

**North African
Boxing Title Won
By Nisei Soldier**

ALGIERS — Marshall Higa, an American soldier of Japanese ancestry, last week won the professional bantamweight championship in the North African Theatre of Operations boxing tournament at St. Eugene Stadium in Algiers before a crowd of 15,000.

Higa, who was one of the Fifth Army's fighters who were given leaves from the front lines in Italy by Gen. Mark Clark, was one of 120 finalists who participated in the week-long tourney.

Americans won 13 out of 16 professional championships against Britons, Spaniards, Arabs, Frenchmen, Canadians and Greeks.

Higa, a native of Hawaii, is one of several well-known Japanese American boxers now serving in Italy. Another is Sgt. Yoshio Nakamura, a lightweight who has fought in the United States and Hawaii.

Nisei Defies Nazis, Saves U.S. Major

Sgt. Hisaoka Braves Snipers' Fire to Rescue Wounded Army Officer in Cassino Battle

The story of a courageous rescue of a U.S. Army major by a Japanese American sergeant on the Italian front is told in a Feb. 29 dispatch by a front-line correspondent, Lynn Heinzerling of the Associated Press, with the U.S. Fifth Army at Cassino.

The soldier is Sgt. Gary Hisaoka, an American of Japanese ancestry from Hilo, Hawaii.

This is Correspondent Heinzerling's story as carried on A. P. wires on Feb. 29:

"The major was lying in the rain on a rocky hillside between Cassino and the Abbey of Monte Cassino.

"Everyone knew he was badly hurt, but the nearest man to him had to cross 18 yards of open ground in the face of German snipers and a German tank which was on the road to the abbey.

"The nearest man happened to be Sgt. Gary Hisaoka, an American of Japanese descent from Hilo, Hawaii, who came into the army directly from the University of Hawaii.

"Hisaoka was almost beside himself with rage at the Ger-

mans, according to the story told today by Lt. Paul Froning of New Bremen, Ohio. Every time he would raise his head to look out at the major a sniper would chip away a rock a few inches from his head.

"The major had gone forward with one of the most advanced units attacking a castle above Cassino and had gone too far over the lip of a gully. Snipers pinned him down there. His head and upper part of his body were protected by a little rock shelter he had piled up, but his legs protruded and he was hit several times on his legs so that he was helpless—unable even to try a desperate dash to safety.

"Hisaoka began digging a shallow trench toward the major, hoping that he would be able to slide through it and drag the major to safety," Froning related.

"Hisaoka had a trench about eight yards long when he suddenly threw down his shovel. There was still ten yards to go.

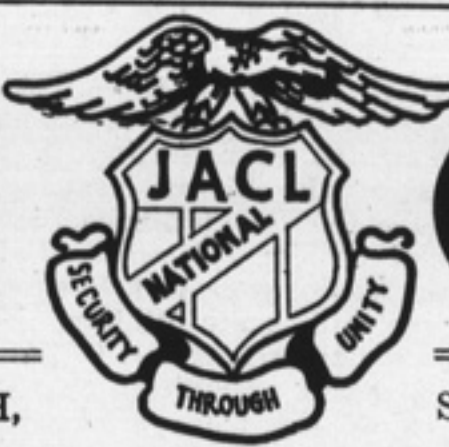
"Hell, I'm going now," the sergeant said. "I'm tired of shoveling. It's getting late and I won't get there till night at this rate."

"Hisaoka crouched down, slid out to the end of his trench, then sprinted across the ten yards intervening to the officer.

"Major," he said. "I'm going to have to drag you in."

"That's all right, boy," the major replied, "get me back any old way."

"Hisaoka then grabbed him by the arms and dragged him across the open space to the trench and saw him placed on a litter. The major is going to be all right after a spell in the hospital. Hisaoka is all right, too. He was away on a short leave today."



PACIFIC CITIZEN

VOL. 18; NO. 9 SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 1944 Price: Five Cents

Japanese Americans First to Storm Cassino

Pvt. Yutaka Nezu, One of War's First Nisei Heroes, Reported Killed in Action in Italy

War Department Announces Names of Two Americans of Japanese Ancestry Killed, Six Others Wounded Recently in Mediterranean Area

WASHINGTON—The death in action of one of the first Japanese American heroes of the fighting in Italy was reported in a War Department announcement on Feb. 29 which listed Pvt. Yutaka Nezu of Honolulu, T. H. as killed in action.

Pvt. Nezu was cited in the first announcement on Oct. 11 that Japanese American troops were fighting on the Italian front. The United Nations radio at Algiers declared on that day that Pvt. Nezu had led a squad of soldiers from the 100th Infantry Battalion into the town of Benevento in Italy and had rescued 22 American paratroopers who had been trapped behind enemy lines. Pvt. Nezu and his squad were among the first Americans to enter Benevento, possession of which had been bitterly contested.

However, Pvt. Nezu wrote to the Honolulu Star Bulletin in December, disclaiming credit for the rescue of the paratroopers. "We did go on that particular mission to rescue them," he wrote, but added that there were no paratroopers to be rescued when they arrived at their destination.

"I don't want to be glorified for things I didn't do," Pvt. Nezu wrote the Honolulu paper. He is presumed to have fallen in action shortly afterward.

The War Department casualty lists this week revealed that two Japanese Americans had been killed in action and six others wounded.

On Feb. 29 the War Department announced that the following two Japanese Americans had been killed in action in the Mediterranean area:

KAWANO, Pvt. Tetsuo—Isomatsu Kawano, father, 251 North King St., Honolulu.

NEZU, Pvt. Yutaka—Toyosaku Nezu, father, Box 154, Waimalo, Honolulu.

On Feb. 28 the War Department announced the names of the following six Japanese Americans wounded in action in the Mediterranean area:

HORIO, Cpl. Masao—Umejiro Horio, father, Kaumana, Hilo, Hawaii.

OKA, Pvt. Harry K.—Mrs. Kasomi Oka, mother, Ewa, Honolulu.

OSHIRO, Pfc. Seio—Miss Evelyn S. Akamine, cousin, 760 Hauoli St., Honolulu.

SUNADA, Pfc. Albert M.—Mrs. Deo S. Sunada, mother, Hanalei, Maui.

YOSHIOKA, Cpl. Kazuso R.—Henry J. Yoshioka, brother, 1456 Kam IV Rd., Honolulu.

YOSHIOKA, Sgt. Ralph H.—Mrs. Alyce S. Yoshioka, wife, 57 North School St., Honolulu 52.

POCATELLO GIRL INDUCTED INTO WAC

POCATELLO, Idaho — Idaho's first nisei volunteer in the WAC, awaiting assignment to Fort Des Moines, Iowa, training center, is Toyome Murakami, 21. A member of the Pocatello JACL, Miss Murakami, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Mura-

Pfc. Bud Tsuyuki Now Member of Parachute Troops

FORT BENNING, Ga.—One of the first Japanese Americans to join the U.S. paratroops is Pfc. Bud Tsuyuki, now in training at the U.S. Army Paratroop School here.

Pfc. Tsuyuki is the second Japanese American to be trained at the paratroops school. The first was Pvt. Junie Kawamura, formerly of Minidoka relocation center, who has made eleven jumps. Pvt. Kawamura is now at Camp Mackall, N.C.

VFW Urges Action To Deport All of Japanese Ancestry

SEATTLE — Post-war deportation of all persons of Japanese ancestry was urged Sunday in a resolution adopted by the Washington department of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Story of the Week

Sgt. Shinogaki Saves Lives Of Buddies; Cited for DSC

Technical Sergeant Calvin K. Shinogaki of the 100th Infantry Battalion has been recommended for the Legion of Merit and the Distinguished Service Cross for his heroic action recently during a night attack on the Cassino front, according to an Associated Press dispatch from Italy.

By crawling through a muddy minefield on his hands and knees and defusing mines with his bare hands after his mine detection equipment had failed, Sergeant Shinogaki prevented what might have been one of the tragic mishaps of the campaign, said the report, and blazed a trail of safety for his company.

The minefield lay in flat terrain between the barracks road which leads to Cassino and a branch of the Saint Elia road which parallels it. The plan called for parallel columns to cross the field and block both roads to secure the right flank of the unit.

Promptly at midnight and under cover of a rolling barrage the columns jumped off into the flat. They had advanced only

a short distance when mines began to go off. The men were floundering in knee deep mud and it was so dark that even the casualties could not be seen. Shinogaki got down on his hands and knees and began to crawl through the mud. Soon he gave a low whistle and the column of men who were crawling single file behind him lay still in the mud. A few moments later Shinogaki whispered over his shoulder, "Okay," and tossed a defused mine to one side. Three times in the next 50 yards the column lay panting in the mud while Shinogaki neutralized the death traps set by the Germans.

The column worked its way out of the flat to a stone wall. The wall, 10 feet high, probably saved many casualties, said the AP report, since the Germans had it bracketed with machine gun fire from flanking points on the slopes above.

Sergeant Shinogaki and his men remained in this position for two days and nights without water and finally withdrew when the effort of the main body to cross the Rapido river failed.

Nisei Infantry Unit Captured San Michele in Night Attack, N. Y. Times Writer Reveals

Full Story of 100th Infantry Battalion Cannot Be Told as Yet, Says Sulzberger; Commanding Officers Have High Praise for "Puka Puka" Boys

The Japanese American 100th Infantry Battalion has won new distinction in twenty-eight days of steady fighting in the bitter battle for Cassino, Cyrus L. Sulzberger, special correspondent for the New York Times Syndicate, reported from the Fifth Army front in Italy on Feb. 28.

"The full story of this battalion and its losses cannot yet be told for various military reasons. It took San Michele in a night attack. It launched the first infantry attack right around Cassino, getting ahead of other units in its enthusiasm. It held the terrible Castle Hill sector," Sulzberger cabled in a dispatch

which praised the courage of the "Puka Puka" battalion, the great majority of whose members are American soldiers of Japanese ancestry from Hawaii.

The Japanese American unit is described by their commander as "the best soldiers I have ever

seen," Sulzberger said, adding:

"The men of this Japanese American battalion have fought with tremendous bravery, sustained stiff casualties and carried heavy loads uncomplainingly. They have said nothing about their suffering in the bitter climate around here. Apparently they feel they are serving in a sort of crusade to make the rest of America understand that they, too, are good and loyal citizens.

"According to their commander, Maj. Casper Clough Jr. of Sauger-ties, N. Y., 'they are showing the rest of the people that they are just as good citizens as the next John Doughboy!'

"Some of the latest periodicals reaching the front indicate an unfortunate amount of the type of patriotism that holds all Japanese citizens should be barred from the United States and that 'the only good Japs are dead ones.'

"The record of the 'Puka Puka' battalion appears to be a good answer to that."

Sulzberger quoted the commander of the Japanese American battalion who said that the nisei troops have already won special Distinguished Service Crosses and Silver Stars.

"They are fine men and I hope America realizes it," the officer said.

(Previous reports from the Fifth Army front have indicated that the Japanese American unit is fighting as part of one of the army's most famous divisions, the 34th, the nucleus of which is made up of national guard units from Iowa and Minnesota.)

Sulzberger said in the dispatch published in the New York Times on Feb. 26 that he had first encountered the "Puka Puka" bat-

(Continued on page 2)

Provo Civic Group Favors Fair Play

Resolution to City Commission Decries Persecution of Nisei

PROVO, Utah—Decrying persecution of Japanese Americans as un-American, unscientific and unnecessary, the Provo Civic League Committee went on record Wednesday as favoring tolerant action in all treatments of the problem.

In a resolution adopted Wednesday, the committee reported they did not believe attempts to exclude Japanese Americans from business opportunities in Utah represented universal public opinion. Discrimination against Japanese Americans is unscientific because there is nothing in anthropology or eugenics to show that one group of people is racially superior or inferior to another, they said.

The resolution stated that discrimination is undemocratic, hence un-American, being directly opposed to the provisions of the constitution.

"It is difficult to understand how Americans can be so enthusiastic about fighting for democracy and decency abroad, and at the same time be so undemocratic at home," they declared.

The resolution added that there is neither a military or social necessity for such discrimination in Utah communities. It noted that the government policy to relocate Japanese Americans so that they will not be greatly concentrated in the area is sound.

No immediate action was taken by the city commission Wednesday on the resolution which grew out of a demand of the AFL in Utah county to bar persons of Japanese ancestry from business enterprises. There are no Japanese Americans in business in Utah county at the present time, and there are no applications for licenses pending.

Mayor Maurice Harding of Provo, however, has indicated that he is wholly in agreement with the resolution urging fair play.

The resolution was signed by Dr. Harold T. Christensen, chairman; Dr. Wesley P. Lloyd, K. E. Wright, Edwin F. Irwin, Odessa Cullumors, Leonore H. Walton and W. H. Callahan.

Utah Professor Discusses Racism at Kiwanis Meeting

The nature of racism in the United States was discussed by Elmer R. Smith of the University of Utah at a meeting of the Salt Lake City Kiwanis club held at the Hotel Utah on Feb. 24.

"The main racial groups feeling the fury of the racial doctrines and racial thinking of the majority at the present time are persons of Negroid, Japanese and Mexican ancestry," said Prof. Smith, "with the Jews taking their share of the sting through such organized groups as those lead by the McWilliams, Gerald L. K. Smith, Father Coughlin and J. Frank Norris.

"At the present moment a wave of intense anti-Japanese American feeling is sweeping over the United States, and especially is this true in the far Western states."

Numerous studies made by anthropologist, sociologists, psychologists, economists and political scientists have shown that Japanese Americans have become thoroughly Americanized in respect to speech, action and thought, said Smith.

"Nothing but the superficial appearance of color and hair and eyes stands in the way of his being accepted as an American. It is that physical difference, unimportant in the eyes of science, all-important in the eyes of society, with the result that he is excluded from the social group he wishes to belong to and is fitted to belong to.

"The young Japanese American viewed from the standpoint of many Anglo-manics is both an alien and a political menace," said Smith. "To be sure, he was born in the United States soil, is thus an American citizen by right of birth, and his brothers and cousins are adding their life's blood on the many fronts for the United Na-

Kent Forum Hears Plea for Fair Treatment of Nisei

Provo Audience Backs Rights of Nisei in Utah

PROVO, Utah—By overwhelming majority vote a studio audience of 200 supported Elmer R. Smith of the University of Utah, Arthur Gaeth, radio commentator, and Ariel Ballif, of Brigham Young University in Provo when they upheld the affirmative in a debate over station KOVO, on Wednesday on the right of Japanese Americans to buy farm land and operate businesses in the state of Utah.

The negative view was presented by C. R. Van Winkle, Spencer Madsen and Jacob Coleman, representing the American Federation of Labor.

Arthur Gaeth asked for a sensible approach to the question of rights of Japanese Americans and charged that personal interests were backing the repudiation of these rights.

Declaring that Japanese Americans are citizens by any definition, Gaeth said that if they are loyal, they should be given all the rights of citizenship.

Smith charged that the philosophy which prompts racial agitation is a "foreign and anti-democratic" philosophy. "To repudiate the rights of any Americans is to repudiate democracy," he declared.

Declaring that selfishness was the basis of anti-Japanese American activity, Ballif charged that business and labor, both profiting by war, had used the Japanese American as a public scapegoat to turn criticism away from themselves.

Arthur Gaeth, in reply to a claim made by Van Winkle that 30,000 Japanese were now resident in the state of Utah, pointed out that actually there are 6,000 now in the state, of whom, he said, only 2,000 can be regarded as competitive. He also pointed out that farmers and businessmen had asked for 1500 to 1800 more Japanese Americans to help in the present manpower shortage.

Northwest Community Split on Question of Return of Evacuees

KENT, Wash. — Residents of the Kent area, who last fall demonstrated against the possible return of any of the 3,000 persons of Japanese ancestry who once lived in the area, proved Sunday night that they held no unanimity of views on the problem, the United Press reported.

Meeting at Kent's Methodist Church for a public discussion of the "Japanese question," about 200 residents aired opinions that ranged from "deport them to an island forever," to "let them come back here as full-fledged Americans," the U. P. said.

Chief speaker was Dr. Frank Williston of the University of Washington's oriental studies department, who warned that "Tokyo's propagandists twist every move we make against the Japanese Americans so that it appears to be anti oriental, then they see that the war-weary Chinese hear about it. By unfair treatment of the Japanese (Americans), we prolong our war in the Pacific."

Dr. Williston further admonished:

"Attacks on the rights of any minority tends to undermine rights of the majority. There is a growing cynicism in regard to the whole democratic process in this nation, and that is the way it began in Germany.

"The thing that happened there is facing us in America today."

Dr. Williston declared that Hitler's persecution of the Jews in Germany was the opening wedge in his seizure of power. One by one, he added, other German minorities lost their rights.

The speaker quoted the former American ambassador to Japan, Joseph C. Grew, as saying that the majority of Japanese Americans are wholly loyal to the United States and cited the splendid service of Japanese American soldiers in the U. S. Army.

"I would not want to penalize these people through blind prejudice," Dr. Williston said. "I believe they should have a square deal. I believe we should have a high regard for the sanctity of American citizenship. This really is my text of the evening."

Dr. Williston was reported to have received a good hand from the audience.

The Associated Press reported that only once during the evening did anti-Japanese sentiment break through, that when the audience loudly applauded reference to signs printed some time ago and stating:

"We don't want any Japs back here, ever."

One woman shouted: "I'll tell you. Let's make a protectorate out of one of those islands in the Pacific and put 'em all there."

"If the Japs had landed on our coast, wouldn't those supposedly loyal American-Japanese be the first to join and aid them?" one man demanded.

Dr. Williston replied that no landing had been made and hence the question would have to remain unanswered.

But, the professor said, he had been advised by naval intelligence officers that it was a loyal Japanese American who tipped them off the day after the Pearl Harbor attack to a dangerous west coast spy. The spy was caught with \$20,000 cash and incriminating papers in his possession, he added.

A boy and girl in the balcony, high school students, argued back and forth heatedly on whether Japanese Americans should be permitted to return to Kent. The boy finally took the girl's telephone number, amid chuckles from the audience, and the girl said "I'll be glad to see you after the meeting!"

Rev. Snyder of the First Methodist church opened the meeting. Roland Lewis, principal of Meridian Grade school, presided.

us ever closer to the political, social and economic hell of fascism against which men of all races, colors and creeds are fighting today."

Hearst Newspapers Attempt To Smear Japanese American Soldiers at Camp Grant

Member of House Committee Says Nisei Orderlies Performing Efficiently; Indicates Difference In Opinion in Findings of Investigators

Martinez Incident Closed, Reports ACLU Newspaper

SAN FRANCISCO — The "Martinez incident," involving the attempt of some neighbors in Martinez, Calif., to oust a Japanese American, Mrs. Horton Terry, and her family from their home, is now closed, the American Civil Liberties Union News reported in its March issue.

"A couple of bad neighbors, coupled with inaccurate newspaper reporting, led to stories that Mrs. Terry, a nisei married to a Caucasian, had been run out of town. But she is still there, although at a different location. Because her landlord had been so very cooperative during her brief difficulties, Mrs. Terry moved in with her husband's relatives in Martinez when the house she occupied was sold," the ACLU publication stated.

Sentinel Says Sen. Robertson In Undemocratic

Heart Mountain Paper Raps Wyoming Senator For Public Statements

HEART MOUNTAIN, Wyo. — The Heart Mountain Sentinel last week charged that Senator E. V. Robertson of Wyoming and Earl Best, former assistant steward, were persons of foreign birth "who apparently are unwilling to help preserve the fundamentals of democracy."

Earl Best, who was recently charged with forgery and illegal entry was a star witness at the Dies investigation of WRA centers last year.

Robertson, according to the editorial, read into the Senate record false information originally made by Best, and in a recent interview "suggested he would like to see the deportation of native-born Americans."

"It is bad enough to be kicked around by our own native born Americans, but it seems the height of something or other to be kicked around by persons of foreign birth like Best and Robertson," said the Sentinel.

Of Robertson's desire for deportation of Japanese Americans the Sentinel said: "It seems to us that this is dangerously close to a violation of his oath to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.

"The matter of a foreign-born politician having the effrontery to think of circumventing the-Constitution is bitter gall."

Chicago Sun Sees Economic Basis for Anti-Evacuee Feeling

Suggests Blinded Nisei Soldier May Be "Useful Witness" for Committees

CHICAGO — "Economic Rivalries in California have helped create antagonism against Japanese-descended groups, and the Hearst press has done its best to inflame this hate," the Chicago Sun declared in an editorial on Feb. 15.

The editorial, "A Useful Witness," suggested that "someone with a sense of justice ought to arrange for Pfc. Yoshinao Omiya, whose eyes were blown out in Italy, to appear before the congressional committee where honorable gentlemen from the west coast states are heating up the atmosphere with demands for legislation expediting deportation of American citizens of Japanese ancestry."

"Disclosure of atrocities com-

WASHINGTON — A Hearst-publicized smear attack upon American soldiers of Japanese ancestry was exposed in Washington this week.

A dispatch filed by Ray Richards, Hearst representative in Washington, and published in Hearst newspapers of Sunday, Feb. 27, quoted Rep. J. Parnell Thomas, New Jersey Republican and member of the Dies committee, as demanding the removal of 126 soldiers of Japanese ancestry from the Camp Grant Military Hospital near Rockford, Ill.

Richards reported that Thomas had transmitted to Gen. George C. Marshall, chief of staff, a House Military Affairs committee investigators' report accusing Japanese Americans of arrogance toward Caucasian soldier-patients to attempted familiarity with Caucasian nurses.

According to the Hearst dispatch, the report cited instances in which the Japanese Americans, "for no apparent reason, have been advanced in rating beyond Caucasian soldiers performing the same tasks."

"The evidence shows the Japanese Americans on the hospital staff are being coddled and promoted over the heads of Caucasian soldiers there by the War Department branch of the so-called White House palace guard," Thomas said.

When newspapers sought to check the Hearst story, an Associated Press correspondent in Washington filed a dispatch which reported that the House committee had conducted an investigation into the activities of the Japanese American orderlies at the Camp Grant hospital. However, the A. P. report stated that one member of the House Military Affairs committee "who asked that his name no be used" had said that "there was a difference of opinion on the committee as to the findings."

"This member said there was evidence that the Japanese Americans were performing their duties efficiently but were being promoted in rank because they were kept on the job, while other orderlies of the Medical Corps were shifted to other assignments," the A. P. story added.

The Associated Press report said that "some dissension" arose as a result of this situation, according to the congressman. The A. P. quoted the congressman as questioning whether the complaints would be regarded as justified by the War Department.

Rep. Thomas has been a bitter critic of the administration and of its handling of the relocation of Japanese American evacuees. He has constantly urged restrictive treatment of persons of Japanese ancestry in the United States.

mitted by subjects of the Son of Heaven cannot make Pfc. Omiya's sacrifice any less real," the Sun added.

The Sun noted that "Attorney General Biddle, in an effort to stave off more extreme action, has proposed a bill to require an oath of allegiance from suspected Japanese Americans. The laws already allow Federal Court action to deport disloyal immigrants. Many internees at Tule Lake, Calif., who have frankly deplored their preference for Japan, are now awaiting deportation — and certainly should be returned to Tokyo at the earliest possible moment. But this is not enough for the Westerners."

"The sightless eyes of Yoshinao Omiya might help to persuade some thoughtless congressmen that vindictive legislation against a small minority would be unworthy of America," the Sun concluded.

PACIFIC CITIZEN

Official Publication of the
Japanese American Citizens League

National Headquarters: 413-15 Beason Building, 25 East Second South Street, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Editorial and Business Office: 415 Beason Building. Phone 5-6501

Other National JACL Offices in Chicago, New York and Denver.

Subscription Rates: JACL members, \$2.00 year. Non-members, \$2.50 year.

Entered as second class matter in the post office at Salt Lake City, Utah. Published weekly, under the act of March 8, 1879.

LARRY TAJIRI EDITOR

EDITORIALS:

Action By Congress

The House of Representatives last week, by a vote of 82 to 76, rejected the Leroy Johnson bill, under which any statement construed as disloyal and made at any time by an American citizen would prove sufficient cause for his denationalization and deportation.

Refusal of the House to be stampeded into voting for this measure, which was heavily pushed by the West Coast congressional bloc, is a heartening sign. The Johnson bill was aimed directly at Japanese Americans, but it might at any time have turned into a legal method of denationalizing and deporting any citizen upon the discretion or prejudice of officials in charge.

The bill was fraught with dangerous implications, and if passed, would have proved a menace to the civil liberties of all American citizens.

The substitute bill, which passed by a vote of 111 to 23, is eminently more fair in method and application. Under its terms a native born citizen can renounce his citizenship in time of war with the sanction of the Attorney General. Specific forms will be provided and the process of denationalization will be voluntary.

The Sleepy Lagoon Case

In the opinion of the Sleepy Lagoon Defense Committee of Los Angeles one of the most significant contributions it has received is the sum of \$10.00 which was sent recently from the Manzanar relocation center.

The now-celebrated Sleepy Lagoon case involves one of the gravest miscarriages of justice in California history. It is a sorry tale of racist prejudice on the part of police and judicial officials. Two years ago seventeen Americans of Mexican ancestry in Los Angeles were convicted of murder on circumstantial evidence and were railroaded to long terms at San Quentin penitentiary. It is evident now that these young teen-age Mexican Americans were falsely convicted, that race prejudice on the part of public officials was a major factor. The Sleepy Lagoon case exemplifies a type of dangerous racist attitude held by many police and public officials in Los Angeles, a type of attitude which contributed to the so-called "zoot suit" riot in that city last year.

Carey McWilliams, Los Angeles attorney and authority on race relations, heads the Sleepy Lagoon Defense Committee which is making a determined effort to rectify the injustice which has resulted in the placing of innocent Americans in prison. To this committee recently came the donation from other teen-age young Americans who are victims of a similar type of racist thinking. These contributors were 12th grade students of the high school at the Manzanar relocation center. These nisei students had been taking up the study of the problems of minority groups in their social studies and had come across a pamphlet explaining the Sleepy Lagoon case. Their response was immediate. They spontaneously collected their nickles and pennies, and perhaps it isn't necessary to note that these are scarce around a relocation center.

The young Japanese Americans of Manzanar high school are showing that they are not self-centered in their consideration of minority problems. It is a lesson, in fact, that Japanese Americans generally have learned through experience, the lesson that their problems are inextricably bound with those of other minorities.

Fact Versus Fiction

The recent squabble in Salt Lake City over the matter of business licenses for Americans of Japanese ancestry has occasioned a good deal of public talk and debate.

It seems strange that serious debate can be held on the subject of whether or not American citizens are entitled to the rights of American citizenship. The negative viewpoint is so thoroughly untenable a position that to give it hearing gives it undeserved credibility and worth. It is like giving serious hearing to the question of the value of the Bill of Rights.

But in times like these, when illogical thinking, fantasy and hysteria guide a large part of the "thinking" on the Japanese American problem, it is necessary to combat this hysteria with the facts.

And it is with facts, strongly contrasted with the fiction of the race-baiters, that Japanese Americans and their supporters have been countering this propaganda.

The radio forum on KOVO Wednesday night was typical of the type of thinking engendering race hatred and the type of thinking that will eventually defeat it.

The AFL representative made many charges, interlaced with rampant emotional appeals against the "Jap invasion" of Utah. One speaker charged that 30,000 Japanese Americans have come into the state. Another declared that "Japs" were flooding the schools, apparently referring to Brigham Young University. One speaker declared that while other Americans were fighting in the army, Japanese Americans were not subject to the draft.

The facts in the case, as told by Arthur Goeth, Elmer Smith and Ariel Ballif, were these: 6,000 Japanese Americans have settled in Utah, and the area is now closed for any further resettlement. Brigham Young University has been "flooded" with exactly 15 Japanese American students, of whom several are subject to imminent call by the draft. And certainly we know that 10,000 Japanese Americans are in the army.

Nisei will do well to remember, in the midst of these verbal forays, that it is only a small segment of the population that attempts to stir up race antagonism. Certainly in Salt Lake City the AFL has shown it has little support. Their attack is an attack not even by labor, but by a small segment of labor. The CIO has steadfastly retained its position on the rights of all minority groups and many AFL members themselves have proven that they disagree with the present tactics of some of its members.

The AFL technique has only nuisance value, but it has a good deal of that. Preposterous though their claims and accusations, they must be answered.

They can be countered, they are being countered with facts. The fiction they dream up is dissipated by the light of clear thinking. And the majority of the people are anxious to be fairminded on the whole problem.

A Promise Kept

Proper recognition must be given the stand of NBC in presenting Ben Kuroki on the Ginny Simms program after attempts were made to bar him from the air. Though the first attempt was successful, NBC later countermanded the ban on Sgt. Kuroki.

When Ginny Simms announced that Sgt. Kuroki would not appear on her broadcast, she expressed her deep regret and promised that she would try to have him appear at a later date.

That promise was kept, and for that, thousands of Japanese Americans are grateful.

A good deal of pressure was undoubtedly brought to bear upon NBC in this matter of banning the nisei soldier from his scheduled radio appearance. We are glad that the network was courageous enough to reverse a former stand and right a former wrong.

We like reading about the boys of the 100th Infantry. We enjoy reading about their amazing bravery, their resourcefulness, their dogged determination.

But we get our biggest kick out of reading of their capture of Hitler's "unconquerable Aryans." And we wonder what happens, then, to the Nazi theory of white supremacy.

We hope that by war's end, these men of the 100th and the 442nd and other Japanese Americans in our fighting forces will have shown their worth to some of the white supremacy crowd at home.

MR. TOJO OF JAPAN

By Taro Yashima



Nisei USA

by LARRY TAJIRI

Fascism Has Many Faces

The first Japanese American to die in the war of the democratic peoples against fascism was Jack Shirai, the New York restaurant worker who became a machine-gunner in the Abraham Lincoln battalion. Jack Shirai was killed in action on a hot summer's day at Brunete and his body is buried on some thirsty hillside in Spain, but the bullet which drilled a hole in his forehead was fascist. Spain was a bloody prologue to global conflict. Spain provided the stage for a dress rehearsal of the wholesale aggressions to come.

Across the world in Manchuria in 1931 and later in Ethiopia there had been other transgressions upon the ragged pattern of peace which had been half-heartedly woven on the loom of collective security. With the gift of hindsight it is not difficult to perceive today that fascism could have been stopped—at Corfu, in Manchuria, Ethiopia and Spain. Fascism, and all that the ugly word connotes, could have been caged, if not thoroughly destroyed, before Liukuochiac in 1937, before Czecho-Slovakia and Poland, and before Pearl Harbor when anti-fascism became the business of the American nation. Perhaps Jack Shirai knew this when he left his job and his girl in New York to fire a machine-gun in far-off Spain. On Christmas Day, 1936, he said as much over the Madrid radio. He said: "I fight for all men of Japanese ancestry who oppose fascism and militarism."

The American volunteers of the Lincoln battalion called Jack Shirai "the man with the laughing heart." He died at Brunete and his body is buried alongside other Americans who died there, Americans with names like Ray Steele, Harry Hynes, Rubin Schechter and Jean Bronstein. Of course, the assistance of these young Americans to the Loyalist cause was wholly unofficial. The democratic powers believed then in non-intervention. There were not enough Shirais, Steeles, Hynes', Schechters and Bronsteins to stem the fascist tide. The plunderers marched on. And on Dec. 7, 1941, Pvt. Torao Migita and thousands of his fellow Americans died at Pearl Harbor.

Fascism is not race, color or creed. Fascism is an idea. It is the very antithesis of democracy. It is the theory of the master race and the enslavement and persecution of all others. It is reaction, armed and on the march. It is the anti-Christ, destroying cathedrals. Fascism believes in the rule of the few and the submission of the many. In Germany it restricted the business licenses of a lesser favored peoples, and segregated them into ghettos. But fascism is not native to any single land, owes fealty to no single flag. It breeds wherever live the germs of intolerance and bigotry. Today Americans of Japanese ancestry like Americans of all

racial extractions, are deeply involved in the war which fascism has spawned. Already more than one hundred Japanese Americans have died on the sanguinary trail from Salerno to Cassino. Unannounced hundreds are in daily action against the Japanese representatives of the new order of total aggression.

But the fascist mind is encountered not alone on foreign battlefronts. There is a war against fascism to be fought at home against the intolerance and prejudice which are its manifestations. Hitler began in the streets and beer halls of Munich with his anti-Semitic poison, and there are those who would make similar scapegoats of the Japanese Americans in the United States. The Nuremberg race laws of the Nazi are no more severe than the Arkansas anti-evacuee law, which forbids forever the ownership of land in the state to any person of Japanese ancestry. And there is the angry minority on the west coast which would exclude Japanese Americans forever, or would deport them en masse to some shell-rocked Pacific island. But the bitter men, whose minds are warped with unreasoning hatred and prejudice, will not win, for those who believe in democracy are beginning to speak out, as they begin to identify the fascist mind at home with the enemy overseas. The bigots are in full voice, but they will be drowned out by the chorus of democracy. Recent events point the way.

The State Senate of Colorado, recognizing the implications behind a move for punitive action against a small group of the state's residents, defeated the anti-alien property bill. An effort to revive the bill through the medium of the initiative is now being fought by a group which represents some of the most vital forces within the state. Members of this group which fights today for racial justice for loyal residents of Japanese ancestry, include legislators and housewives, educators and other professional men, trade union representatives and members of the various racial and religious minorities. And throughout the intermountain area, in the Salt Lake valley and elsewhere, similar groups of citizens have risen to combat those who would flaunt the constitutional rights of a minority. These citizens know that fascism has many faces.

The Japanese Americans have the support of those who believe in and are willing to fight for democracy. But Japanese Americans must also participate in that fight, as American men of Japanese ancestry are already combating the fascist enemy in the Pacific and in Italy. Jack Shirai was the first Japanese American to fight and die in the war against fascism. He is not the last to fight nor the last to die.

Close Quotes

"My job is not glamorous and it's full of miseries."—Lundgren T. Main, supply officer, Heart Mountain.

Letter-Box FROM OUR READERS

Somewhere in Italy

Somewhere in Italy

Dear Mr. Tajiri:
Enclosed herewith \$2.50 for a year's subscription to the Pacific Citizen.

May I add that I like the frank, straight-from-the-shoulder editorials and the columns of Joe Grant Masaoka and Saburo Kido. Mr. Masaoka's article on "Parent Generation Leaves Heritage of Fortitude to Nisei" really hits the spot because it also holds true to our pioneer parents of Hawaii, who played an important part in the progress of the sugar cane and pineapple industry and the growth of Hawaii.

A little more news on things and people of Hawaii will be very much appreciated by the readers of the 100th Infantry.

Staff Sgt. Herbert Ishii
100th Infantry Battalion.

Letter to FDR

Pasadena, California.

Pacific Citizen
Dear Sirs:

We enjoy your paper, which we read every week. We thought you might be interested in a letter we are sending in behalf of restoration of civil rights of west coast Japanese Americans. It follows:

"Dear Mr. President: We wish to call to your attention a critical situation resulting from the reinstatement of selective service for men of Japanese ancestry. The young men naturally feel that as their loyalty and that of their families has been established, their civil rights should be restored. The unjustifiable restrictions on travel to their homes merely because they happen to be on the west coast, their families being left to drag on a mere existence in concentration camps behind barbed wire, are hardly conditions you can expect to be accepted cheerfully by loyal Americans. If we expect these new draftees to have high morale, our government must treat their families as other American families are treated. Also, they should not be segregated nor confined to an infantry unit.

"We live in the home of a superior Japanese family, and would count it a patriotic privilege to turn it over to them at once. One son is a sergeant in the army, and four others will be drafted soon. The father, at Manzanar, wrote recently, 'We have four sons for Selective Service when Uncle Sam calls. We are very proud of it.' The father, a veteran of the last war, and mother and youngest son are trying to relocate in Chicago. They would be just as loyal and as much of a community asset in Pasadena.

"Please believe that many west coast citizens realize that there is no actual reason why the Japanese American should not live here as well as persons of German ancestry. It is about time we practice the democracy for which we profess to fight.

"Yours truly,
Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Klause"

Nisei Students

San Jose, California
For those of us who are "condemned" to gain much of our news from West Coast newspapers the Pacific Citizen comes as a "breath of fresh air." The fine restraint without loss of force or lack of courage that marks most of the articles appearing in the Citizen brings deep satisfaction to those of us who have followed closely these difficult trials of the last years.

Some of us have been teachers of the Nisei and we are very proud of our students. Of course we know that the schools have been only a part of the education of any group. Much credit is given by us to the home training.

Many of our students met the evacuation trials better than their teachers might have done. We are very proud of them.

Clara Hinze.

Letter to the Editor: Nisei and Selective Service

Minidoka Center
Hunt, Idaho

Editor, Pacific Citizen:

Following the announcement of the opening of the Selective Service to the Nisei, during the past month considerable confusion and excitement have become dangerously noticeable in the various WRA centers. Although, certainly, reasonable appeals to proper governmental authorities for a fair, consideration of certain matters are undeniably justifiable, the possibility of poisonously bad publicity which can be maliciously distorted must be carefully weighed. In public statements and in petitions to our federal government, we must emphasize our willingness to serve our country under the selective service, or else, we, as the Nisei, shall have not only failed in meeting this challenge to demonstrate our loyalty as Americans, but further, we shall have jeopardized our entire future in America.

As a member of the evacuee population in a relocation center, it is this writer's firm belief that in this particular situation we Nisei must demonstrate our willingness to assume fully and patriotically the obligations of citizenship before we are in any position to petition for a redress of our grievances. If it is clearly demonstrated that we are eager to assume all the obligations of citizenship, the rights cannot be denied to us. On the other hand, a recital of the hardships and injustices which we may have suffered are not of great concern to the family which has already lost a son or a brother on the atolls of the Pacific or on the European front; but if we can show that we are vitally interested in participating more fully in the war effort by becoming fighting comrade-in-arms, no one can and no one will want to deny equal citizenship rights to equal Americans.

Assuming that agitation is effective to postpone or to obviate the draft for the nisei, which seems improbable, then surely it must be foreseen that none of the rights for which we are now petitioning can ever be granted to us. As inevitably as the rights will follow the obligations, the avoidance of the obligations of citizenship will mean the denial of the rights of citizenship. Moreover, it seems obvious that we are in no position to bargain with the United States Army. It seems clear that the Army authorities have extended the privilege of active service to us upon the basic principles of a democracy, for a mere matter of an additional 5,000 nisei soldiers among an army of 10 or 12 million men is of small military importance.

Admitting that the draft will raise difficult personal and family problems, nevertheless, we shall be failing to keep faith with ourselves, we shall be failing to keep faith with those nisei heroes who fell on the flaming Salerno front, we shall be failing to keep faith with those boys who volunteered with the 442nd Infantry, and we shall be failing to keep faith with America, unless we unequivocally demonstrate our loyalty to our country by our patriotic acceptance of the selective service. In every center, the community will cooperate with our government will be held indicative of our loyalty to America. Therefore, it seems absolutely essential that we, in the centers, must actively clarify the confusion now existing, and positively announce ourselves as a part of America.

MIN YASUI

Legality of Army Evacuation Orders to Be Tested Soon In Appeal of Korematsu Case

By A. L. WIRIN
Special Counsel, JACL

The constitutionality of the military evacuation orders, excluding from the Pacific Coast, American citizens of Japanese ancestry, and directing their internment now awaits decision by the Supreme Court of the United States. These issues are now pending in the Supreme Court with the filing of a petition to review the opinion of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals by Fred Korematsu. The Korematsu case was sponsored and is being carried through the courts by the Northern California Comm.

of the ACLU. Supporting the appeal, in a brief filed as a friend of the court, is the national office of the ACLU.

Although the Supreme Court in the Hirabayashi case merely upheld the curfew orders issued by Gen. DeWitt and expressly avoided passing upon the legality of the exclusion orders, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals summarily upheld the evacuation orders relying upon the Supreme Court views expressed in the Hirabayashi case. In the Circuit Court Judge William Denman criticized the action of the other judges of that court for not considering and passing upon the issues in that case, and for relying solely upon the Supreme Court's general language in the Hirabayashi decision.

In a brief prepared by Wayne M. Collins, counsel for the Northern California ACLU Comm. and countersigned by former Judge Jackson H. Ralston, of Palo Alto, supporting the application for review of the action by the Federal Court of Appeals at San Francisco, it is urged that both the Act of Congress which makes it a crime to violate a military order and the military orders them-

selves as applied to Korematsu, unconstitutionally deprived him of substantially all his rights of national citizenship in the absence of crime upon his part without due process of law, constitute a bill of attainder and effectually imprison and detain him in involuntary servitude.

The exclusion orders are challenged also on the ground that the Congressional Act delegated unlimited legislative powers to the courts, juries and military commanders, as well as delegating unlimited judicial power to military commanders. Also claimed is that Korematsu was deprived of his liberty and property without due process of law, that the evacuation orders inflicted upon Korematsu cruel and unusual punishment, constituting a bill of attainder, violate "his rights to be free from unreasonable searches and seizures," and impose a condition of slavery and involuntary servitude and works a corruption of blood and forfeiture upon him without trial upon the theory of the constructive treason of his remote ancestors.

The noteworthy brief thus con-

From the Frying Pan

By BILL HOSOKAWA

WRA Gains Prestige, Stability from Transfer

Since there has been no news of developments to the contrary, the official explanation that the War Relocation Authority was placed within the Interior Department as an administrative measure seems to be without further significant implications. In thus being absorbed by a department of the government, the WRA gains the prestige and stability of that department, something that was sorely lacking when it was considered just another "New Deal agency run by starry-eyed New Deal bureaucrats."

If certain hostile members of congress hoped to get any satisfaction out of the change, they found none in presidential endorsement of the WRA program, followed by further expression of confidence in the soundness of WRA policies by Secretary of Interior Harold L. Ickes, who it will be recalled, was the first cabinet member to take evacuees into his personal employ.

The entire transaction, if it held a certain gloom over the loss of independence, certainly had a triumphant side to it for Director Dillon Myer. For instead of acceding to the demands of a west coast congressional bloc for Myer's head, the president in effect strengthened Myer's position.

There can be no doubt that Myer is taking his entire political future in an American-like execution of a program regarding which he has deep personal convictions. A lesser man might have permitted discretion to become the better part of his valor, and dropped the directorship of the WRA as a potato of controversy too hot to handle for a man with a political future.

And as an upper bracket civil servant, there are considerable opportunities in government for a man of Mr. Myer's caliber. If, for instance—and we hope

cludes:

"This petition presents constitutional issues of a novel nature and great gravity. The final determination of these questions is a matter of national concern. The rights of national citizenship of the petitioner and 70,000 American citizens and native-born children who have been unfortunate enough through no fault of their own but solely by the accident of birth, to have had ancestors who, for a period of time, were nationals of Japan directly depend upon the final determination of the issues involved herein. Indirectly the rights and liberties of all native-born and naturalized citizens likewise depend on the final settlement of these issues. Whether the Constitution any longer possesses efficacy is at stake herein. Whether this nation may, with truth, be identified as a republican democracy or whether, because of public apathy and indifference, it has surrendered all governmental power to the executive division without a struggle are the fundamental questions this Court must decide. If the question finally were to be resolved against the petitioner the conclusion would necessarily follow that our Courts had ceased to function as the judicial department and had been distorted into an appendage to the executive branch. In such circumstances this Court would no longer be interested in judicial questions but merely in writing the epitaph of a lifeless Constitution. We cannot believe that such is the mission of this Court and the destiny of this Republic."

Supporting the Northern California's petition to the Supreme Court for a review of the case, the National office of the ACLU in a brief countersigned by the following attorneys: Morris M. Grupp, and Clarence E. Rust, of the California Bar; Edwin Borchart, of the Connecticut Bar; Osmond K. Fraenkel, and Arthur Hays, of the New York Bar; and Harold Evans, William Draper Lewis, and Thomas Raeburn White, of the Pennsylvania Bar; of Counsel, urges the Supreme Court to review the case, and to set aside the exclusion orders on the grounds that the military authorities have no power to order the detention of citizens; classification of citizens based solely on ancestry is a denial of due process and is forbidden by the Fifth Amendment; and the exclusion orders constitute a denial of due process because no provision for any hearing was made.

it will remain a very large if—Gov. Earl Warren of California should be nominated by the Republicans as a vice-presidential candidate and the GOP should get into Washington, it is not inconceivable that potent political backers of Warren could put enough pressure on him to undertake some personnel changes in government agencies which would be of significance to Japanese Americans.

We are confident that in any long range evaluation of the evacuation program and its aftermath, the role that the WRA has played in making the best of a sorry situation will be regarded with no little admiration and respect.

The vigor and fidelity with which the WRA has tried to uphold American principles—sometimes with too much consideration toward confused and misguided nisei, in the opinion of the vigorously loyal elements—should be of interest to historians. The WRA's stand, in the light of history, will be of particular significance in the face of the extreme hysteria that has become a part of the west coast's wartime life.

With due consideration for the feelings of Jerome, Ark., residents who must pack up for another trek, we were happy to hear that the first of the WRA's 10 centers will be closed as an unmistakable manifestation of the relocation program's progress.

The interior department's prestige and connections can be expected to help advance relocation by opening up more opportunities.

While it seems inevitable that some sort of reservation—perhaps a high class variety—will have to be maintained for a period after the war to take care of unrelatable, the interior department has indicated through the WRA that loyal aliens and nisei will reside in the centers through choice and not because of compulsion.

Vagaries

On the Air . . .

Radio Tech. Sgt. Ben Kuroki almost missed his chance to appear finally on NBC's Ginny Simms broadcast last week. Sgt. Kuroki had been transferred from the Air Forces Redistribution Center, where the broadcast was originating, to Fresno, Calif. He received his orders in Fresno to go to Santa Monica to make the broadcast which he had been prevented from making on Jan. 25 when radio executives suddenly deemed his appearance "controversial." He left Fresno by train for Los Angeles during the recent storm which swept southern California. Storm conditions held up the train, and there seemed to be no way for him to reach Santa Monica in time for the show. Sgt. Kuroki left the train and went out on the highway and hitchhiked the last 50 miles into town. . . . Incidentally Ben Kuroki, whose role on the broadcast was that of a defender of the prowess of the Liberators against the Flying Fortresses, notes that the Liberators are heavy bombers, and not medium bombers as described in a PC story last week.

Yale Sweater . . .

Quentin Reynolds, noted war correspondent, told a story about a Japanese American soldier in the south Pacific in the CBS "Report to the Nation" program on Feb. 29. This nisei soldier, stationed in the jungle front against Japan, insisted on wearing a white Yale U sweater. A marine correspondent asked why, and the nisei explained that he didn't want to be mistaken for a Jap prisoner . . .

Some Notes for the Nisei: A HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL PEOPLES

By FRED FERTIG

(Note: Rev. Fertig was youth pastor at the Japanese Christian Institute before evacuation, is now associate minister at the interracial church and center—All Peoples—that has taken over the former Japanese property.)

While attending a religious college in Los Angeles I was part of a speaking team composed of a boy from India, a Filipino boy, a Chinese American girl, a Nisei girl, and a Negro boy. We were interracial, international and interdenominational. In the same school there were five other teams available for church speaking engagements on religious and social topics even as we. Yet our group had more invitations out than all the others put together. The other teams were Caucasian—and we were mixed. Why we had the majority of the invitations was, surely, some due to the fact that we were a curiosity to be seen on any platform. Still we concluded that there was a subtler but stronger reason for our popularity and audience reactions seemed well to support our conclusion. Our hearers saw in us a small sample of the Good Society, an ideal become real.

We on the team couldn't help but wish that such a relationship as ours could be made permanent — and that there be a church as cosmopolitan as our team in every city of America, to be the seed for a permanently interracial pattern of American community living. Interracial churches were the thing of the future, and already there were a few notable experiments.

There was the famous Church of the Crossroads in Hawaii, with two or three hundred members of several ancestries and where even the architecture suggested a happy synthesis of Orient and Occident, ancient cultures and modern civilization. Here they were able to both pray and practice: "O Father God, help us to preserve our friendly spirit of Christian Aloha across lines of race and creed among men and women of many lands who have made their homes in these islands. Preserve us from irrational rancors that set group against group, making aliens out of our brothers. And aid us never to lose the vision shining of a Kingdom of Righteousness in which all nations and races shall live together in friendly cooperation under just institution. Grant us renewed faith that the brotherhood we have seen come to pass in our island community can yet become the rule on our shrinking globe. In the end may all the children of men be found in thy Honolulu (Haven of Peace). Amen."

In New York City was the John Haynes Holmes' Community Church, world-wide in its influence. This church was pledged to "freedom of thought and speech; to hospitality to all citizens of the country, without regard to sect, class, nation, or race; and to the usage, without fear or favor, of that spirit of universal love which shall some day bring in upon the earth the ideal society of men." In application of its pledge this church and its prophetic pastor had helped inaugurate the National Association for Advancement of Colored People, was one of the first bodies in the United States to support Gandhi's struggle for freedom for India; is now among the foremost in the fight for rights of Japanese Americans and is a center of continuing respect for Kagawa and the depressed masses of Japan even as other New Yorkers recommend complete annihilation of the Japanese people.

In the congregation of Community Church on any Sunday might be seen representatives of 34 different nationalities, and those who may be Protestant, Catholic, Gentile, Jew, theist or humanist, with a sprinkling of Buddhists, sitting side by side with Columbia University professors, business men, scientists. Among the ushers, musicians and church officials will be found Negroes, and Jews as well as Caucasians.

As we reviewed those successful examples of brotherhood, and joyed in our own fellowship, we saw that Los Angeles — with its large population of poorly adjusted and hardly assimilated Mexicans, Orientals, Negroes and whites — was a place where the need and opportunity for just such a church—or churches—was particularly great. There was already a good beginning in the Church of All Nations. But that was only

a beginning in a huge city with a large poly-racial population.

Well, we now have in Los Angeles a second interracial church, thanks to the evacuation (sic!). When the Japanese Christian Institute was left vacant by the removal of the Japanese the Disciples of Christ owning the property decided that never again would they use it for a mono-racial group. Segregated organizations perpetuate general racial segregation, and segregated churches are definitely un-Christian. Besides, the people living around the former Institute were of numerous ancestries with no one predominating and it would be further dividing the community to set up a new church that like the old would serve one people to the exclusion of the others whose need was as real and whose potential interest was as strong. The area had been interracial for many years and there was little racial trouble between neighbors; or when there was trouble, it would be of the kind that goes on across the back fences in most any town, on either side of the tracks.

The main difficulty in the neighborhood was that which is the principal cultural problem of America. Carey McWilliams ("Common Ground", Autumn 1943) and Ferner Nuhn ("Wind Blew from the East", Harper's book, 1942) had both pointed this out as: America is a young nation, and similar to a child, has its unresolved problems of heart, body and mind. It has received stimuli—ideas, social patterns—from all corners of the earth. It has not yet learned what to make of some of these stimuli, and to other stimuli it has responded — but hesitatingly, sceptical of consequences. We are all relatively new to this land, broader and more resourceful than most from which we came, and we are rather strangers to each other. So the racial and cultural tensions that periodically stir America are not so much deadly antagonisms but products of the clash of our many, many distinct, as yet unrelated, cultural heritages. These tensions though are the sign of growth, even as irritability will accompany the reaching of puberty — hence maturity, of the adolescent child. Some few children cannot stand the emotional demands upon themselves of the period of puberty and commit suicide—and American society might commit suicide unless it recognized this time of cultural conflict and adjustment as normal and necessary to growth and cultural maturity. The best way the adolescent can grow up is to turn his attention away from self and to give himself to social causes. He finds himself and integrates self by that means. That is analogous with cultural America — and with the peoples of several cultures that make up the neighborhood encompassing the new interracial church.

Instead, then of having racial hatred between the racials of our area, what conflict we have had has sprung up from the sense of cultural isolation felt especially by the second-generation youth. Our section of the city figured in the "zoot suit" riots with one of the major gangs — the Clanton Street gang — having its headquarters only a few blocks away. The zoot "uniform" and hair-cut or hair-do was token of an attempt to be culturally acclimated

in a milieu foreign to that of their parents and denied to these children born into but not accepted into the American cultural milieu.

At All Peoples Christian Church and Community Center we seek for consciousness but not self-consciousness about race. We believe that we of varying racial and national descents, of different cultural backgrounds, should take pride in our biological and social heritage; should neither be ashamed or try to deny our origins. In fact, the effort is to take advantage of our mixed inheritance and make and mold a new, more creative life philosophy.

Recent anthropological studies tell us that through interracial marriage, the mixing of bloods creates a "hybrid vigor" in the offspring of such marriage, and this vigor is probably carried over into the fourth or fifth generations. Prof. M. S. Ashley Montagu describes characteristic benefits of miscegenation as: children having increased fertility over that of parents; intelligence equal to that of parents, while sensitivity often greater; the mixed type frequently helps in making better adjustment to changes in physical environment than possible to parents; children often taller than parents. ("Man's Most Dangerous Myth: The Fallacy of Race," Columbia book, 1942).

(It is not that we advocate miscegenation—even as we don't stand against it—that this scientific illustration is used. This is given but to sustain the thesis in the next paragraph.)

Taking a cue from this finding of physical science, we are going on the theory—sustained by history, that by the fusing of the best ideas of differing cultures, even as in the mixing of the best bloods of the great racial groups, there results a vigorous, brilliant culture not to be found in the original, separate cultures. In the United States, like in no other country, is the makings of a new world culture; for the United States has the youth, the natural and human resources, and the democratic will necessary to the venture by which a world culture can be formed. All Peoples is a small yet important testing ground for that larger culture. It is our hope that the newer culture, drawing from the diverse cultures available to us in our community, will be, as with the mixed blood child, more fertile, more adaptable to its environment, more sensitive.

As Luis Quintanilla has said: "Culture is like a symphony: the more instruments the more powerful the orchestra; and the more powerful the orchestra the richer can be the symphony."

Even as each of us will honor our racial stock, whatever it is, and gather wisdom from our parent's culture, we shall not become slave to any particular tradition. For instance, the Chinese Americans among us will oppose Confucian conservatism at the same time they make their own the tolerance and humanity fundamental to Chinese thought. Our Chinese Americans will then add to Chinese tolerance and humanity American (Western) respect for science and practicality. They shall neither be Chinese nor American, of the East or the West, but hybrid, East-West, with a vitality and vision that is not to be found in East alone or West alone but only in both joined together.

Every second visitor to All Peoples wants to know: "But do they get along? Isn't there some prejudice?" The truthful answer is "NO!" Cooperate and honor each other we do in every aspect of the Center's life. The officers of a typical club are: chairman, Chinese American; secretary, Afro-American; treasurer, Armenian American. In a "popularity contest" sponsored by the center's newspaper, awards were given as follows: for smile, a Mexican American girl; for figure, a Chinese-Portuguese-Mexican girl; manners and hair, Chinese American girls; character, Korean; personality, Anglo-Saxon. Our young people do not make these selections consciously, but seem spontaneously to choose whom they

TIMELY TOPICS

By SABURO KIDO

Crucial Test for Nisei at Hand

The crucial test for the Nisei and their entire future is at hand. It is none other than the matter of how the Nisei in the relocation centers and the free zone respond to the draft.

So far there is every indication that the Nisei in the large majority are going to answer the call regardless of what they may feel about the injustice of the evacuation. We are happy that they are going to serve first and then ask for the recognition of their citizenship status and for fair treatment of their loved ones. There have been some misguided souls who have been advocating that the draft calls be ignored unless the demands are met.

The resolutions which have been passed by the various groups in the relocation centers show a healthy sign. They show that the leadership has a sound perspective of the entire Nisei outlook and position. They appreciate that loyalty is not a thing which can be placed on the bargain counter. In other words, treason and sedition are not going to rectify any injustice which may have been committed in the past.

Everyone who was evacuated from the Pacific Coast has suffered mental anguish and material loss. However, that part of our life is past history. Brooding over what has been done is not going to restore us to that pre-war status. Bitterness is a natural reaction. But to warp our judgment without taking a realistic view means that we have lost faith in the United States. For such persons, the denationalization bill now before the Senate may be the only solution.

The stigma placed upon all Nisei through denial of the right of serving in the armed forces had to be eliminated. If this unfavorable status had been continued to the end of the present war, it would have branded us forever as untrustworthy. This opportunity of proving once and for all that ancestry is not the basis of Americanism would have been lost. Future generations of citizens of Japanese ancestry would have had to shoulder the yoke of this stigma, a most unfair burden to pass onto our posterity.

We have to be thankful to the liberal minded generals and officials of the war department. Dillon S. Myer, the church groups and all our friends deserve the thanks of every loyal Nisei for bringing about this change of status.

Are the Nisei going to betray this trust? Friends of the Nisei in California and elsewhere are under terrific pressure constantly because of their courage in fighting for fair-play and recognition of citizenship rights. The conduct of the Nisei in meeting this crucial test will be the answer to the race-baiters on the Pacific Coast and in Congress.

Reinstitution of Draft Presents Opportunity

The reinstitution of the draft is giving the Nisei the opportunity to present their grievances to the government and to the American public. If it is not on a barter basis, such as, "we will not fight for our country unless we get certain demand," every citizen group

feel will best fill the office or meet the popularity test. They do as Ben Franklin told was common sense to Americans: Don't ask what you are, but what you can do.

We are the 100 percent Americans: the legion that is American, the true native sons, the sons for which the American revolution was fought! Who are we? We are Caucasian, Negro, Mongoloid, and of mixed-blood. We come, or our forefathers came, from China, Korea, Mexico, Africa, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, Holland, Germany, Sweden, Syria, Armenia; Portugees-Mexican-Chinese, white-Negro, Spanish-Syrian. We are Wong, Makhonian, Duran, Boone, Park, Madrid, Dispenza, Mahoub, Zubillaga, Genung, Carson. We are, some of us, citizens—second-generation, third-generation, fourth and fifth-generation. We are, others of us, aliens; not because we don't wish to be citizens, but because the Exclusion Act will not allow us to be citizens. But whether we are citizen or alien, we strive to be American — and pray to be Christian. We can be (Continued on page 7)

has the right to present its views. That is the democratic process. We believe the leaders in the relocation centers are displaying true loyalty and foresight in their guidance of the young Nisei, most of whom have not seen the "outside world" for close to two years, ever since they were moved into the assembly centers in the spring of 1942.

Many of the issei parents have been misguided by the Spanish consul who visited the various relocation centers after the Tule Lake strike last November. They were given either the "impression" or "opinion" that those citizens in the relocation centers would not be drafted because their civil rights had been suspended. We do not know what authority the Spanish consul had to meddle into the affairs of citizens, but a great harm has been done.

In the matter of duty and loyalty, every one of us must make his choice. Those who prefer Japan or desire to go with their parents to Japan are supposed to have been moved to Tule Lake. Those in the nine relocation centers are supposed to have made their choice. That is the reason why they are supposed to be in the so-called "loyal centers."

Continue to Fight For Equal Rights

As far as the JACL is concerned, we have favored the reinstitution of the draft. We believe that this is the most important step towards the restoration of all of our rights as American citizens. The Rocky Shimpō, a Japanese newspaper published at Denver, in a recent editorial taunted the JACL for its stand. We do not blame the newspaper for trying to antagonize the readers because the proprietor seems to be under the wholly mistaken impression that the JACL placed him in the internment camp. He does not seem to be able to realize that his pro-Japan articles and policy after the outbreak of the war could not be tolerated by our government.

We are not hesitant about opposing any further segregation policy in the army for the inductees. We believe every soldier should be given the opportunity to decide whether he desires to affiliate himself with the all-Nisei combat team or not. Our membership is divided on this question. Some believe that the 100th Infantry Battalion and the combat team now training at Shelby, Miss., is the best means to prove to fellow Americans that the loyal Nisei are willing to make the supreme sacrifice for their country.

JACL Will Not Be Intimidated

We hope to do our utmost to continue our fight to win all the rights that any American citizen is entitled to. On the other hand, we sincerely believe that every Nisei must be willing to do his share. Unless a citizen retain his faith in his country, he is a lost soul. Violation of laws is not the solution. As the United States Supreme Court has said, one must discharge his duties and obligations first before he can ask for redress from any injustice.

The JACL will continue to advocate policies which it believes are for the best interests of the Nisei's welfare and future. It will speak in behalf of its members, all of whom have taken an unreserved oath of allegiance to the United States. We believe we must keep faith with our members and other Nisei who are so valiantly fighting in the armed forces.

We will not be intimidated by any Japanese newspaper or through unpopularity created through such rantings. The Nisei have been placed under severe strain and test. If they come through as loyal citizens, their status in this country will have been built on a firm foundation. Even a rabid racist as John Lechner has been forced to concede that any Japanese-American recognized as a loyal citizen should be permitted to return even to the Pacific Coast.

The future is in the hands of the Nisei. We believe our actions will demonstrate that our loyalty has not been impaired, even though untold hardships and mental sufferings have been inflicted through the evacuation and life in the relocation centers. Once and for all time to come, the large majority of the Nisei will show where their loyalty lies.

