

# Here's Something for Japs In U. S. To Write Home About

**H**AVING determined that enemy aliens must be evacuated from certain areas in this country, the authorities, federal and local, seem equally determined to make things as easy as possible for all who must be moved.

Necessarily, there is much disarrangement of their plans in severing the aliens from businesses and vocations in which they have been engaged, some of them for many years. But the authorities, while firm, show no inclination to be harsh.

Every effort is being made to conserve such property and other interests as these aliens may have acquired. They will be paid for all work that may be given them to do while detained. So far as revealed the policy of government looks toward ultimate restoration of everything they now may lawfully possess. Meanwhile nothing of theirs will be destroyed.

For contrast with this, consider what is known of Japan's treatment of American nationals and the lawfully acquired property of Americans in the Far East. It has been ruthlessly destructive in every land invaded by the Japanese. In only one instance has Japan even so much as expressed regret. There was a payment of compensation and a murmur of apology for sinking the U. S. S. Panay. But that was just a bit of diplomatic strategy. Japan was not then ready for war upon the United States.

From the time Japan invaded Manchuria, American losses have been mounting. We hear of no such government functionary in Japan as an alien property custodian. What the Japanese lay hands upon is held to be theirs, whether to keep and use or to raze and ruin.

The Japanese in this country scarcely can fail to note this difference in treatment. However sorry they may feel over enforced dislocation, they should appreciate a policy conservative of their interests.

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## Cross-Town Service

**S**EATTLE'S Municipal Transit Commission doubtless receives innumerable suggestions on how to improve service. Here is another.

A shuttle service across town from Elliott Avenue to Eastlake Avenue, passing the Civic Auditorium, would be a boon to Transit System patrons of the North End, Queen Anne Hill and Magnolia Bluff, eliminating the long ride through the business district to transfer.

Such a line would be particularly serviceable to patrons of events at the Civic Auditorium, to university students resident on Queen Anne Hill, to workers in plants along the south rim of Lake Union and to many others.

The Transit System management might well study this suggestion to determine whether it is practicable.

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## Freezing vs. Adjustment

**T**HE question of whether rents in Seattle should be "frozen" as of April 1 or December 1 last year continues in debate between the price-fixing administration at Washington and the local fair-rent committee. From the viewpoint of those most directly interested, the landlords of Seattle and their tenants, much of the argument is beside the point.

A visiting field agent of the Office of Price Administration insists that the order to freeze as of April 1 is mandatory. Chairman Elliott of the local committee thinks it means that rents of April 1 are to be taken as a basis for adjustment. His committee planned to level rents back to December 1; prevent further raising, and thereafter work out adjustments fair to all concerned.

The issue is plainly between freezing and adjustment. To freeze rents as of any past date and leave them there would remedy no inequities. Rents are always higher in some parts of the city than in others; higher in some buildings than in others.

To freeze rents as of any date would leave out of reckoning all changes in the situation. It would seem as reasonable to cut back and freeze the cost of food and clothing, wage scales and taxes as of some date when they were lower than now. Conditions as they are should be considered in the matter of rents, as in everything else that enters into the cost of living.

If rents as of any date are to be taken, as they should be, to provide basis for adjustment, it doesn't seem to matter much whether federal and local authorities take April 1 and work forward, or take December 1 and work both forward and backward. The point to be reached if possible is a fair rent schedule for now and the immediate future.

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