts about us, it is a bitter pill to swallow. One cannot help but realize how lonesome we are today.

Certain fundamental rights are guaranteed to all persons, but especially to citizens, in both our State and Federal Constitutions. We are today witnessing the spectacle of some state agencies trampling upon these rights in utter disregard of these laws. I am confident that the day is coming when those who are responsible for these outrageous violations of our rights will be ashamed of their conduct. We hope the thinking citizens will appreciate the principles which are at stake with us American citizens in this crucial test.

Even in our darkest hour, we are grateful to find that we still have friends who have faith in our loyalty, who believe that we are sincere when we say America is our country and we shall be glad to serve her in any capacity to win this war. Our friends are under pressure themselves, but they have remained true to us when we needed them most. They have furnished us the courage and strength to retain our self-respect and to continue to have faith in the noble ideals upon which this country has been founded.

When President Roosevelt was compelled to issue his order whereby the military commanders were authorized and directed to prescribe military areas from which any or all persons may be excluded, and with respect to which the right of any person to enter, remain in, or leave shall be subject to whatever restrictions the Secretary of War or the appropriate military commander may impose in his discretion, it was a confession on the part of the state and local governments that they were unable to enforce the law to protect and assure us personal safety.

It seems to me that the Federal Government and the military authorities are ordering evacuation in order to prevent mob violence from running rampant, thereby interfering with the successful operation of the war. I have implicit confidence that we are being asked to go into exile not because we are dangerous as potential "fifth columnists" or "saboteurs," but because of the prospects of lawlessness of certain segments of the citizenry.

Ever since the declaration of war, we have been grateful to our Federal Government for the fairness with which our case has been handled. We are glad that we can become the wards of our government for the duration of war. We already have been assured of humane treatment and full protection of our property rights.

Many of you who are fathers are wondering what the future is to be for our children of school age. You are tormented with the thought that it will be difficult for those who understand what is transpiring to retain their faith in the American way of life. One of our most important tasks is to keep alive this faith in ourselves and to instill it in our children. Most of us know no country but America. We have never left these shores. And our children will be without a country, spiritually, unless they can continue to respect the fundamental ideals of democracy for which this nation stands and for which it is now waging this titanic Second World War.

In all our judgments and decisions, we have adopted the policy of selecting the course which will produce the most good for the largest number. In view of the existing threats of vigilantism and lawlessness, we have decided that evacuation under military supervision is the wisest course. Those of you who can afford to take independent action by going to new lands should do so. But we believe that you should not enter into the neighboring states in any large numbers. What is dangerous for California, Oregon, or Washington is dangerous for Idaho, Colorado, Utah, Arizona and other neighboring states. Furthermore, we should not jeopardize the welfare of those who already have settled in that area and who are enjoying amicable relationship.

No matter where you go, unless it is in small numbers, you will be in constant danger of arousing unfavorable reactions. This is the reason why we are urging one and all to wait for the military authorities to make the necessary pre-

parations. We still have hopes that areas will be created in each state so that aliens and citizens forced to evacuate will be resettled within the state where they have been residing and to whose wealth they have contributed by long toil and efforts.

As patriotic citizens and law abiding residents, we should be willing to place our future into the hands of the Federal government. Both the Presidential order and the statements from Gen. DeWitt, who is the military commander of this area, have made it clear that everything possible will be done for our welfare.

This matter of evacuating at least 120,000 residents under non-violent conditions is unprecedented. Germany, and other nations under dictatorship have ruthlessly uprooted peoples from their homes and transplanted them to new lands. But as far as America is concerned, we hope this will be the first and the last such mass evacuation.

There are numerous complicated problems which must be solved if a humane and just evacuation is to be carried out. We should do our utmost to help the authorities. Undoubtedly many phases of the difficulties be met will not come to their attention, as a measure to avoid confusion.

Many of you are worried about the care of expectant mothers; also those who are bedridden or who are afflicted with infections or contagious diseases; and those who are in hospitals at the present time. Many of us are wondering whether we can use our own cars to the reception centers, such as Owens Valley, and then have the government help us dispose of the car. We are wondering what should we do with our household furniture; what means of transportation will be provided, and a host of other similar questions.

Most of us will be able to live a few months on our own means, but the large majority will have to become the wards of the government if this war and our exile is to last for any length of time. It is necessary to ascertain whether any person will be permitted to go to the military area created for the Japanese regardless of their means. After all, money is not of much concern when our personal safety is at stake.

During the course of your deliberations on matters pertaining to this vital question of evacuation, we must give some time to the future of our organization. Out of the little infant organization brought into this world in 1930 at Seattle, Washington, we have our full-grown JACL, flowering to maturity in a sudden spurt in this hour of emergency. The leadership of the Japanese communities was expected to fall into our hands within the next five or ten years, but the sudden turn of world events has placed that full responsibility upon our shoulders almost overnight.

We must now answer some pertinent questions. Should we continue to function despite the fact that a large number of us may become the wards of the Federal Government? If so, where will our headquarters be located? How will we finance our organization? Should we keep on publishing our official organ, The Pacific Citizen?

I may say here that the individual chapters most likely will disintegrate unless each community is permitted to resettle as an entity.

My personal opinion is that we should continue to function because there are important missions to be carried out. Our people are going to be scattered to the four corners of this nation. We should serve as the clearing house in order that we all may be able to keep in touch with one another.

As the only non-denominational organization now existing in the Japanese communities and on a national scale, the JACL will not fail to get recognition by the government, especially for its role in keeping up the morale of the Japanese people.

We must send speakers to the Middle West, the South, the Atlantic seaboard, and other parts of the country to regain our good name and reputation. If nothing is done to counteract the impression which is being created by many of these public officials who are enjoying the grand picnic of trampling upon the weak and defenseless, we shall remain forever as a despised group.

Never in the thousands of years of human history has a group of citizens been branded on so wholesale a scale as being treacherous to their own native land, regardless of racial descent. We question the motive and patriotism of such men and leaders who intentionally fan racial animosity and hatred.

It is possible that those on the Atlantic seaboard and in Washington, D. C., are wondering what specimen of human devilry we are, considering the amount and persistence of falsehoods being circulated against us. It would be important for several of our leaders to visit our President, his Cabinet members and the law-makers, and thus serve as an exhibit of the quality of our Nisei citizenry.

Fellow members, no matter whatever we may do, wherever we may go, always retain your faith in our government and maintain your self-respect. Let us keep our chins up despite all the travesty being committed upon our good name and rights. We are going into exile as our duty to our country because the President and the military commander of this area have deemed it a necessity. We are gladly cooperating because this is one way of showing that our protestations of loyalty are sincere. We have pledged our full support to President Roosevelt and to the Nation. This is a sacred promise which we shall keep as good patriotic citizens.

The sacrifice which we have been called to make is just as great as that which our selectees have been called to make, for our is the call to quietly uproot ourselves from all that we know and hold dear and to make our way into a wilderness of which we know not. Ours is not a spectacular, front-page type of duty to country, but rather a kind of "behind the lines" service which is just as important to the winning of the war as is the actual battle at the front. The motto which we have worn: "WE ALSO SERVE", must be our badge of courage in these trying days, for we also serve, each in our own way, this country of which we are so fond. What greater love, what greater testimony of one's loyalty could anyone ask than this: leave your homes, your businesses, and your friends in order that your country may better fight a war?

When we leave our homes, let us leave with a smiling face and courageous mien. Let us look upon ourselves as the pioneers of a new era looking forward to the greatest adventure of our times. Let us conquer whatever frontiers may await us with the same fortitude and patience as did our fathers and mothers who contributed more to the development of the West than most of us realize. Let us serve our country in the hardest way possible for us to serve, keeping in mind that we have the same objective in mind as a hundred and thirty million other Americans, the ultimate and complete victory of democracy's forces.

Never in the thousands of years of human history has a group of scientists been granted so much as to be consulted on their own work. It is a privilege of the highest order to be invited to participate in such a way and I trust that you will find the work of the committee and the members who have been invited to it most interesting and profitable.

It is possible that some of the scientific workers and the members of the committee may be interested in the work of the committee and the members who have been invited to it. It is a privilege of the highest order to be invited to participate in such a way and I trust that you will find the work of the committee and the members who have been invited to it most interesting and profitable.

It is possible that some of the scientific workers and the members of the committee may be interested in the work of the committee and the members who have been invited to it. It is a privilege of the highest order to be invited to participate in such a way and I trust that you will find the work of the committee and the members who have been invited to it most interesting and profitable.

The committee which has been invited to participate in such a way and I trust that you will find the work of the committee and the members who have been invited to it most interesting and profitable.

JACK