

THE Pacific Citizen

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Message from the Secretary

TO MY FELLOW JAEL MEMBERS:

by Mike M. Masaoka

War has finally struck our shores. Today, we are battling a most ruthless and rapacious enemy. Although we have not, at this writing at least, been subjected to the awfulness of actual bombardment or invasion, most of us have felt the terrible impact of war and its implications.

Most of us have experienced a lifetime of anxiety and fear, of doubt and horror. Most of us have grown old and tired, in the past ten days, trying to fight an unknown yet apparent quantity.

We know that we are in a war, but we are confused as to what and how we can do anything to protect our rights and those of our parents.

We are afraid of the future and what it holds in store for us. Man's inhumanities to man frighten and cloud our vision.

In times like these, it seems almost futile and naive to speak of Christmas, and yet, perhaps, from the holiday spirit which insists upon permeating the air, we can glean some hope and cheer to light our dark and dreary day.

True, this will be a Christmas unlike any which we have ever experienced. We must be prepared to go without gifts and even cards from those we love. We must not even expect them. We must forego our usual festivities and feasts.

We must give up our plans for happy homcomings and caroling. In short, we must sacrifice most of those gaudy things which we have come to associate with the anniversary of the birth of the Christ.

But we have many things for which we can and must be thankful. Among those are the privilege of being an American citizen and the fair and courteous treatment which we have received thus far in this emergency.

When we consider the method and means of declaring war employed by the Imperial Japanese government against ours, and the fact that most of our parents are subjects of the enemy government, not to mention the matter of our physical characteristics, we ought to be very happy that other Americans did not rise and do us violence.

The local, state, and federal agents and officials have been more than fair and tolerant in their treatment relative to us and our parents.

Too much credit cannot be given our friends who publically and voluntarily issued pleas for calmness and justice. They are typical of the best type of American citizen whom we ought to try to emulate during these trying times.

There is no question that most of us have been subjected to many inconveniences and even hardships because of the suddenness of the attack upon Hawaii, but we must remember that most of these things will be ironed out in due time by our government.

Let us be patient and calm, knowing that our government will deal with all of these problems which plague us to the best of its ability and as soon as possible.

Let us trust that every decision will be tempered with the same justice & fair play which has characterized every action of our government authorities.

Moreover, when we permit ourselves to feel sorry for ourselves, let us pause and imagine what our lot would have been in any other country save these United States. Let that thought reassure us in the wonders of this unique American way.

Messages and reports from many chapters associated with us in this great organization prove beyond all doubt that we can take it and dish it out; that we are doing everything possible in the proper way to obtain clarification of our position and that of our parents; that we have won by our actions the confidence & goodwill of every community.

The National Board extends its best wishes for a Merry Christmas & a New Year which will see the triumph of peace and democracy in a world gone mad.

The cheering knowledge that we are all doing our best to serve our country is the best Christmas gift we can receive.

A Merry American Christmas! And, in the words of Tiny Tim: "God Bless Us, Everyone!"

CHRISTMAS EDITION. . . .

Due to the war, the Christmas edition will not be published on schedule.

To alleviate the situation of areas not covered by Japanese newspapers, the Pacific Citizen will appear in mimeograph.

Cooperation of chapters will be needed to distribute the copies.

Advertisements and greetings secured for the Christmas edition will be held pending developments.

AT YOUR SERVICE. . .

To serve constantly, National Headquarters is now open on a twenty-four hour a day basis, every day in the week, for the duration of this emergency. If at any time your chapter needs advice and counsel, do not hesitate to call on the National officers.

The phone number is Walnut 0744, San Francisco, Calif. If unable to reach headquarters immediately, do not become alarmed. Leave your call with the operator and the headquarters will call back as soon as possible.

Members are requested not to call individually but to contact their chapter officers, who in turn will decide whether the problem demands national attention or not.

CHINS UP. . .

Any battle is half lost if its fighters lose heart. We must all maintain steady faith in justice.

A courageous stand will take us safely through this difficult period. Let us not forget the coming holiday season.

Chins up! Merry Christmas!

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. . .

In connection with the arrests of a number of Japanese nationals in the United States and in the Hawaiian Islands, Attorney General Francis Biddle announced:

"There are in the United States many persons of Japanese extraction whose loyalty to this country, even in the present emergency, is unquestioned. It would, therefore, be a serious mistake to take any action against these people.

"State and local authorities are urged to take no direct action against Japanese in their communities, but should consult with representatives of the Department of Justice."

The Attorney General also reiterated that the Department of Justice would afford full protection for these loyal Japanese residents, citizens and aliens all who are in the United States.

TRAVEL PERMITTED. . .

Nisei citizens may now travel by any public conveyance to any point in the continental United States, if their citizenship can be proven, according to latest rulings from Washington, D.C.

PRESSING NEED. . .

The immediate pressing need of national JAACL headquarters is money to carry on measures necessitated by the present emergency.

All chapters owing assessments to national headquarters are urged to pay them at once. Donations and voluntary contributions are also needed.

At present the cost of contacting public officials through personal telephone calls, many to distant points, as well as postage required to reach chapters and the public-at-large is fast depleting the headquarters' funds.

Much of the labor is being furnished through the cooperation of workers who are donating freely of time and labor.

Mike Masaoka, national secretary, will make a trip to Washington, D.C., to confer with officials and present the case of Japanese in America. In order to make such a trip possible, more funds must be available immediately.

National Headquarters is working day and night to clarify the position of members as American citizens, willing and able to share responsibility in this crisis.

The office is attempting to ease the position in which Issei have found themselves through no fault of their own.

Daily contacts are maintained with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Department of Treasury, as well as friends in Washington, D. C., in order to keep up with daily developments.

Have confidence in your national headquarters and in your national officers... They are doing everything which is humanly possible in this crisis.

FOOD STORES RE-OPEN. . .

From the Federal Reserve Bank, the following ruling was relayed from Washington:

"Under General License No. 77, Japanese nationals engaged in the business of producing, marketing or distributing food or agricultural products may with minor exceptions, engage in all transactions, incident to the normal conduct of such business. However, under the license a Japanese national cannot withdraw from his accounts during any one week for such enterprises sums in excess of his average weekly withdrawals during the last 6 months.

Moreover, the license covers only Japanese nationals who were previously licensed under General License No. 68. This action is intended to permit the orderly movement of fresh vegetables and other food in areas such as the Pacific Coast in order to supply the needs of our civilian population and military forces."

PIN DISTRIBUTION . . .

Suggestions have reached national headquarters asking for the distribution of suitable pins among members, denoting the patriotism of the Nisei.

Plans of the NCDC at its San Mateo meeting for use of the "We Also Serve" pins originated by the SCDC, are being expanded by plans of the national office.

As soon as priority rights are cleared by the manufacturer, the committee leader Teiko Ishida is ready to distribute these pins in northern California.

PUBLIC RELATIONS . . .

John Yoshino, national public relations director, detailed a plan already in operation in Alameda. Committees to be formed to coordinate the defense efforts of the chapter include: financial, legal, civilian defense, social welfare and information bureau.

Through this method, the JACL hopes to serve as the clearing house for welfare and defense work in the community.

Immediate attention of chapters must be directed to express appreciation to various officials, newspapers and radio commentators who have stated their confidence in Japanese Americans or have encouraged them.

JACL chapters were advised to contact churches, schools, service clubs, social welfare agencies to counsel action.

BLACKOUT AT ONCE . . .

Because it may be impractical to turn out all lights, especially if the alarm is prolonged and there are children in the family, provisions should be made so that there will be one light-proof room in the house for emergency use.

The darkest room in the house should be chosen. If there is a window, it must be fitted with light-proof material. If dark-colored cloth is used, it must be carefully tested for light leaks.

No lights must leak from around doors.

All skylights must be painted black so that no light will leak through them.

If a candle is used, it must be adequately covered so no light will be reflected through the windows.

Precaution should be taken in the use of gas stoves so that their light won't be visible in window reflections.

Do not build any paper or wood fires during the blackout because the flames & smoke would be seen from the sky.

During blackouts residents must stay inside and away from windows and doors.

Lights must be turned out in all parts of the house not made light-proof.

Alley lights must be extinguished.

Homes should not be left without making sure that every light in the house is out.

BOARD MEETINGS . . .

Every chapter should hold a special board meeting to study conditions in the community. Invite American leaders for suggestions in program discussions.

ACCOUNTS OPENED . . .

Following release from E. H. Foley, Jr., Acting Secretary of Treasury, states:

"1. A general license is hereby granted, authorizing payment out of the blocked account of any national of Japan in the continental United States for the living and personal expenses of such national and his household; provided that the total payments under this general license from all the blocked accounts of any one national shall not exceed \$100 in any one calendar month.

"2. Banks, employers, and other persons making any such payments shall satisfy themselves through affidavits or otherwise that payments out of blocked accounts for living expenses for any one national and his household do not exceed \$100 in any one calendar month."

From the Federal Reserve Bank Foreign Fund Control, circular 196 stated:

"Under General License No. 11-A, any Japanese National in the continental United States may receive up to \$100 per month for living and personal expenses for him and his family.

"This license permits such payments from either the national's bank account or from his employer in the form of wages.

"Banks and employers making such payments are required to make certain that the Japanese national is not drawing more than \$100 under the license. Thus, a Japanese national cannot draw \$100.00 per month in the form of wages and at the same time withdraw \$100 from his bank accounts!"

INSURANCE POLICIES . . .

Latest rulings allow policy holders to draw up to \$100 a month against their policies that have loan values are more than three years old.

Government ruling allows only a total of \$100 to be drawn and if bank accounts and/or wages are received this limit must be maintained.

Most companies make some provision in case of lapse of payment in policies over three years old. Non-payment of premium for recently acquired policies usually cancels them until payments are resumed. Insurance companies cannot accept any premium payments from aliens under prevailing rulings of the Treasury Department. The companies may accept payments from citizen policy holders, as usual.

All contracts are still in effect. In the event of the policy holder's death, if the beneficiary is an alien, the company may withhold payment of the proceeds just as the bank accounts are blocked. There is no danger of contract confiscation.

Alien agents may not transact business until new rulings are issued. Nisei agents may write business only on citizens.

Aliens are generally not covered by any automobile insurance, altho citizens are generally covered.

For the general peace of mind, all Japanese drivers should be extra careful; drive as little as possible.

DO'S

Be patient. Haste may result in unwise action.

Be calm. Hysteria will not solve your problems.

Be confident that right and justice will prevail.

Be alert. These times need instant thinking and action.

Guard against misappropriation of funds. Require a receipt of all those who collect bills. Make sure of their identity before paying.

Carry your identification papers. Nisei should carry their birth certificates and draft registration cards while Issei should have the alien registration card at all times.

Stay off the streets as much as possible. Undue activity on the streets will only attract suspicion and undesirable attention.

Avoid public places. Unless absolutely necessary, Japanese residents should remain at home, especially in evenings.

Volunteer for Civilian Defense, Red Cross and other civic duties. The service of every citizen will be needed in case of an air raid. Prepare for this possibility now.

Volunteer your services for various offices set up in your community to alleviate the situation of residents. There are many duties required in the present emergency and for every duty a willing worker is vitally needed. Idleness is bad for the morale. Keep busy: but usefully busy.

Comply immediately with blackout regulations. Needless to say, carelessness and negligence will result unfavorably toward the Japanese community.

Cooperate in every way to expedite the work of investigating officials. They have been assigned their duties and lack of cooperation upon your part will merely prolong everyone's difficulties.

Know your neighborhood, the nearest fire alarm box and fire hydrant. You should know any places of special danger, such as oil storage, filling stations, lumber yards, etc.

Carry on all conversations in English

GROWERS WARNED.

The bureau of markets of the State Department of Agriculture and the State USDA Defense Board advises Japanese growers of canning tomatoes not to accept any canners' contracts for 1942 until official announcement has been released from Washington D. C. concerning the tomato program for this coming year in the state of California.

The national JACL headquarters urges the utmost cooperation with the federal and state departments of agriculture in their programs, to maintain farm production in the present emergency.

DON'T assemble in large meetings; that only brings public attention of an undesirable sort.

DON'TS

Don't spread rumors. Unconfirmed reports are rampant and the ally of the enemy. Discretion should be observed in all conversations.

Don't carry any firearms or cameras. Register hunting equipment with the police and if necessary, turn them in for safe-keeping.

Don't carry knives or any other implements which may be regarded as a weapon. Children should not be permitted to carry pocket knives. Mere possession of cameras is not subject to prosecution but their use is discouraged.

Don't take a bellicose attitude and walk around with a chip on your shoulder.

Don't listen to shortwave broadcasts. Voluntary measures should be taken to remove the shortwave mechanism from all Japanese owned radio sets. This is not a compulsory measure, but it would help to serve as one expression of our undivided allegiance to our country.

Don't feel sorry for yourself. The misery spreading through the world isn't going to be remedied by self-pity. Roll up your sleeves and go to work.

Don't let us down. The attitude of the public depends on your action. This is the testing time. America too needs every man doing his job to defeat the foe.

LETTERS OF CONFIDENCE

Government officials have expressed their confidence in the loyalty of American citizens of Japanese ancestry.

From Captain J. W. Gates, public relations officer of the Twelfth Naval District, national headquarters received the following letter:

"Rear Admiral J.W. Greenslade, U.S.N., has directed me to acknowledge receipt of your gracious telegram.

"It is indeed gratifying to the Admiral and the officers at headquarters to receive such expressions of loyalty from the Japanese American Citizens League.

"In the early stages of this present international conflict, there may be mistakes made by unthinking people who do not differentiate between Americans of Japanese ancestry, and Japanese who are aliens. Such errors are unfortunate, but it has been the Commandant's observation that the situation rights itself automatically.

"It rights itself through the demonstration, by loyal Japanese Americans, that this country is welded together by a greater force than common ancestry; that it is united through the common devotion of its citizens to principles of liberty, justice, and equality. And it may be noted that many young men of Japanese origin are demonstrating their loyalty in the military service of the United States.

"In these trying times, it is essential that all Americans give their unqualified loyal support to the policies of the President of the United States of America."