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THE PROBLEM OF NISEI RESETTLEMENT

The Program: 'We'll Prove Our Loyalty in Deeds'

By WILLIAM FLYNN
Chronicle Staff Writer

TOPAZ RELOCATION CENTER, Delta, Utah, March 2—The Japanese Americans, removed from the Pacific Coast, today are organizing to overcome, by peaceful means, racial persecution hardships of their pioneering trek eastward to establish new permanent homes.

They realize they face opposition, inspired by war engendered hates and fears of economic competition. Their plan is:

1—Self-discipline of those pioneering to prevent them from congregating in so-called segregated districts because of social, business and blood ties.

2—Evidence of their loyalty to the United States through actions rather than words.

The program has the indorsement of individual leaders and the Japanese-American Citizens' League, one of the most powerful Americanization forces of the evacuated racial group. Caucasians aiding the Japanese-Americans in defense of their democratic rights as citizens also indorse the program.

The first part of the program

(Editor's Note: Plans of the Japanese-Americans to combat racial persecution during pioneering in the "New America" they have found more attractive than their former Pacific Coast homes are revealed in the following article, the last of six on effects of the coastal evacuation, published exclusively in The Chronicle.)

would prevent the spotlighting of public attention on individuals by "scattering" the 112,000 throughout this Nation of more than 130,000,000 persons.

Evidence of loyalty is the most vital concern of the Japanese-Americans at the present time. They buy bonds, they donate to the blood banks—and their men fight and die for the United States, in the Pacific and on the shores of Italy.

There is a unit of Japanese-American soldiers fighting with the Allied forces seeking to carve their way into the Continent through the "soft underbelly of Europe." They are members of the 100th Infantry Battalion of the Army of the United States, all volunteers. Their war record is reflected in War Department statements, headlined in the Pacific Citizen, publication of the Japanese-American Citizens' League, as follows:

"Fifty Members of Nisei Unit Awarded Purple Heart for Wounds in Italy Campaign."

"Twenty Japanese - Americans Killed, 98 Wounded in Recent Action of 100th Infantry in Italy."

"Ninety-six Japanese - Americans Killed, 221 Wounded on Italy Front."

The headlines are followed by columns of names.

The Japanese-Americans believe that such blood payments on the total price demanded for establishment of the Four Freedoms throughout the world entitles them to some consideration as loyal citizens of the United States. Their belief is summed up by Joe Masaoka, an official of the league. He said:

"Americans of Japanese ancestry are Americans. They now feel that California isn't all of America. If they feel they can make their livelihood and fulfill their ambitions along the American way of living in other parts of the country which are more receptive, they are going to establish their homes there.

"Americans of Japanese ancestry have been assimilated into America. If fighting and dying isn't assimilation—what is assimilation? Now that they have gone through the fire and proved themselves Americans on the battle front, I feel that their home is all America—not just California."

Masaoka's five brothers are in the army.

The Japanese-American men have accepted the recent War Department decision they are eligible for induction through the processes of selective service with the same general attitude of any other racial group of assimilated citizens.

To some imminent induction was a blow. They had planned to leave the centers and establish homes so they could bring their families and relatives from the places of confinement that are ringed by barbed wire and guarded by military police.

Now they must postpone such plans of relocation.

Others greeted the order with enthusiasm. They saw the opportunity of receiving sufficient guaranteed income through allotments to permit their wives and children and mothers and fathers to live in reasonable security outside the centers.

All, however, resented the plan for "segregation" of the Japanese-American soldiers into special units. They claimed all branches of the service should be opened to them as to any citizen. None the less, like the Negro, they accept the opportunity to serve—for by serving, they believe, they will prove their worthiness as citizens.

Whether the sacrifices of the Japanese-Americans in severing their social groups on the home front and on the battlefields will win them their full citizenship remains to be seen. The question is whether the United States is sufficiently tolerant, sufficiently sincere with its declaration that this Nation is one of "liberty and justice for all."

None living can peer into the future to read the answer objective historians of the era will note. But now it may be known to those Irish-Americans, those German-Americans, those English-Americans, those Chinese Americans—and those Japanese-Americans—whose bodies sleep peacefully side by side in the only Italian soil Lieutenant General Mark Clark claimed for this Nation—"enough to bury our dead."

PEORIA ILL JOUR TRANSCRIPT
February 4, 1944

ELGIN, ILL. COURIER NEWS
February 7, 1944



FRATERNITY HEARS NISEI—Miss Shirley Kajikaw, an American citizen of Japanese descent, spoke at a meeting of Pi Gamma Mu, honorary social science fraternity, at the Y.W.C.A. last night. Pictured with her are Earl Foreman (center), chairman of the meeting, and Asa Carter, president of the fraternity. (Journal-Transcript Photo.)

U. S. Born Jap Here Takes Army Tests

Key T. Ota, an American citizen of Japanese descent, was included in a group of east side Elgin draft registrants, who were entrained recently for pre-induction physical examinations. They were the first to leave here under the new regulations, which provide physical examinations be held and service assignments made 21 days before men are called into service.

Ota was a resident of Elgin at the time of registration and returned here from the west to leave from this city. His parents are Japanese-born but he has never been out of the country.

"I will be very happy to serve my country in any way I can," he told draft board officials. "I have known no other country except the United States and it is here I owe my loyalty."

RECORD, Philadelphia, Pa.
March 7, 1944

Prejudice in Delaware

Sussex county farmers in Delaware who oppose importation of Japanese-American agricultural workers into their area of the Delmarva Peninsula are allowing their prejudices to run away with their intelligence.

The three Japanese-Americans Charles Mills, of Rehoboth Beach, brought in to help farm his 1200 acres, and the 50 more he plans to hire with the assistance of the War Relocation Authority, were born in America. They are American citizens.

Loyal American citizens.

"This protest boils down to one issue: emotional sentiment vs. food production," is the realistic manner in which Mills summed up the objections of his less liberal neighbors.

There is an acute shortage of farm labor. It is stupid to attempt to prohibit Japanese-Americans from easing it.

They have been certified as trustworthy by the FBI. They are excellent agricultural workers. They have been used extensively and with complete satisfaction on the vast Seabrook Farms near Bridgeton, N. J.

In Pennsylvania where they have been used, farmers are anxious to employ more.

These loyal citizens of Japanese ancestry have sons, brothers and fathers in the armed services of the United States. Such as the Japanese-American soldiers of 100th Infantry Battalion, who won the special praise of Lieutenant General Clark for their combat record in Italy.

Why, ask the protesting farmers, aren't the Japanese-American farm hands sent back to their own acres in California if they are trustworthy?

Because there, where the people have been made oversensitive by the West Coast's vulnerability in the early days of the war, they would face racial antagonisms that make peaceful living impossible.

It is shameful to find similar bias in Delaware.

Prejudices are no substitute for that other great American tradition: fair play

TRIBUNE, Minneapolis, Minn.
March 2, 1944

Handling of Nisei Brings City Praise

Minneapolis is establishing a reputation for following democratic principles by its conduct toward Nisei relocated here, Martha B. Akard, director of Twin City Lutheran relocation hostel, told a meeting of Messiah Lutheran church Women's guild Wednesday.

"All of us must face the challenge of our democratic ideals by being tolerant toward Japanese-Americans," Miss Akard said. "By its actions in this respect, Minneapolis has attracted many Nisei who can contribute a great deal to the city."

SENTINEL (ID), Grand Junction, Colo.
March 1, 1944

SHOULD APPLY TO ALL ENEMY ALIENS

Representative Gearhart of California is planning to introduce a bill in congress requiring all Japanese in this country to renounce any and all allegiance to Japan or forfeit U. S. citizenship and be subject to deportation to Japan. That is a measure all loyal Americans can support, but we agree with the Salt Lake Telegram as it suggests the measure could justly be extended to include all aliens. The Telegram says:

"And, while we're on the subject of loyalty of enemy aliens, we can see no reason why there should be any distinction between enemy nationalities. Germans and Italians in this country should be just as 100 per cent loyal to America as the Japanese should, and, if they are not, they, too, should be deprived of any rights of citizenship and deported. After all, the German-Italian problem has been just as serious as the Japanese. A check made in Salt Lake county after Pearl Harbor, for instance, showed almost three times as many German and Italian aliens as Japanese aliens in this area.

"We would just like to make one suggestion to Representative Gearhart of California for an addition to his plan. That is that those Japanese who forswear all allegiance to Japan and show whole-hearted support of and loyalty to America have full freedom as citizens to go where they please and make their homes where they please—including back to California, which pulled such a neat one when it prevailed upon the government to ship all the Japanese out of Pacific Coast states under the excuse of national security, altho for some strange reason the proportionately far more numerous Japanese population of our far more strategic and imperiled Hawaiian islands were not such a menace to our security that they had to be relocated."

TRIBUNE, Salt Lake City
Utah
3/2/44

Provo Group Hits U.S.-Jap Persecution

Tribune Intermountain Wire

PROVO — Decrying persecution of Japanese-Americans as "un-American, unscientific and unnecessary," the Provo civic welfare 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 a 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 and intolerant at home," they declared.

There is neither a military nor a social necessity for such discrimination in our Utah communities. The government policy to relocate Japanese-Americans over the country so they will not be greatly concentrated in one area is sound. Discrimination tends to alienate loyal persons and makes "little Tokyos" where they will become more race conscious and bitter, the resolution said.

No immediate action on the matter was taken by the city commission Wednesday, although Mayor Maurice Harding indicated that he was wholly in agreement with the resolution.

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

TRIBUNE, Salt Lake City
Utah
2/28/44

Women's Unit Asks Rights For U.S.-Japs

Group Sends Appeal To Mayor, City Commission

A resolution urging Mayor Earl J. Glade and members of the Salt Lake City commission to grant to Japanese-Americans privileges equal to those granted any other citizens was adopted by the Salt Lake branch, American Association of University Women, it was announced Sunday.

Signed by Miss Dorothy Martin, president, Salt Lake branch; Miss Florence Pierce, chairman, social studies committee, and Mrs. Delbert M. Draper, member, national social studies committee, the resolution says: "It is our opinion that a majority of Salt Lake citizens deplore the attitude of those groups which would restrict business on the basis of race at a time when our sons are abroad fighting this very philosophy.

"It is our opinion," the resolution continues, "that if Japanese-Americans are prohibited from doing business, the logical conclusion is to exclude their children from our public schools. It is inconsistent to expect our teachers to demand tolerance among children when the fathers of these children are preaching and acting intolerance."

Addressing the branch members at the Hotel Utah, Dr. Lowell Lees, speech department head, University of Utah, said individuals need guidance in utilizing their emotions to motivate wholesome activities.

REGISTER, Des Moines
Iowa
2/27/44

JAPANESE-AMERICANS PLAY THE GAME.

Most Americans of Japanese ancestry are profoundly grateful that their right as citizens to be called up for service in the armed forces has been restored. It was restored after a period in which volunteering was permitted for a special all-Japanese-American combat team only.

In the draft, they are still treated as special cases, not subject to draft unless an Army board has ruled them individually "acceptable." They have not been told what makes them "acceptable," and they have been told that as yet they have no recourse if named "unacceptable."

They are told that they will not be accepted in the Navy, in the Army air force or armored force, no matter how "acceptable" they are, and that most of them will serve in the segregated Japanese-American units which have been organized since Pearl Harbor.

Remember, all this came on top of their mass evacuation from the Pacific coast, where most of them lived and owned property. The reaction of the Japanese-Americans to all this has been much more devotedly patriotic and submissive than that of most of us would have been under the same circumstances.

"WE, THE PEOPLE . . ."

Anent the subject of racial minorities, which we discussed here the other day with reference to the Fitchburg school pupils' project of writing to Japanese-American children at Topaz, Utah. Dr. Jay B. Nash, in his book, "Building Morale," quotes the following from the Council Against Intolerance in America:

"We, the people of the United States . . .

"Where did we come from anyhow?

"10 million came from Ireland;

"15 million from Germany and 9 million from the Slavic countries; tries;

"300 thousand among us are Indians;

"300 thousand came from the Orient, from Mexico and the Philippines;

"60 million came from Britain and 1 million from Greece;

"5 million came from Italy and 4 million from Scandinavia;

"1 million from Finland and 1 million from little Lithuania;

"2 million came from France;

"13 million of us are negroes who originally came from Africa.

* * *

"We, the people of the United States . . .

"Are Protestants and Roman Catholics,

"Buddhists, Mormons, Jews.

"We are Christian Scientists, Greek Catholics, Anglican Episcopalians,

"And Unitarians.

"There are some Mohammedans among us, and freethinkers."

Obviously, we have a great task ahead of us, if we are all going to live peaceably together during and after the war.

Our job will not be helped by our failure to make distinctions between the loyal American citizens of Japanese descent in this country and the sub-human Japs who mutilated, murdered, and starved American prisoners of war in the Philippines.

Men who have fought the Japs in the Pacific definitely regard them as obscene, sub-human savages with a deceptive veneer of "civilization." But, as Tarawa-survivor Sgt. Shaffer, who recently visited Fitchburg, says, they are sub-human because they have been rigidly "thought-controlled" and conditioned by a monstrous medieval feudalism.

They are not predestined to be hideous killers and treacherous sneak-punchers. Give them the proper surroundings, training, conditioning and they will be human, decent, kindly—even as the American-born and educated Japanese at Topaz, Utah, are friendly, compassionate souls longing for human understanding and love.

CHICAGO SUN
February 6, 1944

FREE PEOPLE HAVE RIGHT
TO HATE AXIS IDEOLOGY

To the Editor of The Spokesman-Review: Noting letters in the Forum about the Japanese, some show a high degree of truth, justice and what I call true Americanism: That is the belief that all men are created equal. Some show the lowest degree of national and racial Chauvinism which is so pronounced in the ideology of our Fascist enemies, Germany and Japan.

We, as a free and just people, can not condemn any person or people simply because of their race, color or national origin. This is the base for the false morale of our enemies. This is against the principle of all just and freedom-loving people all over the world.

We, as freedom-loving and just people, can hate and condemn people of any race or color or national origin because of their deeds and their beliefs. This is a just morale based on the highest and most enlightened form of human thinking. This is why we hate, and are fighting the Germans and the Japanese.

We, as freedom-loving people, hate everything for which the axis stands—their idea of governing other peoples by physical force, without the consent of the governed; their idea that they are a superior race; their idea of ruling through the power of a few people instead of by laws made by the entire people within their own countries; their idea of not allowing freedom of speech and assembly; their idea of suppressing freedom of conscience and freedom of worship; in fact, we are against all of their beliefs regarding people's rights.

P. J. LANE.

Wallace, Idaho.

SPOKESMAN REVIEW,
Spokane, Wash.
March 2, 1944

RACE PREJUDICE
IS DEALT BLOW

WASHINGTON STATE COLLEGE, PULLMAN, March 1.—

"There are millions of silenced democrats in Germany who are awaiting merely the right time to rise and help us in the world-wide fight for right and liberty," Rabbi Alvin S. Luchs of Salt Lake City, Utah, said Tuesday in the opening of one of a series of talks here under sponsorship of the religion and life committee.

Rabbi Luchs pleaded for militant combating of fascist tendencies and race prejudice at home. "I hold no brief for any of the despicable actions of any of the Japanese, nor do I have any care for any Japanese here who still look toward the mikado, but I believe we should treat fairly and accord citizenship privileges to those Japanese who, after careful investigation by the justice department, are certified as being loyal." 1503

February 25, 1944

Letting Hysteria Rule Our Reason?

It is regrettable that the agitation concerning the right of American born Japanese to engage in business or acquire real property in Utah should have degenerated into an undignified squabble. From press reports, the meetings held in Salt Lake City recently, ostensibly for the purpose of marshalling sentiment to influence the action of the City Commission relative to licensing or refusing to license Japanese operated businesses, reflected no credit either upon those sponsoring the meetings or the city itself. One would suppose that the consideration of questions of such local concern would not warrant the importation of speakers to raise resentment. Irresponsible persons can do more harm than good to any cause.

It is never convincing to make denunciatory generalizations about a whole race of people indiscriminately. There are good and less good and bad people among every race and in the citizenship of every nation. No one believes in sane arguments that all the people of any race or country are wholly bad. Nothing but hysteria could induce anyone to pretend to the contrary.

In recent weeks we have heard loud demands that the soldiers be given the right to vote even though constitutional provisions governing the conditions of voting had to be trampled underfoot. The cry was "if they are good enough to fight for our country they are good enough to vote." Yet the same organizations who have been most raucous in the

shouting of this slogan are the very ones who have been most unrelenting and extreme in their denial of the right to carry on business by the families of American born Japanese who are out fighting in the ranks of our armies in this war.

Organizations which weep copious tears because of alleged racial discrimination against Negroes, lead the van of intolerance toward the families of soldiers in our armies who happen to be of Japanese ancestry.

Reckless and unsubstantiated charges seem to have been made and the right to speak in their own defense was denied in a tone and manner unworthy of any people who make pretense of having risen above savagery.

The Japanese were not injured half so much as their assailants who permitted themselves such extremes of hatred, bigotry and intolerance.

It is to be hoped that the City Commission will not permit itself to be swayed by such despotic demonstrations. We venture the assertion that the Commission will have the approval of the sane, sober, fair minded citizenry—which, though perhaps less vocal, is after all the great majority of the citizenry of this community and state—if it refuses to be driven into a course of intolerance and unfairness. This is no time to become hysterical, nor to embark upon discriminatory courses of action. Let's wait the return of calm judgment and the rule of reason and of right.