

CALL FOR GREATER UNITY J.A.C.L. Pledges Full Support to Federal Government

By SABURO KIDO, National President

The fatal words which will spell the doom for the Japanese communities on the Pacific Coast are expected momentarily. There have been sufficient indications to make us expect the worst, and the decision to order evacuation of all Japanese from the coast to the interior may be released through the press even before this message gets to our readers.

We have carried on a good fight, to the best of our ability, to safeguard the welfare of our citizens and to give assurances that the Nisei citizens, in the overwhelming main, are loyal and patriotic Americans. Despite our efforts, however, the tide of public opinion has been too strong, although numerous Caucasian friends have given us splendid support and encouragement. These sympathizers have been truly a pillar of strength for those of us who gradually came to realize what the inevitable outcome was going to be.

Instead of harboring bitterness in our hearts, we are most grateful for the confidence our Caucasian friends have reposed in us in our hour of trial. We will surely demonstrate that their trust in us are fully warranted, and that our Nisei citizens are capable of taking their full share of responsibility in the crucial fight to defeat the enemies of our country at home and abroad.

Our chapters have responded nobly during the past few weeks for the swift execution of our JACL programs, although many in the hinterland areas were slow to realize the gravity of the situation. They thought that only the chapters along the coast line faced difficulties consequent to the war situation. They now know, however, how public sentiment may change overnight, and this situation is going to prevail wherever the Japanese reside today. Our only regret is that we were not able to achieve sooner the organizations we now have perfected.

By hard experience, we have come to realize the strength that lies in unity. Our National Headquarters is giving substance to this unity of efforts. It acts as clearing house for information, as well as the focal point for Americans.

Although we have experienced setbacks in some of our activities, all is not yet lost. Wherever we go, whatever we do, we must keep up our courage. We must determine to endure all privation or persecution without bitterness, without malice, and with a gift of tolerance. We must keep faith in our government and in ourselves. We have the future to look forward to, not only for our own sake, but for our families and for our children.

Undoubtedly the membership of our organization, as well as their friends and parents, will be scattered to the four corners of this nation. The one tie which will bind them together will be the JACL. This means that our organization will have to redouble its efforts.

The need for unity will be now more than ever necessary. The reconstruction work that will have to be carried on requires a national organization to act as spokesman and leader for our Japanese Americans. These citizens cannot afford to roam undirected, leaderless and without a program, in this hour of confusion, misapprehensions, and racial misunderstandings. We must have leadership that is fearless and patriotic, with a true understanding not only of the plight of our citizenry but also of the forces which bring about such a situation.

The JACL, with its vast membership and unquestioned prestige in the Japanese communities, is the only organization capable of lending such a leadership among the Japanese Americans at this time. The National Headquarters pledges itself to be worthy of the support of our members, and to keep on with its work. We ask our members, in turn, for greater co-operation.

As the only national representative body of loyal Americans of Japanese extraction, the Japanese American Citizens League and its 20,000 members have cooperated and will continue to cooperate wholeheartedly in all matters integral to national security.

Stressing our complete loyalty to the United States, we trust that the classification of Americans of Japanese lineage in the same category as "enemy aliens" was impelled by motives of military necessity and that no racial discrimination is implied.

The facilities of our organization are at the disposal of military and civil authorities and we hope that the evacuation process can be completed with minimum hardships to all concerned. To this end, we hope that the American-born Japanese will be given an opportunity to collaborate in the work and planning of resettlement.

We stand ready to cooperate with our government, but we are wondering where we are to go, how we are to get there, and what we are to do when we reach our ultimate destination. We are vitally concerned as to the specific provisions regarding our evacuation and our resettlement. We trust that our government will treat us as civilian citizens who are voluntarily cooperating in national defense and not as military wards.

The JACL is interested in a positive constructive program of resettlement for the evacuees so that they may continue to contribute on the production lines to the inevitable victory of the democratic forces.

With this purpose in mind, we are instructing the 65 chapters of our organization in 300 communities to call meetings immediately in their localities to discuss methods by which they can correlate their energies and cooperate extensively in the evacuation process.

Mike Masaoka, National JACL Secretary

New Restrictions Designed to Guard Strategic Western Coast Against Dangers of Enemy Espionage - DeWitt

Army Defines Regulations Affecting Japanese Aliens and Nisei; Complete Text of Public Proclamation Released

Headquarters Western Defense Command and Fourth Army, Presidio of San Francisco, California, March 2, 1942

TO: The people within the States of Arizona, California, Oregon, and Washington, and the Public Generally.

Description of Prohibited Zone A-1

Description of Zone A-1. All that portion of military area No. 1 lying westerly and southerly of a certain line extending generally in a southerly and easterly direction from the northern boundary of the United States to the boundary between the states of Arizona and New Mexico, said line being particularly described as follows:

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WEST HALF OF WASHINGTON, OREGON, CALIFORNIA, SOUTHERN ARIZONA DESIGNATED AS MILITARY AREAS

Proclamation Merely Sets Prohibited Region; Future Rulings to Order Gradual Evacuation

Acting under an Executive order directing designated military commanders to prescribe "military areas" from which any and all persons may be excluded, Lieutenant General John L. DeWitt, commanding general of the Western Defense Command and Fourth Army, issued proclamation No. 1 from his headquarters, establishing military area No. 1—encompassing approximately the west half of Washington, Oregon, and California, and the south half of Arizona—from which "such persons or classes of persons as the situation may require will by subsequent proclamation be excluded."

Exhibit 1. (As mentioned in Public Proclamation No. 1) Description of Military Area No. 1. Beginning at the point in the State of Washington where the westerly line of U. S. Highway No. 97 intersects the International Boundary Line between Canada and the United States; thence in a southerly direction along the westerly line of U. S. Highway No. 97 to the point where the same intersects the westerly line, projected, of U. S. Highway No. 10-A near the junction of the Columbia River with the Wenatchee River; thence southerly along the westerly and southerly line of U. S. Highway No. 10-A to the bridge across the Columbia River connecting Wenatchee and East Wenatchee, Washington;

