

PACIFIC CITIZEN



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LARRY TAJIRI

EDITOR

EDITORIALS:

Fighting Intolerance

Victory in the war can be lost at home if seeds of racial hatred and bigotry are permitted to grow within the United States. This warning was delivered by Associate Justice Frank Murphy in San Francisco last Sunday. Justice Murphy, who saw a "melancholy resemblance" between the mass evacuation of persons of Japanese ancestry from the west coast in 1942 and the persecution of Jews in Germany, proposed a six-point program for racial tolerance in his San Francisco address. Although Justice Murphy's remarks were directed specifically against anti-Semitism in his San Francisco address, his suggestions point a way toward mass action to crush intolerance against all minority racial groups.

Here are Justice Murphy's proposals:

1. We can consciously strive to eradicate from our hearts and minds every vestige of racial and religious prejudice and hatred. Let us live the religion we embrace.
2. We can call upon our government to provide full and complete protection of life, liberty, freedom of worship and civil rights for all our inhabitants, whatever may be their distinctions as to birth, color, nationality, language, race or religion.
3. Through our government's and our own behavior, we can guarantee equality of opportunity in law and in fact for all inhabitants.

4. We can respect and guarantee the right of all religious, ethnic and cultural groups to maintain and foster their respective group identities and to engage in their own beliefs and practices so long as the public interest is not adversely affected.

5. We can work toward the realization of full economic security for all the people of the United States, recognizing that man only resorts to acts of intolerance against minority or scapegoat groups of people when he feels his ability to provide a decent livelihood for his family is jeopardized.

6. We can establish, if necessary, appropriate and adequate machinery in every local community to secure protection against the curtailment of our fundamental rights."

Home Front Service

A major opportunity for home-front Japanese Americans to participate actively in the war effort was offered this week as representatives of the civilian personnel section of the Office of the Chief of Ordnance, Army Service Forces, visited several relocation centers to recruit workers for Army ordnance depots at Tooele, Utah, and Sioux, Nebraska.

The ordnance depots produce and handle munitions and other army supplies. It is for this essential work that the army is today asking for a large number of Japanese Americans.

Thousands upon thousands of Nisei, of course, are already in the field of war production, most of which are indirectly connected with the war effort. The present offer, however, is the first major employment opportunity for Japanese Americans to engage actively and directly in war production.

There is no more important work at the present time than the production of munitions. The weapons of war must be turned out as rapidly as possible to back up the strong, forward attacks of the men on the

lines. The devastating drives of the past weeks must be reinforced by a constant flow of weapons and all the materiel of war. All Japanese Americans who are not in the armed forces will want to participate in this work.

Aside from the importance of the work at the Tooele and Sioux army depots, there are also other conveniences which will make this job offer inviting. Both these depots will enroll only family men with the understanding that they will bring their families into the projects. Housing is furnished at extremely reasonable rates that are far below the present housing rates in other war areas.

Schools are established on the projects, as well as stores, shopping facilities, and theaters. The army only asks for stable, settled families who will become an integral part of these war-working communities.

The Road Back

A young American of Japanese ancestry is today back at school where she belongs—in Pasadena, California.

First evacuee to obtain permission from the Western Defense Command to return to California for the purpose of completing her education, Esther Takei this week arrived in Pasadena to enroll at Pasadena Junior College.

All loyal Americans, regardless of their racial derivation, should enjoy the right to travel, live and study where they please in the country of their birth, subject only to such regulations as affect all Americans. That Esther Takei has finally been granted this right is a correct estimate not only of her loyalty but also of the rights and privileges of Japanese Americans.

Certainly the permission granted this Nisei to return to California can be regarded as good omen for the future return of other Japanese Americans to the west coast.

The Western Defense Command, in this case at least, has at long last righted a wrong, a wrong that was marked by the evacuation of 110,000 persons, the disruption of their lives, and the loss of much of their property. Gradually these individual cases are being corrected, insofar as correction is possible.

On Intermariages

Recent figures from Hawaii should confirm certain American citizens whose stock argument against persons of Japanese ancestry in the United States is that the latter are "biologically inassimilable." West coast racists long have maintained that persons of Japanese ancestry in America refused to marry persons not of Japanese parentage. Even General DeWitt in justifying evacuation has repeated the argument of a hard-knit racial bloc which did not encourage the racial assimilation of its members.

The fact that marriages between persons of Japanese ancestry and those of other racial backgrounds were relatively few on the Pacific coast may be traced to a variety of factors, chief of which is the fact that such marriages between persons of Mongolian and Caucasian stocks are barred by law in California, Oregon and most of the other western states. In Hawaii, however, most of these conditions do not exist.

Edward Y. Z. Cheng, acting registrar general of the bureau of vital statistics of the Territory, recently announced that 32 per cent of the marriages contracted in Hawaii during the 1943-44 fiscal year were with persons of different racial backgrounds. During this period there were 1,497 brides and 1,231 grooms of Japanese ancestry. Seventeen per cent of the Japanese American women, or 268, married outside their racial group, marrying 189 Caucasians, 36 Filipinos, 31 part-Hawaiians, seven Koreans and five Hawaiians. Although the number of marriages between Japanese American women and men of Chinese ancestry is not listed in a newspaper article on Mr. Cheng's report, it can be assumed that there were approximately 50 such marriages during the same period.

As for men of Japanese ancestry four per cent were intermarried, ten to Caucasian girls.

Mr. Cheng's report also showed that intermarriages in Hawaii had increased in one year from 22 per cent to 32 per cent.

Nisei USA

by LARRY TAJIRI

The Yellow Peril Falls Flat

Less than two months remain before election day, and the anticipated attempt by political hatemongers to help turn the electoral tide along the Pacific coast by the use of the "Japanese issue" is not developing. The people of the west coast have shown little appetite for racist arguments. The once-effective time-bomb of yellow-perilism is a dud.

Times do change, and along with them the tempers of the people. The specious protestations of the old, old men, the Hearsts and the McClatchys, sound alien today in a nation fighting for the rights of man. It is certainly time for the myth of the Yellow Peril to be relegated to the scrap heap, along with other worn and useless relics of the past.

Practical politicians may have learned in the California primaries last May that the old racist demagoguery was a liability. The first of the rabid racists to fall was the apoplectic Leland Ford, defeated by Will Rogers Jr., in 1942. And this year the ambitious John Costello of Hollywood and Senator Rufus Holman of Oregon, both of whom were loud in their shouting against the Japanese American, have been notified by their electorate that they need not renew their leases in Washington.

It undoubtedly is true that verbal floggings of Japanese Americans may carry some appeal with the brothers and sisters of the Native Sons of the Golden West whose main activity appears to be centered around its so-called Japanese legislation committee, but, on the whole, this type of electioneering seems to evoke an adverse reaction from the majority of the electorate who are no longer frightened by warnings about yellow-skinned bogeys. A large number of politicians, from Louis Wasmer of Spokane, candidate for U. S. Senator, to Lyndon Foster, publisher of a smear sheet in the truck garden belt between Los Angeles and the sea, learned in the primaries that the public was not particularly moved by their threats that the evacuees were coming home.

Perhaps the clearest example of the negligible political value of the Japanese American question was the unsuccessful, though highly publicized, attempt of the Japanese Exclusion Association of Los Angeles to place an initiative measure on the November ballot in California which, in the words of its sponsors, would have permanently prevented the return of the evacuated people of Japanese ancestry by denying to the evacuees the right to make a living. It will be remembered that the campaign for the required 179,000 signatures which would have qualified this initiative for the November ballot was launched with considerable ceremony, news reporters and photographers being on hand, and Sheriff Eugene Biscailuz of Los Angeles signing the first petition. The campaign had the support of the Native Sons and similar groups and was directed by a full-time promoter. The actual business of getting the required signatures was given to a professional firm which specializes in getting signatures for petitions. Meanwhile, luncheons at the Biltmore, to which the lead-clubwomen of Los Angeles were invited, spurred the campaign. Yet the petition mongers failed.

This week in Sacramento the office of Secretary of State Frank M. Jordan officially announced that the initiative measure of the Japanese Exclusion Association had failed to win a place on the ballot. Petitions filed in Sacramento bore only 77,875 signatures, more than 100,000 short of the required number. (A similar initiative will be voted on by the people of Colorado in November. In Colorado the State Senate rejected an anti-alien land bill directed at evacuees of Japanese ancestry, but the proposal was placed on the ballot through initiative petitions in a campaign which was reminiscent in its appeals to hatred of the days when the hooded

Klan rode the highways of the state.)

The organized campaign in California against the evacuees of Japanese ancestry has succeeded in keeping the issue alive in the newspapers and on the air, but it has failed in winning majority acceptance of the racist views of its sponsors. The nature of this campaign, and its sponsorship, including the sources of the funds which have kept it going, would seem to be a subject for a congressional investigating committee. Such an investigation may also provide the answer to the question whether public pressures influenced the evacuation decision. But whether or not such pressures were responsible for evacuation, it has since been demonstrated that an organized campaign, receiving at least a part, if not all, of its impetus from economic competitors of Japanese Americans on the west coast, has fought to insure the continued exclusion of the evacuees. The Army, in whose hands rest the decision for continued wholesale exclusion, has demonstrated in recent weeks that it will have no part of such conniving.

The one California politician who has attempted to make a major issue of the Japanese Americans is Frederick Houser, the lieutenant governor of the State, who is the Republican nominee for United States Senator. Houser has attacked the administration for its "plot" to return the evacuees to California, though he must have known that any such decision rests not with the civil government but with the military. Speaking to the white supremacists of the Native Sons in an Admission Day address last week, Houser referred to the Manzanar relocation center as a "prison camp" and charged that the administration planned to let loose the people of Manzanar and the Tule Lake segregation center at its earliest opportunity. Either Mr. Houser is abysmally ignorant of the facts, or he is tampering with the truth in a desperate appeal for votes.

Houser's pathetic attempt to revive the Yellow Peril is echoed by Clair Engle, Democratic candidate for Congress, whose district includes both the Tule Lake and Manzanar camps. Engle is the author of a deportation bill which was recently introduced in Congress.

But the Housers and the Engles are relatively few, and there is every indication that the composition of the next congressional delegation to Washington from the Pacific coast will include many more men who will approach any question affecting Japanese Americans from the perspective of their belief in liberal government and in the letter and spirit of the Constitution.

These are certainly not days of defeatism for Americans of Japanese ancestry who have remained steadfast in their faith in democracy. They are learning, and the events of the past several weeks at home bear out that knowledge, that democracy will not let them down. The hate mongers have lost in California.

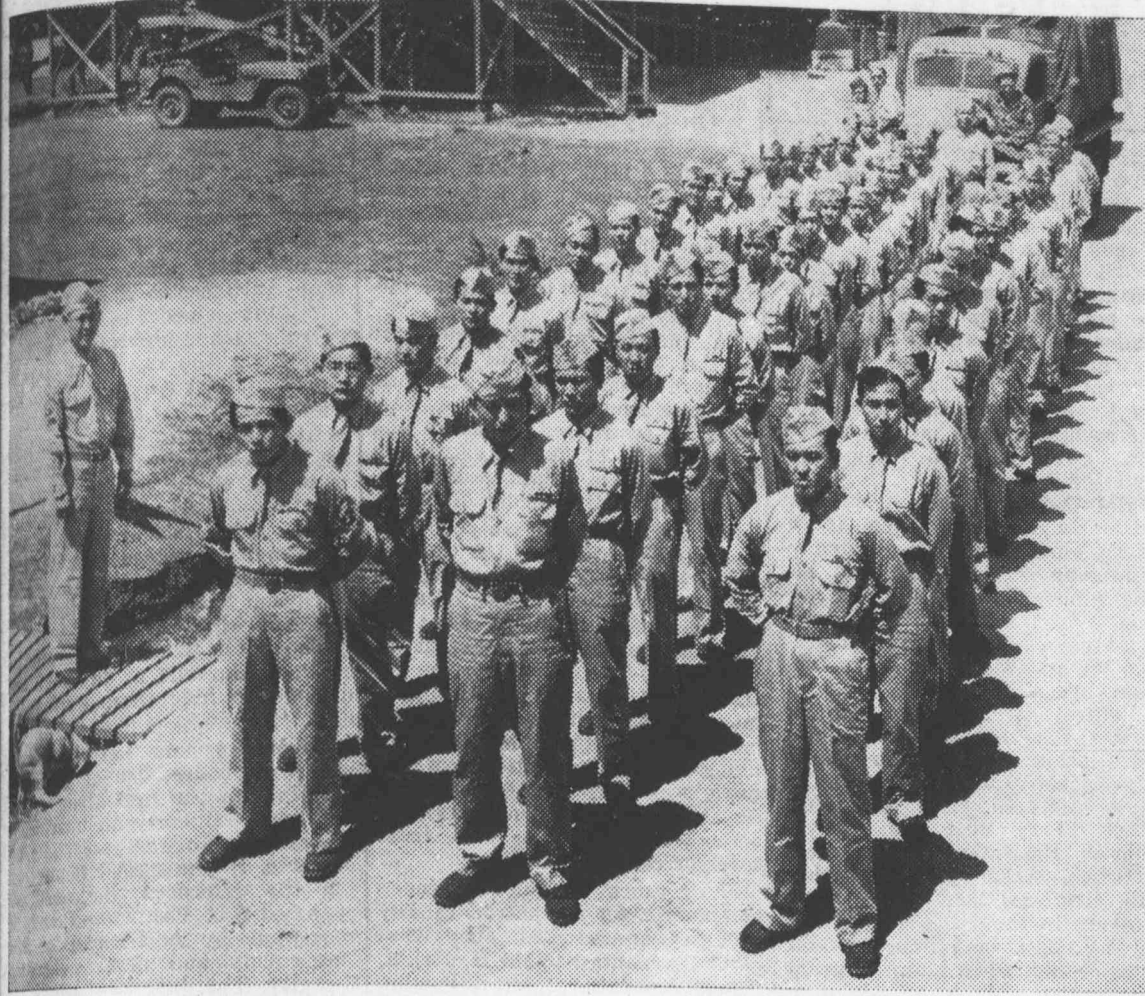
Justice Murphy Hits Intolerance Against U. S. Nisei

SAN FRANCISCO — Asked to comment by newsmen on his attitude toward Japanese Americans, Supreme Court Justice Murphy declared in San Francisco on Sept. 8:

"They are Americans. To say that Japanese blood excludes a man from being an American is to negate our principles. It isn't blood that makes an American. It's what you believe and what you stand for. I am against intolerance, that is all there is to it."

Justice Murphy addressed a public mass meeting in San Francisco last week on behalf of his national committee against persecution of Jews.

Veterans of Italy Back Home on Furlough



HAWAII—Fifty-five members of the famed 100th Infantry Battalion, composed of Americans of Japanese ancestry, are shown as they arrived recently on Oahu to receive furloughs which will send them home to their families for a well-earned rest from some of the bloodiest fighting in Italy. At the left is First Sergeant Francis N. Nakamura of 1141 16th Ave., Honolulu, who was in charge of the group. (U. S. Army Signal Corps photo from Acme.)

Vagaries

Haan and Hawaii . . .

Violet Sweet Haven's new book, "Gentlemen of Japan: A Study in Rapist Diplomacy," charges persons of Japanese ancestry in Hawaii with foreknowledge of the Pearl Harbor raid, and insinuates a lot of mean things about Japanese Americans there. Incidentally, in a foreword Miss Haven thanks Kilsoo Haan, the alien propagandist, for his assistance in the preparation of the book . . . Incidentally, Honolulu has the highest casualty rate of any city of comparable size in the United States, mainly due to the Japanese American 100th Infantry Battalion, whose original members were from Hawaii . . . Sgt. Ben Kuroki's now-celebrated speech before the Commonwealth club in San Francisco has been animated into comic-book form by a religious publishing firm. Copies are reportedly being prepared for publication with the initial order reportedly upwards of a million. Sgt. Kuroki's speech was also reprinted in full in the latest issue of "New Pacific."

Negro Poll

The majority of Americans of Negro ancestry are opposed to discrimination against Americans of Japanese ancestry, according to a national poll taken by the Negro Digest and announced in its Sept., 1944, issue. The question, "Should Negroes Discriminate Against Japanese?" was put to Negroes throughout the nation with the following results, according to Wallace Lee, director of the poll. The results were North: Yes, 11%; No, 66%; and undecided, 23%. West, Yes, 14%; No, 66%; and undecided, 20%. South, Yes, 16%; No, 53%; and undecided, 31%. "While expressing their hatred for the military clique that runs Japan and joining in approval of the war against the Nipponese, most Negroes feel that discrimination against the Japanese is based on color, much the same as prejudice against Negroes," Lee said . . . September's Negro Digest also contains the condensations of columns by S. I. Hayakawa in the Chicago Defender, and P. L. Prattis in the Pittsburgh Courier on the subject whether Negroes should discriminate.

Anzac Reaction . . .

Australia is apparently having a little difficulty understanding some of the features of the war relocation program for Japanese American evacuees. A headline in a Brisbane, Australia, newspaper recently read "Freed Jap Servants Offered 22 Pounds a Week." . . . Pfc. Frank Nobuo Arikawa, killed in action in Italy recently, was

TIMELY TOPICS

By SABURO KIDO

Los Angeles— After Two Years

After two and a half years, it was my good fortune to be in Los Angeles. Of course, I had spent several hours at the Barstow railroad station several times when I made trips to Salt Lake City while being confined at the Poston Relocation center and on my way out from the center with my family to resume the life of a "free citizen." But this latest trip was the first occasion I had to go back to the coast.

After reading so much about the agitation that is going on in Southern California, it was not without misgivings that I boarded the Los Angeles Limited in Salt Lake City to attend the hearings of the injunction suit with Dr. George Ochikubo. Inasmuch as we were traveling without escorts, we wondered what sort of experiences were in store for us. Our disappointment may be in the fact that we had nothing exciting to report. No one stopped to question us or insult us while we walked the streets of Los Angeles and Pasadena.

We took pleasure in meeting the numerous friends who have been working for the fair treatment of citizens of Japanese ancestry despite the agitation going on. I met the directors of the Southern California branch of the American Civil Liberties Union, members of the Friends of the Committee for American Principles and Fair Play, the Student Relocation Council, the Friends Service Committee, and many others. It is always interesting to meet people personally and see if the impressions that had been formed through reading of the activities and correspondence are correct or not.

For instance, I had heard and read about Mr. William Carr of Pasadena a great deal. I had the impression that he was short in stature and an aggressive fighter.

formerly Southern California champion in the Class C shotput while attending L. A. Polytechnic high . . . Although there's been no change in the Dominion's policy of refusing Canadians of Japanese ancestry the right to serve in the armed forces, a special application form is now available for the registration of Japanese Canadians who wish to record their desire to enlist in the Canadian army.

er. It was a surprise to meet a huge man with a kindly face.

Everyone seemed to be extremely interested in the Nisei problem, more from the standpoint of the principle at stake. When people fight against overwhelming odds, they must have certain ideals. Otherwise they will succumb to the pressure. And this is what our friends are striving to maintain: the right of American citizens, regardless of race, color or creed.

Dr. Robert Emerson of California Institute of Technology drove us around L'il Tokyo on the way out to Pasadena. I was surprised to see vacant stores here and there for I had read about congested Los Angeles. There were far less people on East First and San Pedro streets than when the Japanese occupied that section.

The greatest concern of our friends seem to be in the housing problem once the army relaxes the present restrictions. Unless the defense workers who migrated to the west coast since the outbreak of war leave, there will be real congestion. Consequently, those who desire to return with the intention of permanent residence are not going to find that their problem has been solved even though they may be granted a permit.

Pasadena is the only place so far as I know that an organized effort is being made to help the evacuees to return. A hostel together with private homes will be ready to welcome back those who want to live in that city. However, opportunities for work are limited, which means that only a few can go into that district.

A generalization is dangerous after a three days' sojourn. But it is safe to state that the return to California is not so simple a problem as many evacuees think.

Nisei Employment At Ordnance Depots

The big news of the week is the announcement about the army's willingness to employ Nisei in the ordnance depots at Tooele, Utah and Sidney, Nebraska as munitions handlers. Their status will be that of civil service workers, which means that a thorough screening will be made before actual employment takes place.

We made a hasty trip to in-

From the Frying Pan

By BILL HOSOKAWA

Future of All Minorities Interrelated

To Americans who indulge in selective hatreds, the story of the Maidenek camp near Lobin, Poland, should be an object lesson.

Maidenek, you remember, is the camp the Germans used to exterminate enemies of the Reich, systematically and in cold blood. Newspapermen, cynical and wary of atrocity stories, have estimated as many as a million and a half victims of the Nazis were slain there, and their bodies cremated in massive ovens.

The Nazi party sought early in its history to arouse a national unity by selecting a popular scapegoat. It chose the Jews, and the rabble rousers and beer hall bullies rallied the mobs with the cry against the Jews. This developed into a national policy with the Nazi regime's most restrictive pronouncements directed against persons whose ancestors were even remotely Jewish.

But it was not long before opponents of the Nazi regime were included among enemies of the state. Anyone opposed to national socialism, anyone speaking against Nazi doctrines could then expect the same fate as persons who, through the accident of birth, were Jews.

At the Maidenek camp, set up supposedly for the extermination of Jews, American newspaper men saw a room full of passports and documents. They saw papers of Frenchmen, Russians, Greeks, Czechs, Jews, Italians, Belo-Russians, Serbs and Poles. They saw the records of persons of 22 nationalities who had been processed through the death mill.

What had begun as a program of selective hatred, directed methodically and purposefully against an entire people to further a specific aim, has grown into a sort of horror the world has never known.

How often has this truth been repeated in the United States: That the rights of no minority is safe so long as the rights of any one group are restricted.

The Nazis have demonstrated how hatred can spread. We know that the same process can be repeated in this country—minus the gruesome details of course, but still in a manner blighting to democracy — with discrimination against the Negroes, the Jews, the Catholics and others. The end of the process of hatred is told in a story of the battle of the freckled clan against the non-freckled. The two battled to exterminate

each other, the story says, because the other was "different," until only two old men remained. One was freckled, the other not, and finally they slew each other.

On the west coast, we have seen at one time or another bitter racial hatred directed against the Chinese, the Japanese, and the Filipinos. In this particular phase of the hate cycle, the victim is the "Jap." The Filipinos and the Chinese have been granted a degree of condescending tolerance by the chronic racebaiters because of the war roles of their countries of origin.

But these peoples of Oriental descent must realize that their positions can never be secure so long as the rights of some are threatened. Purple oratory echoed in congressional halls about a great wrong being righted when the Chinese exclusion act was repealed. But our immigration and naturalization policy continues discriminatory so long as other Asiatic peoples—the Indians, Malays, Siamese, Japanese, Javanese and others are denied equality with European peoples.

The Chinese should feel no elation, but only concern, that while Chinese aliens have been provided the right to acquire American citizenship, native-born American citizens of Japanese descent (how many Caucasians can distinguish between Chinese and Japanese?) are denied access to the Pacific coast solely on a racial basis.

The grim details, the horror and perversion of Maidenek and American racism are hemispheres apart. But there is a kinship in the principles involved, namely discrimination and intolerance. We have reason for thanks that so few Americans are guilty of these faults, that so many do not hesitate to condemn the bigots. That is what the German people failed to do when the intolerance of Nazism first raised its head.

Carey McWilliams' New Book Tells Story of U. S. Nisei

"Japanese Americans: Symbol of Racial Intolerance" is the title of Carey McWilliams' new and highly controversial book in which he puts right up to the American citizen again: What shall we do to solve our fundamental problems at home?

spect the housing facilities and the ordnance depot at Tooele to satisfy ourselves. There is no doubt of the opportunity this is going to afford many in the relocation centers with families who have been unable to leave because of their worries over housing and so forth. It was interesting to be informed that the housing facilities were available to married persons only.

Once the Nisei or Issei goes to work at the ordnance depot, he will be able to enter the community life. There are the movie house, school, stores, community hall, and so forth and a tenant's council which is equivalent to the community council of the relocation center to enable the residents to regulate their community.

A splendid opportunity for developing a community spirit and integration is going to be given to the first group which will move into either of the two ordnance depots. Depending upon the success of this project, additional new fields most likely will be opened up.

Besides the working opportunities, the impact upon the public's mind undoubtedly will be favorable. The normal reaction will be that if the Nisei are considered to be safe to handle munitions, then they should be safe for other defense jobs. Also the fact that the workers already on the job are willing to trust the newcomers is a significant thing.

1. Mr. McWilliams' book tells how for the first time in our history American citizens have been openly deprived of their civil rights by the Federal Government because of race.

2. It is a daring document about racial discrimination in the United States—against Japanese Americans in California both before and after 1941.

3. It brings up the crucial point that peoples of the whole Pacific area will judge Americans by the manner in which we solve the problem of citizens and residents of Japanese ancestry in this country.

4. It shows how the Japanese in Japan proper used the "Yellow Peril jingoism" of the West Coast.

Mr. McWilliams exposes for fair-minded American judgment a large festering area of race bigotry and race discrimination. He shows how special interests, economic, political and social, in the United States and in Japan for years have exploited the presence of this minority in this country. And he shows how racism, rather than security, led to Relocation Centers in America when no such thing was found necessary in Hawaii—a section much closer to the enemy. He makes glaringly and alarmingly clear that the problem must not be treated as local to a region or a state.

It is at once a general case history of the causes and growth of racism; and in particular the complete story of the Japanese in America from their first immigration. The whole dramatic story of the Relocation Centers is fairly told here in the human terms of the men and women involved, white as well as yellow. — From "Book News," Little, Brown and Co., Boston, Mass.

