

BIDDLE URGES INDUSTRY TO RETAIN ALIENS

Discrimination Would Give Axis Chance to Foster Disunity Over America, Says Attorney-General

By United Press.

WASHINGTON, Saturday, Dec. 27.—Fears of espionage and fifth-

column activity on the West Coast

led Attorney - General Francis

Biddle tonight to order Japanese,

German and Italian aliens living in

seven states to surrender all short-

wave radios and cameras to local

police before 11 p. m. Monday.

Simultaneously, Biddle moved to

prevent the Axis from using racial

prejudice to foster disunity in the

nation's polyglot population. He

asked private industry to avoid dis-

crimination against aliens who are

employed or seeking employment.

Barring aliens from private em-

ployment, Biddle said, was "short-

sighted, wasteful and un-Amer-

ican." He said he was "sorry" to

report that there had been numer-

ous incidents brought to his atten-

tion where employers discharged

workers because of some "vague

suspicion" that they might be dis-

loyal.

Other employers, Biddle said, had

discharged workers because of "for-

oreign-sounding names."

"I should like to remind such

employes," added Biddle, "that of

our total noncitizen population of

about 5,000,000, fewer than 3,000

—six out of 10,000—have been re-

garded as dangerous to the peace

and safety of the United States.

Those have been taken into custody

by federal authorities."

Many Sons in Services

Biddle said he also would like

to remind such employers that

"many of the 'foreigners' they have

discharged now have sons serving

in our Army and Navy. Among

those who died fighting off the

treacherous attacks upon Pearl

Harbor and the Philippines were

men named Wagner, Peterson,

Monzo, Rossini, Mueller and Ras-

mussen."

The order for surrender of short-

wave radios and cameras followed

protests by the Army that un-

authorized radio messages were

being sent and received on the

West Coast.

A similar order will be promul-

gated for the entire nation next

week. The initial order affects the

Ninth Corps Area states—Califor-

nia, Washington, Oregon, Montana,

Idaho, Utah and Nevada.

Officials expected the order

would result in considerable con-

fusion but explained there was no

time to plan an orderly surrender

of this equipment. Authority for

the order was vested in the attor-

ney-general in proclamations issued

December 7-8 by President Roose-

velt for regulation of the conduct

of alien enemies.

Internment Provided

Willful failure to surrender the

prohibited articles will result in

their forfeiture and the arrest of

the alien owner for internment in

an Army camp for the duration

of the war.

Biddle defined a short-wave-

radio-receiving set as one capable

of receiving signals on frequencies

of 1,750 or more kilocycles, or 540

or less kilocycles.

The regulations prohibit posses-

sion by alien enemies of long-wave,

or standard band, receiving sets to

which a short-wave band is at-

tached, unless the set has been al-

tered to prevent reception of short-

wave communications.

Exempted from the camera order

are studio cameras or other "fixed"

cameras, not easily transportable.

Aliens possessing such equipment

must register it with local police

and must not use it in any manner

until authorized to do so by the

United States attorney of the dis-

trict concerned. This exemption

eventually would permit portrait

studios operated by aliens to obtain

permission to continue normal busi-

ness activities.

Police were ordered to issue re-

ceipts for surrendered equipment

and to return it to the owner only

when a letter of authorization was

issued by a United States attorney.

Policy Clarified

Seeking to clarify the policy of

the government and the require-

ments of federal statutes concern-

ing employment of aliens, Biddle

said:

"It is the stated policy of the

federal government that there

shall be no discrimination in the

employment of workers in defense

industries because of race, creed,

color or national origin. As to the

law, there is only one restriction:

In the case of secret, confidential

or restricted government contracts,

and in case of aircraft parts or ac-

cessories, the employer must secure

permission from the federal depart-

ment concerned for the employ-

ment of aliens.

"The War and Navy Depart-

ments have established regular

procedures for handling such appli-

cations and have passed upon thou-

sands of them. It should be noted

that the percentage of cases in

which permission has not been

granted to employ aliens even on

such confidential work is neg-

ligible."

A barrier against employment of

aliens, Biddle said, was the "most

effective method of creating dis-

unity, or breaking faith with

people who have come to America

as a haven of liberty and fair play.

"It is a complete disavowal of

our American institutions, our

freedoms and the principles upon

which our democracy was founded,"

the attorney-general concluded.