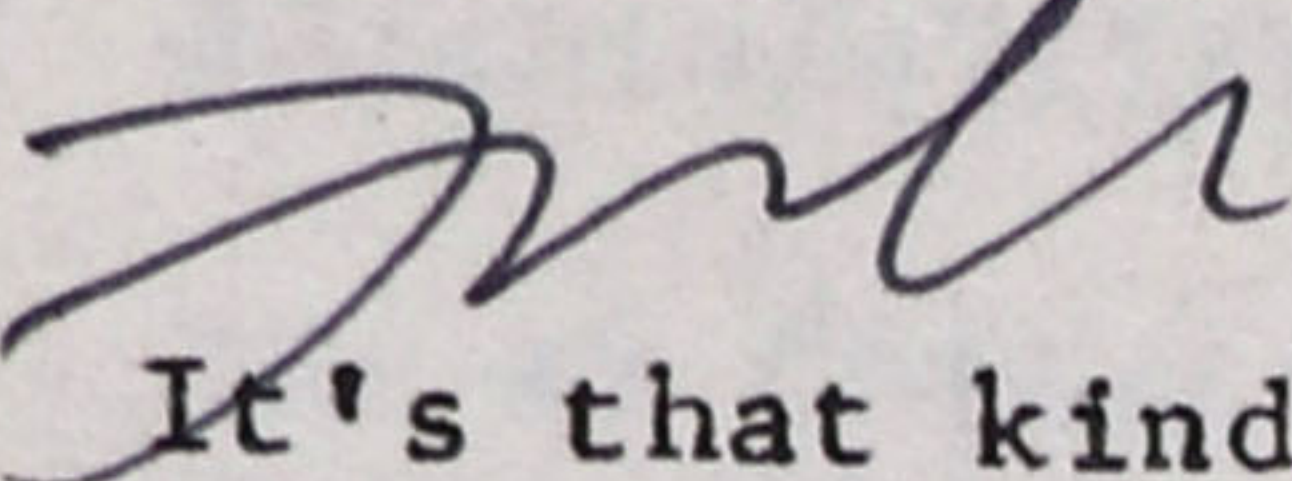


JUNE 24, 1981-L.A.



It's that kind of year, boys. Bad kind of year. Maxine Hong Kingston's exercise in white racist science fiction wins the ABA for non-fiction. David Henry W Hwang's "F.O.B." wins the Obie for best Off-Broadway play. Chris Young ~~gxxxx~~ a kid fresh out of UCLA ~~xxx~~ submits a ~~xxxx~~ script to a black production ~~gxmp~~ group with a grant to produce a ~~fx~~ series of ethnic American films. They rewrite his script from top to bottom, but keep his name on it, and produce it, "Billie Loves Alley" or (Allie) ~~wxxx~~ for PBS, with Dana Lee, Mike Chan, Irene Tsu, Peter Kwong and others... The Literary History of the West...or something like that...project tells us the Big Aiiieeeee! is neither literary nor historical because we don't talk about the inventor of Japanese American writing, Sadakichi Hartmann, the MLA tells us ~~xxx~~ that ~~wxx~~ "white supremacy" is ~~xxxxxxixfxxxx~~ "society" (Like them white folks on the shade side of the tracks calling themselves "the town" and "society"); CHARLIE CHAN AND THE DRAGON QUEEN, Pauline Kael, the Chinese Historical Society, the JACL and TACT give ~~m~~ us a choice between mass produced stereotypes~~xxxx~~ to identify ~~wixxxwixxxwixxxwixxxwixxx~~ ourselves with; David Hwang's THE RAILROAD AND THE DANCE, ~~ix~~ proves to be nothing more than ~~Kxx~~ reruns of ~~KUNG FU~~ ABC's KUNG FU, with John Lone playing David Carridine~~x~~; Warren Furutani calls Nobuku and Benny Yee's Charlie Chan outtakes, CHOP SUEY, "our point of view;" Wayne Wong makes a movie with the Asian American Theater Company (nee Workshop) demonstrating they can't ~~x~~ act, ~~xxx~~make movies, or identify the stererotypes ~~x~~ of yellows without identifying with those stereotypes; Chinatown kids are plucked off the streets at random and convicted of murders that haven't been committed yet. It's the recreation of white racist ignorance. Tis the season for whites to produce yellows to bellow false knowledge; Sadickichi Hartmann invented Japanese American writing; ~~K~~ the people hated ~~xxxxfxfxxxx~~ Kwan Kung, Chinamans calleda themselves China Men and sold Chinaman women naked in the streets of Chinatown Frisco; Japanese American entered camps without resistance;...

The tenor of this awful year ~~xxx~~ resounds in the charmingly racist fantasy, FLOWER DRUM SONG. Boys, I hate to tellya, but FLOWER DRUM SONG is heading back to Broadway. ~~Thxxx~~ This news puts the whole year together for me. We are not FLOWER DRUM SONG. Never were. But Chris Young, Maxine Hong Kingston, David Henry Hwang, Sadikichi Hartman, Nobuku, Benny Yee, John Lone (the Miyoshi Umeki of his people) Warren Furutani, Wayne Wong, Felicia Lowe, Loni Ding, the JACL, Pauline Kael, KUNG FU, Beulah Quo, the Association of Asian American Performing Artists (~~AAAAA~~) (AAAPA) Jack Chen, Garrett Hongo, and even ~~my~~ the Laureen beloved of my current depression and state of humiliation are all identifiable types and principals obtaining in ~~xxx~~ Irving Berlin's jell-o Chinatown of FLOWER DRUM SONG.

What proof that the Apocolypse has been ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ loosed on us, is the wretched bland mess of ~~xx~~ plastic moviegness they made of the Lone Ranger in THE LEGEND OF THE LONG~~ER~~RANGER.

The good news: The grant we wrote for Taro Yashima ~~m~~ is in the last round~~xx~~ of ~~selection~~. NEA ~~x~~ phoned ~~Yxxxxix~~ the old man ~~xxx~~ ~~xx~~ to tell him ~~xxxxgxhxx~~ he is qualified ~~xxx~~ for the grant, ~~xxx~~ the grant was well written, and in the final round. Lawson wrote David Wilkes the cover letter. Thus, we may...if we can delay Howard ~~xx~~ another six months, or get them to leave ~~m~~ a twenty page hole for Taro's new work,..we might have thefirst ~~xxxxx~~ peek at a major new work by a major Issei/expatriate author/painter. Mako's father writing and drawing about ~~mxxxxgxhxxxxxx~~ searching for his son in ~~w~~ rubble of ~~xxxx~~ a defeated Japan, and finding him.

Actually the Lone Ranger wrote that grant for Taro Yashima.

22/chin/AAAAAAAA BOYS!

The Chinatown Christians got their dimples squeaking, their teeth shiney and a heavy reading handicap. They can't tell the difference between fiction and non-fiction, a first person narrative fiction, and an autobiography. They read everything by a yellow as a prescription for their identity crisis, and other personality problems. They read us with imaginary whites reading over their shoulders. They write about me and my unnamed cohorts, and call us black, Third World Revolutionary. Ben Tong tells me there are many bits of published badmouth and spit on me. He only shows me the greatest hits. Interesting. For not having a book out, a lot of people are calling me names in print.

All those afflicted with Maxine Hong Kingston will either ignore or burn a cross on the plays when they come out. DAVID ISHII, says he'll ask Tom Robbins to review the plays somewhere, the Weekly would do/ nicely.

Shawn, can you see that Kay Boyle gets a copy and, might you be in the mood to blow in her ear with an idea for reviewing the plays in Rolling Stone or the New York Times. Jeff said he'd approach a Leo Litwak, in Frisco. I'll have U.W. Press send a copy to Ray Bradbury with my compliments. Not that he'll do me any good. He's afflicted with Maxine Hong Kingston as most of the writers of science fiction and fantasy are. Peter Beagle, James D. Houston.

My cohorts can't be caught appearing cliquish and petty. If you review my work, how can you avoid appearing cliquish and petty? Also you'll make targets of yourselves. Best let'em continue shooting away at the dancing bear, boys, til you bring out a work of your own to boggle their minds. We'll all be targets for them to bang away at in all good time. Best just let'em think there's just one of us Crow scouts around these parts, making notes and taking pictures, for as long as we can.

SHAWN, FOR THE HILL FILM: The Japanese American section. The ken the Issei of Seattle came from: Hiroshima, Kumamoto, Yamaguchi, Fukuoka, Okayama, and Wakayama ken....

I MET ONE OF THE MEN NAMED IN THE NAVAL INTELLIGENCE REPORTS FROM MINIDOKA. Frank Abe phoned last Sunday, the 14th that KENJI ITO was in L.A. I looked the name up in the L.A. phone book, phoned, asked him if he was the Kenji Ito from Seattle and told him I had a Naval Intelligence report on him from 1942 saying he was one of the "agitating Nisei" opposed to the JACL policy of not challenging the camps in court. "Is that accurate?" I asked.

"Not in the least. No." He said. I quickly made an appointment to meet him. Tuesday, yesterday, at 4:30 we met in his office. He's 72 years old. Born 1909 in Seattle, attended U.W. and then U.W. Law School, class of 36. About thirty at the time of the war. He says the Issei were a lot wiser than he was. That he was optimistic and naive about his understanding of America. Before the war the Issei told him, "If there's ever a war, the Americans are going to gather all the Japanese up in concentration camps." I didn't believe them. He was picked up by the FBI at 11pm the night of December 7, 1941. He'd been with his family in Bellevue, had dinner with them, then came home to Seattle. He was held in the Immigration Center on Dearborn Street or the County Jail from December 7, 1941 to April 1, 1942. The next month he moved into Puyallup Assembly Center with his family and the Japanese Americans of Seattle. One day he was given an hour and half to get his family and belongings together to be moved to another camp. Tule Lake. Nobody else went. He assumed he was the victim of an informer. He assumed the informer was a member of the JACL. When Tule Lake was transformed into a segregant camp, the Siberia of the concentration camps, he

3/chin/

he was restored to the Seattle Nikkei at Minidoka. There ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ the camp administrator...he doesn't remember the name, and neither did I...talked him into working in the legal aid department, ~~XXXXXXXX~~ After the war he relocated to Sacramento then to LA. where the JACL ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ ~~gix~~ gave him the name of a church group that ~~gixxxx~~ gave him a place to stay til he got a grip on ~~the~~ Angel City. He gave generous contributions of two and three hundred dollars to the JACL and became a member. He was ~~xxxx~~ turned off by the ~~x~~ exclusivity of the "old guard" JACL and soon lost interest in attending meetings ~~ex~~ or other JACL activities. He is not now ~~x~~ a member of the JACL.

I asked him his ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ perception and ~~opien~~ opinion of the ~~JACLXXXXXXXXXX~~ quality of the JACL's representation of Japanese America in 1942. He said he would never say anything critical of the JACL actions of that period. ~~XXXXXX~~ The victim of JACL informants won't criticize the JACL. ~~We~~

I was disappointed but not surprised. Japanese America sees the JACL hold on them as ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ not only more powerful than the Mafia's hold on the Italian-American, but government supported and sanctioned. The ~~JACLXXXXXX~~ government standing behind the JACL makes Japanese America the Orwellian nightmare ~~mburnigg~~ bright ~~xxx~~ terrible and true. The JACL is Big Brother. We wouldn't be surprised by the victim of Mafia terror, say someone who spent three months in county jail because of the Mafia, ~~xxx~~ saying he ~~xxxxxxx~~ was not going to criticize the Mafia. The JACL ~~is~~ ~~leg~~ not a criminal empire in the sense of the Mafia, ~~but~~ but then the Mafia's terror ~~XXXXXX~~ does not as a rule bear the stamp of government approval and complicity ~~ix~~

Ito invited me to lunch. LAWSON, ~~xxxx~~ when you come down, ~~xxx~~ we'll have to have lunch with Kenji Ito. He's a charming man. Kibei. Warm, cordial and formal. Patricia Energetic, quick. ~~5'7"~~ 5'6" maybe 5'7" 120 lbs. Mustache. ~~xx~~ Greying hair. All his ~~xxx~~ hair. Rimless plastic lensed bifocals. Tinted blue. Tailored clothes. Good taste. You'll like him, and I think, agree he has a lot more ~~xx~~ information ~~xxx~~ to give us, if ~~he~~ we give him his own time.

He also gave me the address of the ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ "chief" of the agitating Nisei, ~~xx~~ Thomas Shinao Masuda.

~~XXXXXX~~ WHILE I'M INTO NAMES AND ADDRESSES: ~~XXXXXX~~ SHAWN, Here are the authors I have:

Dr. KAZUO MIYAMOTO

MONICA SONE

MICHI WEGLYN

TARO YASHIMA

I'm going to write Tom Masuda and ask for a telephone interview I can tape.

PARDON ME BOYS, BUT IS THIS THE SHANGRI-LA HOOCHIE KOOCHIE chewing on my ~~leg~~ leg for a dime?

FRANK ABE:

Thanks for excerpts from the Frisco hearings of the Tolan Committee. Just send me the name and addresss of Arno Press. I'll pony up the forty g bucks for a copy of the hearings, the whole hearings and nothing but the hearings of my own and save

5/ch in'

this commission as long as it is ~~is~~ controlled by the JACL.

JACL: We were young and inexperienced. ~~Time~~ We can't be blamed for the decisions we made and policies we enacted ~~was~~ in the confusion of the times.

~~JUSTICE~~ COMMON SENSE: Are you saying you made wrong and bad decisions? in 1942?

MASAOKA: I ~~believe~~ believe a study of the record and the benefits that accrued to us because of the JACL policy will show we ~~made~~ made the right decision in 1942.

COMMON SENSE: Then why the sniveling excuses begging off criticism? You pleading ~~youth~~ youth and inexperience and begging a cessation of criticism, and judgement of ~~the~~ blamelessness, sounds like a repudiation of your decision of 1942. It sounds like an acknowledgement of the fact that your decision resulted in more Japanese American suffering than would have fallen on the ~~Nikkei~~ Nikkei if the government had run the evacuation ~~was~~ without JACL cooperation.

JACL: What would you have done? in 1942? Can you say you would have done any different? that the JACL?

COMMON SENSE: Certainly I can. Common sense, a college education, and the constitution told people like the JACL was ~~was~~ a reactionary white ~~supremacist~~ supremacist group in 1942, and common sense, ~~a~~ a college education and the constitution tells me that now. Time has not altered the facts. The pages of history have yellowed a bit, but ~~the~~ all the pages are still intact. What you said then can ~~be~~ be read now. What you say you said then, is clearly not what you said then.

The JACL of today, is the same as the JACL of 1942. ~~They~~ Once again they are using the government to impose their will on ~~a~~ Japanese America. White makes them right, not yellow. ~~White~~ Yellow reality is what ~~the~~ whites, not yellows, say it is. That is the great governing principle of the JACL's Japanese American interest.

The ~~the~~ American concentration camps of 1942 were not death camps. The death camps were crude, and ultimately failed to destroy the Jews and Jewish honor. The American concentration camps were no less factories ~~designed~~ tooled and engineered to accomplish the extinction of a pariah race, however. The method was less industrial and more scientific. Where the Nazis sought to destroy Jewish honor, and generate ~~a~~ a massive self-contempt among ~~the~~ the Jews of the world by ~~making~~ making the Jews willing accomplices to their own ~~humiliation~~ humiliation and murder, the Americans attacked Japanese American honor directly.

The JACL made racial self-contempt, the eradication of ~~the~~ Nikkei history, the ~~the~~ destruction of ~~the~~ Nikkei historical, cultural, social integrity, and racial extinction their official policy. Along with the applied anthropologists and sociologists, the JACL called racial extinction "~~the~~ absorption and assimilation."

Where the Germans ~~attempted~~ attempted to create an ~~atmosphere~~ atmosphere where no ~~Jew~~ Jew in the world would ~~want~~ want to be a Jew anymore, by ~~engineering~~ engineering Jews to lead Jews to the death camps with resistance and perform all the dirty work of the death camps, the Americans created ~~the~~ the massive rejection of ~~the~~ history and self among the Nikkei without the expense and mess of mass murders.

Where the Nazis ~~ought to~~ sought to mechanically ~~produce~~ produce a history of ~~Jewish~~ Jewish shame with time and ~~an~~ impressive number of corpses led, ~~and~~ killed ~~and~~ stripped, rended and buried by Jews willing to do anything to live, the Americans produced such a history ~~for~~ for Japanese America, in the ~~blink~~ blink of an eye ~~with~~ leaving the Nikkei to live under the rule of Mike ~~Masaoka~~ Masaoka, a Jap who hated himself for being ~~Jap~~ Jap. His testimony before the Tolan Committee in San Francisco is a mass of pitiful racial self-contempt, ~~in~~ He takes advantage of the nation's momentary synonymity of patriotism and race hatred. ~~Every~~ His every utterance ~~is~~ is damp with the wish he were white. Every way he can, he tells the committee, his insides are all white. That his insides have a pathological aversion to everything "Japanesey." Masaoka is so "American" (his euphemism ~~for~~ for ~~his~~ "white") that he refused the trip to Japan he won as "the outstanding Japanese-American of the year."

MR. SPARKMAN. You were born, of course, in the United States?

MR. MASAOKA. Yes.

MR. SPARKMAN: Educated here?

MR. MASAOKA. College degree.

MR. SPARKMAN: Where were you educated?

MR. MASAOKA: University of Utah.

MR. SPARKMAN. Let us go back of that. Where did you do ~~your~~ your grammar-school work?

MR. MASAOKA: All my work was done in Salt Lake City. I was born in Fresno, Calif., but my folks moved to Nevada, then Idaho, ~~and~~ and then ~~Salt Lake~~ Utah. I am a graduate of the Westside High School at Salt Lake City and also the University of Utah of Salt Lake City, and I have spent all my educational career there.

MR. SPARKMAN: Have you ever been back to Japan?

MR. MASAOKA: No. I was offered a trip as a contest winner, and the people thought maybe I could enjoy the trip.

MR. SPARKMAN: Now, wait. Who offered you the trip as a contest winner?

MR. MASAOKA: The whole thing is that every year they select what they call the outstanding Japanese of the year; Japanese-American.

MR. SPARKMAN: Who does?

MR. MASAOKA: The ~~Young~~ Young People's Chicago group that Senator Thomas is cognizant of, as well as Mrs. Roosevelt. Then they, in connection with this trophy that they offer to the outstanding Japanese-American born citizen contemplate a trip to Japan.

MR. SPARKMAN: Did you ~~ever~~ ever attend Japanese schools in this country?

MR. MASAOKA: Personally I did not, but frankly--

MR. SPARKMAN: (Interposing). ~~Is~~ A great many of your people do?

MR. MASAOKA: Oh, yes. But I did not.

MR. SPARKMAN: What is your religion?

MR. MASAOKA: To ~~show~~ show you how American I am, Latter Day ~~Saints~~ Saints, Mormon.

7/chin/

~~XXXX~~ MR. SPARKMAN: Have you ever served as a missionary?

MR. MASAOKA: ~~Y~~ For the Mormon Church?

MR. SPARKMAN: ~~y~~ ~~Yxxx~~ Yes.

MR. MASAOKA: Only as a block missionary within Salt Lake City.

(11143-44)

JAMES Y. SAKAMOTO was the only JACL officer~~xxxx~~ to ~~xxxx~~ ~~xxxxxxx~~ address the question of ~~whitexxxx~~ the ~~curf~~ curfew, evacuation and incarceration being ~~xxxxxxx~~ expressions of white racism and not military necessity. He ~~xx~~ devotes an entire section of his written report of the Emergency Defense Council of the Seattle JACL to the influence and play of "racial prejudice" ~~xxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxx~~ the ~~xxxxxxx~~ on the ~~xxxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxxx~~ question of ~~Nix~~ Japanese American loyalty or disloyalty.

removing race from JACL discussion

MASAOKA DECLARES HIMSELF "PREJUDICED" "I am prejudiced ~~in~~ for the Japanese Americans, because I think they are loyal. I know that ~~Ix~~ am. I know that the great majority of us are." ~~2~~ (11141) ~~2~~ Thus, Masaoka attempts to ~~xxxx~~ subtly and overtly ally ~~whitexxxx~~ race prejudice in favor of white supremacy~~xxxx~~ as ~~JACLx~~ Japanese America's natural "Americanism" He attempts to remove the question of "prejudice" from the ~~xxxx~~ ~~xxxxxxx~~ arena of ~~a~~ conflicting races to ~~a~~ that of conflicting perceptions of ~~xxxxxxx~~ American loyalty. "I think that some of the other gentlemen are prejudiced for the other side." He is ~~x~~ using ~~xxxxxxx~~ debate as the ~~xxx~~ ruling metaphor of ~~xxxxx~~ his discussion of prejudice. "The other side" here is not a race, but an intellectual position. ~~xxxxxxx~~ Debate is a high school activity, an ~~xx~~ artificial ~~xxxxxxx~~ intelligence and form in an artificial presentation. "I think somewhere between the two lies the truth," he says to the Tolson Committee, "and I hope and trust that you gentlemen will be able to find that truth." All rhetoric from ~~xxx~~ the jump. ~~xxxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxxx~~ He throws up the word "prejudice" ~~xxxxxxx~~, and never raises the issue or protests its application by the government. Masaoka the ~~xxxx~~ speech teacher ~~ix~~ speaks as a slave of public opinion, a devotee worshipping in the church of public opinion. ~~xxxxxxx~~ By his reckoning ~~x~~ public opinion runs the government, ~~xxxxxxx~~ and he ~~xxxxxxx~~ announces ~~x~~ public ~~xxxx~~ opinion to be the ~~offxxx~~ gospel of the national JACL. Sakamoto, on the other ~~xxx~~ hand, ~~xxxxxxx~~ specifically asks the government to ~~xx~~ be above race prejudice and ~~xxxxxxx~~ the mass of public opinion tainted with race prejudice.

~~xxxxxxx~~ Sakamoto's testimony before the Tolson Committee was an ~~xxxx~~ obvious ~~xxxxxxx~~ attempt to reclarify and redirect Masaoka's ~~xxxxxxx~~ JACL ~~xxxx~~ to a more assertive and active representation of Japanese American integrity and interests. In defiance of Masaoka's ~~xxxx~~ national strategy, Sakamoto ~~xxx~~ was not only the only JACL officer to ~~xxxx~~ ~~xxxxxxx~~ appear at the Seattle hearings, he was the ~~xx~~ only ~~xxxxxxx~~ Japanese American. Masaoka had led a team of chapter presidents to testify in San Francisco. Hito Okada, National Treasurer had led a ~~xxxxxxx~~ JACLers ~~ix~~ to testify ~~ix~~ at the Portland hearings,

Now that I've glanced over the San Francisco hearings and read through the JACL team testimony, the ~~xx~~ similarity of form,~~xnx~~ presentation and content of t
the ~~Sx~~ San Francisco and the Portland JACL presentations ~~ixxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxikinxgx~~
~~axkknexniiqmennebxkxbenbnx ixkbxiibnnity~~ strikes me as obvious and intentional, at least
as ~~iaknek~~ intentional as ~~khnxdiffxneneekx~~ Sakamoto's departure from the JACL form.

THE JACL AND MANY WHO SPOKE FOR THE ~~XXXX~~ ~~IN~~ REMOVAL OF ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ ALL PERSONS OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY TO CONCENTRATION CAMPS justify their racist actions and words as symptoms of their being victims of the mass hysteria and confusion of the time. The truth ~~xxx~~ is, there was no hysteria. There was no confusion. Hysteria and confusion are euphemisms for race hatred. Hatred of the Japanese race. The JACL ~~xxxxxxx~~ the U.S. Army, and the ~~xxx~~ government all ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ championed ~~xxxx~~ this race hatred logically, through a tedious process of ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ evaluation and study, planning, ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ building ~~and~~ ~~xxxx~~ involving a score of government and military departments, ~~and~~ agencies, and civilian ~~xx~~ contractors, thousands of people in ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ the states of Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, Nebraska, Texas, Utah, ~~and~~ ~~Michigan~~ Wisconsin, ~~and~~ New York, the territory of Hawaii, and the District of Columbia ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ before a Japanese American ~~xxxx~~ entered ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ an assembly center. The camps ~~xxxx~~ emerged ~~with~~ in a time of war, but that time of war did not produce hysteria or ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxx~~ insoluble confusion. There was nothing confused or hysterical about the race hatred of the time. The spirit of the ~~xxxxxx~~ campaign of hatred against the Japanese Americans was exultant, religious, ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ moral, ~~xxxx~~ ~~xxxx~~ joyful. (examples here.....)

The JACL did not say they were confused at the time. Mike Masaoka never thought of himself or his leadership as either hysterical nor confused. He saw the war ~~xxx~~ and the climate of hatred against his people as an opportunity for the JACL to destroy Japanese America for the whites and thus prove their loyalty and devotion to white supremacy.

The mass detention of all the Nikkei leaders on December seventh and eighth both aroused and soothed the race hatred of the moment. The violence against the Nikkei was sporadic, unorganized, and short on the savagery characteristic of a hysteria. The west was not alive with wandering mobs lynching everyone who looked Jap to them, and burning down their houses. No, the war didn't invent hatred of the Japanese race, it vindicated it, justified its open and public expression. Race hatred not hysteria was abroad the old west. And the west was getting dim. Nowhere farther west for the rails west to go. The Lone Ranger was only a radio program that came on around sunset in the summertime. The race hatred came from the old days of the wild west and was a sentimental flex in the legendary west. Hatred of the Japanese race was a part of the civilization that came west with the railroad. The whites did not form mobs and take to the streets, they took to the law. They took to the editorial pages. They took to the air. They took to the wonderful machinery of modern civilization, to hate Japanese America. If it was hysteria it was educated cold blooded hysteria.