

PACIFIC CITIZEN



VOL. 16, NO. 2.

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 1943.

Price: Five Cents

Story of the Week

Dies Committee Takes Credit For Japanese Evacuation

WASHINGTON — The Dies committee, in its annual report issued last week, takes credit for the evacuation of persons of Japanese ancestry from the west coast.

Summing up its year's work, the Dies committee (the congressional committee to investigate un-American activities, Martin Dies, chairman) recalled that it had issued a "yellow paper" on Japanese espionage in America.

Concerning this "yellow paper" on Japanese propaganda, the majority report of the Dies committee said:

"A direct result of the committee's report on Japanese subversive activities in this country was the removal of the Japanese population from the vital west coast area."

In a minority report, issued in conjunction with the majority of the report, Representative Jerry Voorhis of California referred to the Dies committee's claim as being responsible for evacuation as "extravagant."

Rep. Voorhis charged that the Dies committee was suppressing evidence of Axis activity in a minority report which was sharply critical of the work of the committee.

Voorhis also said members of the committee were not even given a chance to discuss or amend the annual report. The Californian, a liberal member of the committee, said that the Dies group had refused to publish the most important information in its possession and might persist in its refusal. He indicated that this information concerned operations of pro-Axis organizations in this country.

Although the Dies committee took credit for the publication of its "yellow paper" on Japanese propaganda in its report on its 1942 activities, the "yellow paper" was actually issued in October, 1941. At that time it was attacked on the floor of the House by Rep. Thomas Eliot of Massachusetts, a member of the House liberal bloc, who charged that the "yellow paper" presented no new information and that most of the information had been copied, word for word, from a news-letter issued in Los Angeles and that this news-letter was available for 10 cents.

Congressmen, criticizing the Dies "yellow paper," said that most of its information was available in the public library.

Arkansas Asked To Bar 'Japanese' From Owning Land

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — An eastern Arkansas planter-legislator asked the general assembly Tuesday to prohibit any person of Japanese birth or ancestry from ever owning land in the state.

Senator B. Frank Williams, Osceola, introduced the measure in the upper house, asserting that "on account of the standards of living of the Japanese people, a white person cannot profitably compete with the Japanese—either in agriculture or business."

The measure was referred to committee.

Sen. Wallgren To Investigate Evacuee Camps

Declares 'Disturbing Reports' Received of Relocation Conditions

WASHINGTON — Senator Mon C. Wallgren, D., Wash., announced Wednesday he was beginning an investigation of the relocation program for evacuees of Japanese ancestry in the West, to determine the truth of "disturbing reports" he had received of conditions in the war relocation camps, the Associated Press reported.

The Senator said the reports in question told of trouble brewing among the "internees," incited by Japanese nationals held in the same camp with American-born Japanese. He said if his investigation substantiated the reports he would insist that handling of the relocation program be taken away from the War Relocation Authority and returned to the army.

"I intend to urge the establishment of three classes of 'internment' for the Japanese," he said. "The troublemakers would be strictly segregated and guarded, work camps would be established for those who wished to work and educational camps for others."

Wallgren said considerable thought was being given by members of congress to the question of disenfranchising American-born Japanese.

"The laws of Japan permit dual citizenship," Wallgren said. "We want no citizen in this country who owes allegiance to another country."

Two Women, Shot in New York Tragedy, Reported Recovering

Community Sympathy Extended to Iyenaga Family After Incident

SYLVAN BEACH, N. Y. — Two women of Japanese ancestry who were seriously injured when they were shot on Dec. 23 in the kitchen of their home by a 65-year-old assailant, Joseph O'Toole, were reported to be on the road to recovery.

The women are Mrs. Kenneth Iyenaga and her mother-in-law, Mrs. Toyokichi Iyenaga. Kenneth Iyenaga was killed almost instantly by bullets from O'Toole's gun. Friends of the American Japanese family in this little central New York community were reported to be taking care of the women and the two children of the Iyenaga after the tragedy.

O'Toole gave no reason for the shootings when taken into custody by police. First degree murder charges were filed against him by

California Legislators Open Attack on Nisei Citizenship

Engle-Lowrey Resolutions Ask Congress for Revocation of Rights of Japanese Americans

SACRAMENTO—The first of several proposed legislative attacks against American citizens of Japanese ancestry and alien Japanese was recorded in the California legislature last week, the United Press reported.

Resettlement Officials Open Chicago Talks

CHICAGO — A four-day conference on resettlement problems concerning the individual relocation of loyal evacuees of Japanese ancestry outside the WRA campus was opened in Chicago on Thursday, Jan. 14, by Thomas Holland, chief resettlement officer of the War Relocation Authority.

It was reported that the discussions during the first day of the conference were confined to staff members of the WRA. On Friday, Saturday and Sunday, the meetings will be open and all interested groups and representatives may attend, it was stated.

It was also reported that Elmer Shirrell, former project director at Tule Lake opened the first of several War Relocation Authority employment offices to be established in the Midwest in Chicago last Monday.

It is expected that field representatives of the WRA will also open employment offices at Omaha or Kansas City, Cleveland or Columbia and at Minneapolis. Offices are also open in Salt Lake City and Denver.

George Inagaki of the national headquarters staff of the National Japanese American Citizens League arrived in Chicago this week and proceeded with plans to open a JACL field employment office in Chicago. Inagaki will attend the WRA conference on employment this weekend and will then leave for Washington for conferences with government officials on the resettlement program.

George Rundquist, executive secretary of the Committee on American Japanese Resettlement of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America and the Home Missions Council, was expected to attend the talks in Chicago, as were representatives of other religious and social work organizations concerned with the relocation problem.

Senator Clair Engle of Red Bluff and Assemblyman Lloyd Lowrey of Yolo county joined on two resolutions and two bills to crack down on American-born Japanese, who have been evacuated along with alien Japanese from the west coast area. Assemblyman A. G. Thurman of Colfax also had a joint resolution memorializing congress to restrict all persons of Japanese ancestry.

The measures were among the first introduced on the first actual work day of the new Republican-dominated California legislature on January 6, as the legislators answered newly elected Governor Warren's bidding to consider "first things first."

Seek to Bar Nisei
Senator Engle and Assemblyman Lowrey had two joint resolutions, memorializing congress to amend the federal constitution to bar persons of Japanese descent from citizenship, and to determine the identity and forfeit the citizenship of those holding a dual citizenship in any other country, and prohibiting such citizenship.

"The people of the United States have had brought forcibly to their attention the fact that the constitution confers citizenship upon persons of Japanese descent by virtue solely of birth in the United States, despite the fact that such persons are racially and inherently unassimilable," one resolution declared.

One of the Engle-Lowrey bills would broaden the penalty against both landowners and aliens concerned in sharecropping, leasing, renting or selling land to an alien in violation of the alien land law, which Engle said would end "flagrant violations which have occurred prior to the war."

The other bill would require commercial fishing licenses for all persons engaged in offshore fishing, and require holders to the United States citizens or a person eligible to become a citizen. Identification cards would be required.

Thurman's resolution, introduced at the request of the Placer county grand jury, memorialized Congress to enact adequate legislation to prohibit all persons of Japanese ancestry, both alien and native-born, from owning, enjoying, using or occupying agricultural lands, and to restrict all persons of Japanese ancestry from becoming citizens of the United States.

As these measures were introduced, other members of the state legislature said they had similar measures in the making, or would join in pushing the original proposals.

Senator Engle, former district attorney of Red Bluff, represents Tehama county. Assemblyman Lowrey recently urged the state personnel board to push disbarment proceedings against the state's discharged civil service workers.

First Test Awaited
There was no indication, it was stated, as to what favor the anti-Japanese measures would have, since the first test of legislative sentiment will come in the committees to which the measures will be referred, and the bills have yet to be introduced and referred.

The legislative activity was seen in some quarters as the first step of a concerted campaign by certain California interests to prohibit the return of evacuated Japanese to the state.

Discussing the anti-Japanese (Continued on page 3)

U. S. Court of Appeals Will Review Korematsu, Hirabayashi Test Cases on Evacuation

Justices Will Set En Banc on January 30 to Hear Arguments in San Francisco; Native Sons Suit to Bar Nisei Voters Also Granted Right of Appeal.

SAN FRANCISCO—The United States District Court of Appeals announced Monday it will review the cases of two American-born Japanese now in government relocation centers, testing the legality of evacuation and subsequent military orders. The court will set en banc January 30 in San Francisco.

The test cases to be argued before the U. S. District Court will be those involving Fred T. Korematsu, former east bay ship-

yard worker who has been charged with refusal to leave an area from which persons of Japanese ancestry had been excluded, and Gordon K. Hirabayashi, University of Washington student, who was convicted in federal court of failure to report to a Wartime Civil Control Station and for violation of military curfew regulations.

At the same time the court will hear the suit of John T. Regan, grand secretary of the Native Sons of the Golden West, prohibiting Cameron King, registrar of voters in San Francisco, from according voting rights to American-born Japanese. Regan's suit was thrown out of court by Federal Judge St. Sure last July. His suit has been announced as an attempt by the Native Sons to disenfranchise Americans of Japanese ancestry.

It was stated in San Francisco that approximately seven other cases against American-born Japanese, still pending in Federal courts in California, Oregon and Washington, are said to hinge on the United States District Court of Appeals verdict in the Korematsu and Hirabayashi cases.

Korematsu is at a war relocation center at Topaz, Utah, while Hirabayashi has been in prison in Seattle. The latter case was brought to court as a test of the military orders.

Korematsu is being represented in court by the American Civil Liberties Union, through its counsel, Wayne Collins.

In a brief filed with the U. S. District Court, Collins argued "that aliens here from neutral countries should enjoy greater rights than these unfortunate people (Americans of Japanese ancestry) is unwarranted; that Japanese nationals (those born in Japan) should enjoy rights equal to theirs is indefensible; that alien enemies, nationals of Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy, should possess greater rights, privileges, immunities and liberties in America than those native-born citizens is a disgraceful travesty on justice."

Aged Heart Mountain Resident Faces Trial In Stabbing Case

HEART MOUNTAIN, Wyo. — Gytoku Tokita, 67, will face trial in Cody this week for the stabbing on New Year's day of Taro Suenaga, 55, reports the Heart Mountain Sentinel.

Tokita is now in the custody of Sheriff Blackburn in Cody and is accompanied by Joe Tanaka, warden, acting as interpreter.

Suenaga is reported to be doing well after a transfusion and emergency operation.

The stabbing, according to Police Chief Rosie Matsui, took place when Tokita, allegedly enraged at being nagged on the first day of the year, attacked Suenaga, who was lying in bed in their bachelors' quarters.

The two other occupants of the room, Tsunetaro Tateishi and Kinju Teremoto, did not realize what was happening until too late. The attack took place about 7 p. m., and Tokita, who had run out of the room, was discovered by police at the home of a friend about a half hour later.

Beeson Heads Labor Department at Hunt

HUNT, Idaho — J. G. Beeson, former field investigator for the WRA in Idaho, with headquarters at Boise has been appointed employment officer at the Minidoka Relocation Center.

