

Evacuation

AMERICAN-MADE REFUGEES

SPEED OF EVACUATION

Feb. 19, 1942...President's Proclamation established for first time in American history concentration camps for American citizens.

Although assured by General DeWitt that there would be no mass evacuation and all hardship cases would be looked into, between March 29 and May 31, 1942 99,770 Japanese had been moved from their homes. These included the sick, feeble minded, old, and crippled for whom there were no adequate facilities in the camps.

The usual period between issuance of evacuation order and departure was from 7 to 10 days.

Evacuation was taking place before and during the Congressional investigation of the facts of the situation. Senator Tolan, Chairman of the Congressional Committee, himself said on Feb. 21 in San Francisco, "I think there is a deplorable situation on the Pacific Coast here regarding evacuation and I think Congress is going to know about it in our report."

EVACUATION WAS NOT MILITARY NECESSITY BECAUSE:

1. There had been no sabotage either in Hawaii or on west coast.
2. FBI had already arrested all known Japanese suspects and declared it could handle the whole situation.
3. Japanese-Americans preferred to take their chance on possible violence from mobs at home rather than be removed.
4. Hawaiian Islands, 2,500 miles closer to Japan, with a population of 156,894 Japanese, 33.5 per cent of the total population, has not deprived its Japanese of their freedom. They are, in fact, still working in defense industries.

Blake Clark in The New Republic, Sept. 14, 1942, has written: "Chief Gabrielson of the Honolulu Police told me, "If the Japanese here had wanted to do damage, December 7 offered them a golden opportunity. Instead, hundreds of Japanese were actively defending the territory. They stripped a hundred delivery trucks of their contents, inserted into them frames prepared to hold four litters, and went tearing out to Pearl Harbor to aid the wounded. When the call came over the radio for blood donors, again the Japanese were among the first to respond. They stood in line at Queen's hospital for hours waiting to give their blood to save the lives of American soldiers...Many an American mother today owes the life of her son to the skill of Japanese-American surgeons."

WHAT REALLY CAUSED THE EVACUATION?

1. California Joint Immigration Committee which is composed of American Legion of State of California, State Federation of Labor, Native Sons of the Golden West, Cal. State Grange; were largely instrumental in the passage of the 1913 Alien Land Act, and the 1924 Immigration law which excludes any Asiatics from a quota.

The Pearl Harbor incident gave them the opportunity to accomplish what they had been unable to achieve in peace time, for according to Chairman Tolan, "The reason for that Executive Order (President's Proclamation) is that the representatives of California, Oregon, and Washington met almost daily back there and we finally evolved this recommendation that the President outlined in his executive order. The Executive order is in almost the same words of the Pacific Coast Delegation".

2. The Associated Farmers and large scale shipper-grower interests in California for selfish reasons wanted to have all Japanese moved from the coast.
3. Mass hysteria based on:
 - a. Color prejudice. 1,000,000 German and Italian persons still remain in defense areas.
 - b. Stories of Hawaiian sabotage. Later proved false.

c. Belief that Japanese language schools fostered pro-axis sentiments.

In reality, similar language schools have been conducted by the Germans and many other nationalities in the form of Parochial schools. The Japanese schools are merely supplementary to the public schools and not a substitution for them as are parochial schools. Proof they are not pro-axis in teaching found in Masters' Thesis, U. of Washington, '32, and in fact FBI has not interned the head of the Japanese Language School of Seattle. He has, in fact, been given a job in the Curriculum Office for the schools of a Relocation Center.

d. Assumption that the Japanese Buddhist religion taught Emperor worship.

According to testimony of white American Buddhist priest of Japanese Buddhist temple, Emperor worship is not a part of the Buddhist religion in America. (Tolan report)

e. Belief that Japanese cannot be assimilated and are undesirable citizens.

Facts are: In Seattle Japanese spend far greater proportion of their income for advancement than the average Seattle family. Their average income is \$1500. (Katharine Woolston's study of Standards of Living Among Japanese in Seattle)

2. Teachers in grade schools rate the Japanese average in intelligence, superior in willingness and obedience, clean, likeable children. Prompt in reporting disease. Personal cleanliness and marvelous self control (Woolston study)

3. In ten years, annual reports of Juvenile court in Seattle do not note a single case of a Japanese child tried for delinquency.

4. Japanese boys make excellent soldiers. Many of them commissioned officers. Their American superiors are full of praise.

5. The Dean of a Junior College in California says, "I go to a Japanese student party, and if I closed my eyes, I could not tell that they were not white American students. They talk about the same topics, play the same games, have the same prejudices, speak with the same accents, and use the same college slang as everybody else."

6. Article by George Knox Roth, Executive Secretary Public Affairs Committee of Los Angeles, published in 1934 in "California Taxpayers Association":

"The generosity of the Japanese in Los Angeles County and their sympathy for starving men, about to become poverty cases, together with the desire of men to retain their self respect, made possible the unemployed cooperative movement. Started near Compton, the organization spread throughout Los Angeles County. The over-production of foodstuffs on Japanese farms formed the basic industry of the various units. At least 20,000 Caucasian families over a period of 2 years were totally cared for and 70% of their food was supplied by the Japanese farmers' generosity."

f. Belief that dual citizenship has made the American-Japanese subjects of Japan. The facts are: 1. France, Italy, Germany, Russia, as well as Japan, regard as citizens the children of their citizens wherever born. 2. Japanese Diet on Dec. 1, 1924 amended its law of nationality so that Japanese in other countries may renounce their Japanese citizenship.

g. Belief that Japan discriminates against Americans in Japan. The fact is: Japanese laws do not discriminate between different races of aliens, whether in regard to immigration, land rights, or naturalization. (Imperial Ordinance No. 352, Article I)

IS THE EVACUATION CONSTITUTIONAL?

The Constitution says: "The privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in cases of rebellion or invasion the public safety may require it. Congress alone has power to suspend writ.

Amendment 5: "Nor shall any person...be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation."

Amendment 14: "No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the U.S., nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law, nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

The Constitution can be set aside only in the event martial law is proclaimed. No martial law has been proclaimed in the United States.

Senator Taft in reference to Public Law 503 which has to do with the enforcement of the Executive Order said that it was "so indefinite and so uncertain it could not be enforced under the Constitution."

Judge James A. Fee of Portland said military orders such as the "curfew" were unquestionably void as regards citizens of the U.S.A. They might have these powers under martial law, but martial law does not exist on the Pacific Coast.... "The Congress of the U.S. is in session. To this body alone is committed the ordinary power of passing laws which govern the conduct of the citizens, even in time of war."

WHAT THE EVACUATION MEANS IN TERMS OF HUMAN SUFFERING:

1. 7000 Japanese-Americans in U.S. army, yet their families were evacuated.
2. Lowest estimates say 50% loss of assets were sustained by Japanese-Americans, plus loss of property and insurance policies because of inability to meet commitments.
3. Families separated in many cases. Old people forced to leave homes where they had lived for 30 years or more. Hundreds of them have died in Assembly Camps and Relocation Centers. Data not yet available as to whether evacuation per se was contributory cause for such deaths.
4. Doctors, nurses, lawyers, social workers, architects, scientists, teachers, college professors, as well as farmers, laborers and merchants, forced to accept pay government offers them. For a 44 hour week unskilled workers get \$12 a month, skilled workers \$16 a month, and professionals and technicians \$19 a month. Caucasian teachers in the camps get \$2000 a year; Japanese teachers, equally well qualified, get \$16 a month.
5. Camps located in areas where the temperature ranges from 112 above zero to 40 degrees below zero. Evacuees are suffering from lack of warm clothing. No stoves in Poston, Arizona Relocation Center where in winter the temperature drops to freezing.
6. Children not allowed to take pets. No furniture allowed. Only baggage that could be carried permitted. Camps provided only army cots. Evacuees had to make own furniture out of scraps of lumber when lumber was available. Whole family must live in one room without partitions.
7. The Relocation Centers, which presumably are not under Army jurisdiction, but are under the jurisdiction of the War Relocation Authority, a civilian administration, still have, in spite of the protests of WRA officials, barbed wire surrounding them, watchtowers, searchlights, and army guards. Affect on morale becomes increasingly serious.

FROM THE PURELY ECONOMIC POINT OF VIEW, WHAT HAS THE EVACUATION COST THE U.S.?

1. Total cost for first year of evacuation is \$210,000,000. This is equivalent to \$1,964 per Japanese, or about \$10,000 per family. These figures make no allowance for loss to the Japanese, loss of crops, loss in labor, or losses due to higher prices paid by every person who buys fruit and vegetables on west coast.

The evacuation has made paupers out of thousands of once self-respecting, hard-working citizens who have habitually cared for their own under-privileged, and have rarely been on relief.

2. Japanese produced 45 to 60% of the tomatoes that are canned in California, and about 70% of tomatoes and truck crops in the Yakima Valley, Washington.

According to a white farmer in Yakima Valley, "A truck gardener has to be a specialist and it will be impossible for white farmers to take over; it would need years of experience to try to produce what the Japanese boys are doing".

There is a shortage of tomatoes in the country; there is urgent need for them in the army!

WHAT DO OTHERS THINK ABOUT THE EVACUATION?

1. Chairman Tolan of the Congressional Committee: "The Nation must decide and Congress must gravely consider, as a matter of national policy, the extent to which citizenship in and of itself, is a guarantee of equal rights and privileges during time of war. Unless a clarification is forthcoming, the evacuation of the Japanese population will serve as an incident sufficiently disturbing to lower seriously the morale of vast groups of foreign-born among our people."
2. Harpers, Oct. 1942: By an Intelligence Officer: "Virtual internment of innocent and loyal people is intolerable; Democratic freedom in these times is sufficiently jeopardized as it is...Entire Japanese problem... should be handled on the basis of the individual, regardless of citizenship, and not on a racial basis."
3. Floyd Schmoie, Member of American Friends' Service Committee: "By deporting from their homes Japanese-American citizens, and Japanese-American aliens, who are denied citizenship by our law, without charge of personal disloyalty and with no investigation of their loyalty, we have cleared the road for Government tyranny against individuals all over the U.S. Hitler never drew the blood line closer than the American Army which sent small children with only one-eighth Japanese ancestry to these camps."
4. Pearl Buck in her book American Unity and Asia stresses that America must win the battle of democracy for her millions of non-Caucasian citizens if America and the United Nations are to win the battle of democracy in Asia.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF WE DON'T DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE SITUATION?

1. Loyal Japanese-Americans, filled with justifiable resentment at the whole evacuation procedure, are easy prey for the propaganda of possible pro-Axis neighbors when all are thrown together in the confining limits of the ten relocation centers.

Riots have already taken place in two of the centers, and thousands of innocent Japanese-Americans have had to suffer for the disloyalty of a handful.

2. Treatment of the Japanese aliens and Americans in this country provides fuel for Axis propaganda. The Tokyo radio has already broadcast reports of the situation.
3. If kept in the centers until the end of the war, we may make permanent wards of the government out of once industrious citizens.

WHAT CAN BE DONE ABOUT THE SITUATION NOW?

This is what England did about her alien problem:

1. Set up tribunals for enemy aliens immediately after war was declared in 1939. Within a few months all refugees and aliens had been classified to the extent of 60 or 70,000.
2. Three categories were set up:
 - a. People dangerous for political, sabotage, or spy reasons; immediate internment followed.
 - b. People who couldn't convince the government of their innocence. They were subjected to special restrictions, and in some parts of the country, to internment.
 - c. People who proved their status and were exempt from internment.

This is what the United States started to do:

In January, 1942 three-member alien enemy hearing boards, assisted by a member of the FBI and an assistant district attorney, conducted hearings at Missoula, Montana for the more than 100 Japanese sent there to an internment camp from Seattle. It was understood that "the interned Japanese cannot be held there indefinitely unless they have had a hearing and their internment ordered". (G.N.Daily News, Jan. 20, '42)

This is what the U.S. has done in regard to Italian aliens:

600,000 Italian aliens have been freed from the stigma of being classified as "enemy aliens".

WHAT CAN WE AS INDIVIDUALS DO ABOUT IT?

1. Write the President, Congressmen, Secretary of War, newspapers, friends, demanding something be done, hearing boards set up and the innocent released.
2. Find jobs for the Japanese in your own community. The War Relocation Authority will allow the Japanese to leave the camps for jobs if properly sponsored.
3. Prepare communities to receive Japanese. See they have proper living facilities, are met at station and will be free from persecution.
4. Work for repeal of Oriental Exclusion Act and for repeal of laws which do not allow naturalization of Orientals already in this country.*
5. Organize groups in town and church to study question and protest.
6. Make layettes for expectant mothers in centers. Send clothes, toys, flowers, and money.
7. Make these facts known!

IN THE WORDS OF ATTORNEY GENERAL BIDDLE:

"Every man who cares about freedom, about a government by law, and all freedom is based on fair administration of the law, must fight for it for the other man with whom he disagrees, for the right of the minority, for the chance for the underprivileged, with the same passion of insistence as he claims for his own rights...If we care about democracy we must care about it as a reality for others as well as for ourselves; yes, for aliens, for Germans, for Italians, for Japanese....For the Bill of Rights protects not only American citizens, but all human beings who live on our American soil, under our American flag."

Report compiled by E. Harriet Gipson and Katharine
A. Wolfe. December, 1942

Source material and extra copies of this report will be gladly furnished. Because of expense involved, orders of over 5 will have to be charged 5¢ for two copies. (Write 907 E. 72nd St. Seattle, Washington)

The larger share of the report was taken from:

1. Hearings before the Select Committee Investigating National Defense Migration, popularly called "Tolan Report". (Can be obtained free by writing your congressman)
2. Masters' Theses at U. of Washington
3. Magazine articles
4. Quaker Reports (American Friends Service Committee)

* April, 1943: A bill that would grant right of citizenship to issei and others of Oriental descent has been introduced in the House of Representatives by Vito Marcantonio of New York. Write your representatives and congressmen that you are behind this bill.