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ENEMY ALIENS

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According to information received from Washington today, 865 Germans, 147 Italians and 1291 Japanese have thus far been apprehended by the FBI and turned over to the Immigration and Naturalization Service. All but 360 of these persons were picked up in continental United States. Among those held are said to be some six or seven who may be American citizens; their nationality status has not as yet been determined. It is reported that no further arrests are contemplated at the moment.

Such of these people as wish it, will be accorded a hearing before a board in their own community composed of prominent citizens not in government service. It is reported that in some sections the boards set up to deal with "conscientious objectors" will take over these hearings also. The procedure is not to be formal; the hearings will not be conducted like trials. FBI investigators and inspectors will testify at the hearings. In each case the Board will recommend release, release on parole, or detention. Aliens in whose case detention has been ordered, will be turned over to the War Department; a person released on parole will remain the responsibility of the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Naturalization of Enemy Aliens

From certain sections of the country have come reports that naturalization courts are denying citizenship to enemy aliens. In that connection the sections of the Nationality Act of 1940 dealing with this subject are of interest and importance; they read as follows:

"Sec. 326 (a) An alien who is a native, citizen, subject, or denizen of any country, state, or sovereignty with which the United States is at war may be naturalized as a citizen of the United States if such alien's declaration of intention was made not less than two years prior to the beginning of the state of war, or such alien was at the beginning of the state of war entitled to become a citizen of the United States without making a declaration of intention, or his petition for naturalization shall at the beginning of the state of war be pending and the petitioner is otherwise entitled to admission, notwithstanding such petitioner shall be an alien enemy at the time and in the manner prescribed by the laws passed upon that subject.

"(b) An alien embraced within this section shall not have such alien's petition for naturalization called for a hearing, or heard, except after ninety days' notice given by the clerk of the court to the Commissioner to be represented at the hearing, and the Commissioner's objection to such final hearing shall cause the petition to be continued from time to time for so long as the Commissioner may require.

"(c) Nothing herein contained shall be taken or construed to interfere with or prevent the apprehension and removal, agreeably to law, of any alien enemy at any time previous to the actual naturalization of such alien.

"(d) The President of the United States may, in his discretion, upon investigation and report by the Department of Justice fully establishing the loyalty of any alien enemy not included in the foregoing exemption, except such alien enemy from the classification of alien enemy, and thereupon such alien shall have the privilege of applying for naturalization."