

INVESTIGATION OF THE JAPANESE IN AMERICA

Speech of Hon. Henry M. Jackson of
Washington in the House of Repre-
sentatives, February 23, 1943

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THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE. Under previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. Jackson) is recognized for fifteen minutes.

(By unanimous consent, Mr. Jackson was granted permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

MR. JACKSON. Mr. Speaker, I have today introduced a resolution, asking that a special committee of the House be set up to investigate Japanese activities in the United States and its possessions. I have requested that the committee direct an investigation into any and all activities of the Japanese in the United States, its territories and possessions, including their infiltration into American economic, political, and social life, with the end of preserving the security of the United States during the war and looking toward the establishment of a proper policy toward the Japanese residents of the United States, its territories and possessions after the war.

We first heard much of Japanese infiltration tactics on Bataan and in the Philippines, but the Japanese had for many years practiced a different type of infiltration--infiltration into the vitals of our economic political and domestic structure. The disciples of Bushido, by insidious and indirect means, inserted themselves in a great many organizations in much the same fashion as the Nazis have utilized their front organizations.

In our great Pacific coast cities they controlled much of the hotel and restaurant business although always there was a white manager who would front for them with the general public. They lowered prices to their own countrymen in the fresh produce and vegetable field, forcing out their white competition, only to raise prices as soon as they had

monopolized their sphere of business. Always they had prominent civic leaders as their attorneys, paying them on a retainer basis. Whenever a situation came up in which they were interested, they had only to contact these individuals with their specious reasons to have them immediately come forward in their interest. Investigation will show that Japanese consuls in our large cities lavished expensive and sumptuous gifts on a great number of prominent citizens at Christmas and other appropriate occasions.

I wish to make it clear here that I do not intend to indict the great majority of these individuals because I am positive there was no disloyalty to their country in their minds. However, because their actions were unintentional does not alter the fact they were of great importance and value in the subtle propagandizing efforts of the Japanese nation and enabled them to exert an unbelievable amount of influence on the economic, political and social life of the Pacific Coast.

After my study of this question, I wish to assure the members of this House that there is not the slightest doubt in my mind but that the Japanese consul, taking his orders directly from Tokyo, ruled the Japanese colonies in our country with an iron and dictatorial hand; thus there was a society within a society and a race within a race. Every two years the Japanese consul in the large Pacific coast cities was changed and a new consul came in, bearing direct orders from the "Son of Heaven" in Tokyo. He directed the establishment of Japanese language schools; he managed the complicated Japanese financial system through the Japanese banks, owned and controlled in the land of the Samurai. The consulate office was the fountainhead from which flowed all directives to Japanese residents, both alien and native to this country. And was also the center of espionage and propaganda activity to which came all data which the Japanese were able to gather regarding our Pacific coast line and the isle and inlets of the Alaskan peninsula.

Let me outline briefly to you a few of the examples of Japanese infiltration tactics which have recently come to light. The most striking example, in my opinion, is a fact recently brought out by Mr. Miller Freeman of Seattle, Wash., publisher of eight trade journals and who is undoubtedly one of the greatest experts on the Japanese problem in our country. He points out that in the China Club of Seattle, which has an executive board of twenty-nine members, eleven members are listed in the 1942 roster of officers and members of the Japan^s Society of Seattle. How ironic it is that with China and Japan having been at war for over five years, such a large majority of the directors of the China Club and the Japan Club should belong to both organizations.

I wonder also if you gentlemen know that immediately after Pearl Har-
bor, several Japanese organizations turned over^{to} the American Red Cross a number of bandages, medical supplies and other material fashioned by Japanese societies. They attempted to obtain wide publicity and made great fanfare about their patriotism at that time, neglecting, however, to mention that all their supplies up to that date had been forwarded to the Japanese military machine. They neglected, also, to mention that it was necessary for them to remove the bills of lading from the material which they donated to our Government because it had been addressed previously to Tokyo.

The War Relocation Authority and the Federal Reserve Bank board now have all the information regarding the financial assets and economic enterprises of the Japanese in this country. Now that we are at war with Japan we need not be concerned with diplomatic niceties. Is there any reason why this information should not be made available to the American people. Do not the American people, and particularly the residents of the Pacific coast, have the right to know the extent of the economic strangle hold possessed by Japanese residents on the domestic economy of our country? I for one must insist that the American people have a right to be fully

informed on this subject.

Let me point out also here that these are not recent developments in Japanese strategy. The Japanese have used these tactics for many years. Over twenty years ago our able colleague (Mr. Woodruff) called to the attention of Congress some information which he has recently again brought to light before this Seventy-eighth Congress. During World War No. 1, our so-called ally, Japan, owned two airplane plants in the State of New Jersey which were employed on Government contracts.

These two plants were the Standard Aircraft Corporation and the Standard Aero Company, which were in the control of Mitsui & Co., the fiscal agents of the Japanese Government at that time. Japan, therefore, had access to our most advanced secret military information regarding that vital military weapon, the airplane.

Under orders from Tokyo, this company actually shipped a number of complete airplane engines to Japan for study and imitation at the height of this war. It has even been reliably reported that Japan emissaries applied at that time to Thomas Edison, head of the United States War Invention Board, to share in all the technical military information available to this country.

Despite the enlightening expose made by the gentleman from Michigan, Congressman Woodruff, and despite the fact further investigation showed the Japanese had not only stolen our military secrets, but while so doing had milked the United States Treasury of over \$16,000,000, I can find no evidence to demonstrate that any successful effort was ever made to follow up these events and to receive an accounting from the Japanese nation.

Those who have read the white paper of the State Department, outlining our Nation's course of diplomacy with Japan prior to Pear Harbor, find it difficult to understand why the American people were left so much in the

dark as to the actual trend of diplomatic events in that area. I venture to say that if the true facts are brought out regarding the inadequacy of our naval intelligence in the Pacific area the American public will find such a revelation even more astounding. I know conclusively that the facts regarding Japanese military preparations, the Japanese war psychosis, and Japanese plans for conquest were brought forcefully to the attention of our naval intelligence not once but many times in the years preceding Pearl Harbor.

Even the schoolboys in coastal cities on the Pacific coast who had observed Japanese Merchant Marine sailors, cameras slung over their backs, on their Sunday afternoon stroll over the water fronts of our large cities were more aware of the crisis which might become imminent at any moment.

Certainly, the fishermen in the great Alaskan salmon industry, who had fought to expel Japanese floating canneries from our Alaskan waters, were well aware of the true facts. Certainly, too, it is no wonder that these same fishermen expressed their wonder in times past that not only did the State Department exert its influence against their efforts to expel the Japanese from these regions, but even urged that their technical and student missions receive special courtesies in viewing this area. If any one doubts the accuracy of the information which the Japanese have regarding the shores and inlets of the Alaskan Peninsula, I urge him to ask any experienced fishing skipper in those waters if he would not prefer to have the Japanese maps and sounding charts in preference to those obtained by the belated efforts of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey.

In my mind there is no question but that the same pro-Japanese influences which existed in this country prior to Pearl Harbor still exist, although they have temporarily gone underground. I believe the investigation of Japanese activity during these many years in our country will

bring out a number of startling revelations which will materially assist us in the prosecution of the present war.

Mme. Chiang Kai-shek quoted a Chinese proverb in her recent address to this House: "Know thyself; know thy enemy." I do not believe that either the American people, the members of Congress, or even the military authorities can fully understand the Japanese conflict in all its aspects without knowing more fully what has been the history of prewar infiltration and propagandizing in this country.

If we fully study and analyze their mode of second-front activity in this country, we will better be able to conduct the present war to a successful and speedy conclusion. Armed with this information, we will realize the necessity for diverting a greater portion of our military might to the war in the Pacific before they have been able to consolidate the vast industrial and economic empire they have recently taken over.

Even a dilettante student of history knows Japan although nominally one of our allies in World War No. 1, did practically nothing for the common cause in that conflict. They did manage, however, to take Tsingtao from the Germans, which they afterward retained along with the mandated isles which they fortified strongly in abrogation of their solemn trust and which we must now reckon with in the war of the Pacific.

By building up previous to the first World War a great stock pile of materials which they lacked, they also managed to grab a great part of world trade. In truth, the greatest factor in the modern economic development of Japan was the first World War. Japan felt no obligation to her allies in that war any more than she has given us any reason in World War No. 2 to believe she will assist Germany unless such help coincide with her own nefarious purposes. However, in the event Germany seems about to succumb to weight of combined Allied military might, may we not expect that

she will attempt a diversion to save her own skin?

I submit, gentlemen, in view of what has already transpired in the past and future eventualities we may anticipate, this investigation is an urgent and immediate necessity.

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