

REPORT SUBMITTED

TO

TOLAN CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE

ON

NATIONAL DEFENSE MIGRATION

EMERGENCY DEFENSE COUNCIL

SEATTLE CHAPTER

JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

517 Main Street

Seattle, Washington

FOREWORD

The Emergency Defense Council of the Seattle Chapter, Japanese American Citizens' League, has prepared this report on the position of the Japanese in the State of Washington in the belief that a factual and objective presentation of the true picture is the best way to bring about a fair solution of a difficult problem.

We realize it is an issue which cannot be settled lightly, an issue possessing many sides, and one which must be judged by reason rather than the emotions.

We present this report in the hopes that the facts and figures contained in it may assist the Congressional Committee to make its decision on the issue of evacuation of Japanese nationals and their citizen children in a manner most advantageous to the war effort of the United States, and in keeping with the traditions of fairness and justice that all Americans hold dear.

May we also draw the Committee's attention to two comprehensive reports of the Japanese situation in this area. They are: "Types of Adjustment of American-Born Japanese", a doctor's thesis submitted to the University of Chicago by Dr. Forrest La Violette, and "The Ecological Position of the Japanese Farmers in the State of Washington", a doctor's thesis submitted to the University of Washington by Dr. John Adrian Rademaker.

REPORT PRESENTED TO TOLIE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE

February 28, 1942

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Foreword
2. Introduction
3. Physical picture of the Japanese situation
4. The Japanese in American Economic Life
5. Agricultural tables
 - Western Washington totals
 - Vegetable shipping industry
 - Greenhouses
 - Breakdown by districts
 - Eastern Washington report
6. Other economic tables
 - Hotels operated by Japanese
 - Restaurants operated by Japanese
 - Grocery stores
 - Dye works and cleaners
 - Lumber industry
 - Salmon canning industry
 - Oyster industry
7. Public Opinion
8. Selfish Interests
9. Problems of Evacuation
 - Location
 - Resettlement
 - Return
 - Humanitarian
 - Wishes of the Japanese
 - Model City
 - Alternatives
10. Conclusion

INTRODUCTION

Circumstances brought about by Japan's treacherous attack on the United States on December 7, 1941, have created a situation in the Western States affecting directly a considerable and not unimportant portion of the population. Indirectly, but equally as vitally, an even larger section of the United States and its national defense effort as a whole is affected by this problem.

The issue concerns the position of aliens and American citizens of Japanese extraction. It is a problem aggravated by racial differences, and made more urgent because total warfare recognizes no geographical boundaries or other restrictions. Because of these, and various other reasons to be brought out later in this report, it is a matter which must be decided quickly. It was a problem that existed from the very day of the war, if such a problem ever did exist, but it has been only recently that public feeling has come to the point of making it a serious issue.

We believe that not all the facts of the situation are known. We are also convinced that many misconceptions exist regarding the nature and magnitude of the problem. We, therefore, grateful for the Congressional Committee's sincere interest in determining all the facts, respectfully submit this report compiled from information gathered by the Emergency Defense Council of the Seattle Chapter, Japanese American Citizens League, with the co-operation

of various Japanese American Citizens League chapters throughout the State of Washington.

For some time now there has been agitation for the evacuation of Japanese nationals as well as American citizens of Japanese descent from Pacific Coast States. Such evacuation has been proposed in a variety of forms.

We wish to go on record now that the safety and welfare of the United States is, has been, and will continue to be foremost in our minds. We, as American citizens, have a duty to this, our country, and the first tenet of that duty is complete and unshakable loyalty.

For this very reason, we are opposed to the idea of indiscriminate, en masse evacuation of all citizens and loyal aliens of Japanese extraction. We are wholeheartedly in favor of complete co-operation with the military and other authorities on withdrawal of civilians from the immediate vicinity of defense projects and establishments. But we do not believe that mass evacuation is either desirable or feasible. We believe that the best interests of the United States will be served by other solutions to the problem.

We also desire the privilege of remaining here to fight shoulder to shoulder, and shed our blood, if necessary, in the defense of our country and our homes together with patriotic Americans of other national extractions if that time should ever come. It is repugnant to us that we be given a place of safety when our friends and neighbors remain behind to defend the things that we together created

and developed.

It is our belief after extensive and exhaustive investigation and considered judgment, that Americans and Aliens of Japanese extraction can contribute more for the defense and welfare of the United States by being permitted to carry on in their present positions than by any other means. We have complete confidence in the ability of the Federal Bureau of Investigation to uncover and apprehend those dangerous to the safety of our nation. Despite press reports to the contrary, there have been no cases of attempted sabotage of fifth column work among Japanese aliens in the United States according to a recent statement by Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It is to our own interests that the record shall be kept clean.

In Seattle proper as well as in other Washington districts, American citizens of Japanese extraction, mainly through the Japanese American Citizens League chapters, have been working in active co-operation with the various national defense agencies. One of the committees of the Emergency Defense Council of the Seattle chapter, Japanese American Citizens League, is an intelligence unit which is rendering every assistance to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It is our conviction that in co-operation with the authorities, we will be able to see that alien Japanese not only do nothing to jeopardize the safety of the United States, but contribute actively to the welfare of their adopted homeland.

If, finally, the decision is that Japanese must go, the Committee is assured of the Japanese American Citizens League's complete co-operation in the evacuation movement. Loyalty demands that orders, no matter what, be obeyed willingly and efficiently.

PHYSICAL PICTURE

In the State of Washington, there are approximately 14,000 individuals of Japanese extraction. About 63 per cent, or 8,800 are American-born, therefore American citizens. The remainder, approximately 5,400, is foreign-born and alien. A large number of these foreign-born would be American citizens today if they had been permitted the privilege of naturalization, denied them by law.

There are, in the City of Seattle proper, approximately 6,000 persons of Japanese extraction, about 3,500 citizens and 2,500 aliens. The remainder, approximately 8,000 is in the following areas, most of which are rural: the White River Valley, south of Seattle; the Puyallup Valley, northeast of Tacoma; the Yakima Valley, east of the city of Yakima; the outskirts of the Greater Seattle area; around Bellevue on the eastern shore of Lake Washington; Vashon and Bainbridge Islands in Puget Sound; and the cities of Spokane and Tacoma. There are also scattered, families in other sections of the state, primarily in the western half.

An estimated of population distribution follows:

| District | Citizen | Alien | Total |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Seattle | 3,500 | 2,500 | 6,000 |
| Tacoma | 480 | 320 | 800 |
| Spokane | 203 | 162 | 365 |
| White River Valley | 1,040 | 560 | 1,600 |
| Puyallup Valley | 650 | 350 | 1,000 |
| Yakima Valley | 650 | 275 | 925 |
| Bellevue | 194 | 130 | 324 |
| Vashon Island | 75 | 47 | 122 |
| Bainbridge Island | 187 | 83 | 270 |
| Bothell Area | 32 | 15 | 47 |
| Others | <u>1,560</u> | <u>1,040</u> | <u>2,600</u> |
| Total | 8,571 | 5,482 | 14,053 |

PHYSICAL PICTURE--2

Of the alien group, the average age of males is 59 years; of the females, 51 years. Many of these aliens have been in the United States for 45 and 50 years; all have been here since 1924 when the Exclusion Act went into effect, and their average tenure of residence in this country may be approximated at 30 years. Thus, the majority have spent from half to two-thirds of the lives in the United States.

Most of these aliens immigrated to the United States in their early youth, and many have not returned to the old country since their first arrival. Large numbers have lost all contact with relatives and friends in the old country. In other words, they have been in contact with American ideals and principles for the greater portion of their lives, and their ties to the old country have grown progressively more tenuous. Considerable numbers have expressed, time and again, their desire for American citizenship so that they might enjoy in full measure the benefits of American life which they appreciate so deeply.

These aliens were given an opportunity to return to their native land last November when the Japanese government sent evacuation ships to the United States. The M. S. Hikawa Maru, the last Japanese ship to call at this port came prepared to handle at least a thousand passengers. Emergency quarters were rigged up in the holds and all preparations had been made to evacuate as many as the ship would hold. That ship made its return trip only one-third full. The alien Japanese, loyal to their children who are Americans, had elected to take their

PHYSICAL PICTURE--3

chances with the United States in the war which was then only impending.

This attitude is understandable. Many of the aliens are pioneers of the Pacific Northwest. They came here at the turn of the century when the State of Washington was comparatively a raw frontier, and they grew up with the country, aiding in its development. They have a pride in their achievements. They helped to clear the forests and plant the fields that now yield such a rich harvest from land that was once wilderness. They helped produce the lumber that was built into cities, and they helped lay the railroads that penetrate into the hinterland.

Now that the lives of the Alien immigrants are drawing to a close, it is only natural that they wish to see their American-born children reap some of the fruit of their labors. Both the livelihood and the future of the immigrant and the American-born groups are rooted solely in this country.

The average age of the American-born generation is 20 years, although there are a few individuals in their 40's. They are, for the most part, thoroughly Americanized because of their education, their contacts with Caucasian Americans, and American society in general. Although most of these American-born can speak Japanese to some extent, extremely few can be considered fluent as was discovered in efforts to find capable translators and interpreters. The language situation among the Japanese is similar to that among all immigrant groups in this country.

PHYSICAL PICTURE--4

Generally, the relations between the American-born and their Caucasian associates have been friendly and wholesome. That they have shouldered their burdens as citizens in the greater community of the United States will be revealed in interviews with public officials and others. While considerable numbers of the American-born have made visits to Japan, some studying in Japanese institutions of higher learning, the vast majority have returned to the United States more appreciative than ever of the American way of life. It is proper, we believe, to consider these trips to Japan as educational, much in the same manner as Americans of other racial extraction make visits to Europe to round out a liberal education and acquire a broader viewpoint.

In the public schools, the American-born Japanese have established an admirable record of scholarship as well as competing on equal terms with others on athletic fields. Within the past 12 years, 27 American-born Japanese have been either valedictorians or salutatorians of the nine Seattle high schools. Over the same period, 24 Japanese Americans were elected to Phi Beta Kappa at the University of Washington. The Japanese enrollment in December at the University of Washington was about 300, out of a total enrollment of approximately 9,500.

Juvenile court and police records show that the American-born Japanese rarely, if ever are in difficulty with the law in spite of the fact that most of them come from Seattle's economically depressed areas.

THE JAPANESE IN AMERICAN ECONOMIC LIFE

Contrary to popular belief, the Japanese has not wilfully segregated himself in his own little communities where he moves only in completely Japanese circles, living in complete economic isolation from the rest of the community. The Japanese have become so well assimilated, economically if not socially, with the greater community of America, that to withdraw him in wholesale numbers from his home would be the best possible way to disrupt the normal course of life of thousands of Caucasian Americans.

In war-time a tremendous number of disrupting influences are brought into play in all aspects of society. Consequently, experts in the field of civilian morale are agreed that avoidable disruptions should be discouraged as much as possible. Since the Japanese have become well integrated into the economy of the local community, to remove them would be an unnecessary blow to the economic machinery of this area.

The Japanese resident in the United States has made his greatest contribution in the field of agriculture and it is here that he can make a great contribution to the war effort of the United States. Already, state after state has reported farm labor shortages, brought about by the increased drain of men into the fighting services and defense industries. Yet, the farms play a tremendously important role in our victory effort and must be kept operating at top efficiency in order to feed America and her Allies. Detailed figures presented in the following tables show graphically the part Japanese aliens and American citizens of Japanese parentage are playing in this phase of the national defense effort.

It must be emphasized that farmers are specialists, especially the truck farmers.. They must have training and experience to get the maximum yield, just as defense workers or soldiers must have training and experience. It is not practical nor possible to import farm laborers to take over fields left by Japanese farmers. For one thing, Caucasian American workers are loathe to take such tedious and comparatively unprofitable work when defense industries with their high scales of pay are bidding for the same services. Truck farming involves long hours of work on hands and knees close to the soil. A farmer from the Mid-West or other areas would have difficulty in adapting himself to this sort of work.

The produce issue is not merely one of doing without spinach or lettuce temporarily. It is not merely a matter of producing truck vegetables and marketing the crops for local dinner tables. A multi-million dollar industry has been built up around Japanese farmers, giving livelihood to thousands of others in the railroads, in the eastern markets, in the numerous little communities that dot the farming areas of Washington.

While it is likely that we could manage with canned goods this coming year and not require fresh vegetables, it must be remembered that this year's harvests are processed for next year's canned supplies. If no great pinch is felt immediately, it is certain that next year, and the year after, the problem of food will be most acute. Farming is a vital industry which can ill afford disruption at this time, and that disruption is sure to come, for the country does not have

ECONOMIC LIFE--3

the skilled labor to take over should Japanese farmers be removed. The Filipinos, the only possible source of replacement, are being taken by the armed forces in increasing numbers; they will be required in the Alaska salmon canneries; and they are not available in sufficient numbers to alleviate the situation to an appreciable extent.

In the cities as well as the rural areas, mass removal of Japanese would create unexpected hardships on the community as a whole. Whether at war or peace, hotels must be operated, beds made, dishes washed, floors swept. In normal times, it would not be difficult to replace Japanese labor for this work. But now with the competition of the armed forces and defense industries, these menial occupations would not appeal to labor. Housing difficulties, bad enough at best in the crowded defense centers of Seattle, would become infinitely more difficult if the more than 200 hotels operated by Japanese had to be closed down. For the most part, these hotels are operated as a family enterprise, by a man and wife assisted in some cases by adult children. With hired help, such hotels could not be operated on a profitable basis at the price levels now prevalent. The possibility of getting help at all is also remote.

Other than the two main occupations, farming in the rural areas and hotel operation in the cities, the Japanese are serving their communities in a number of other ways. For instance, in the city of Seattle, there are 140 grocery stores, 90 cleaning establishments, 53 restaurants, and other enterprises, the vast majority of which are located outside of the so-called

Japanese districts and serving the needs of Caucasian American patrons in these areas.

The following tables were compiled from information obtained from exhaustive canvasses made by members of Japanese American Citizens League chapters in the various districts. Individuals who have grown up in the communities, who are actively engaged in business in those communities, reliable individuals with judgment and access to the facts made door-to-door surveys, and we submit them with every confidence as to their accuracy.

Each table is accompanied by explanatory statements. It should be mentioned in passing that the Japanese are not in the fishing industry and do not possess fishing boats.

AGRICULTURAL TABLES

The agricultural situation deserves an entire section in itself, but the story is better told by tables of figures. In Western Washington alone more than three million dollars worth of produce was marketed by Japanese farmers, about one-third of this amount being sent to Eastern markets.

A produce shortage would be especially acute now because of the great increase in the local population caused by defense workers migrating here.

A decision on the evacuation issue must be made quickly for planting time is already here. The majority of farmers have already planted, risking their savings on the possibility of being able to harvest. Others must decide soon, and those who have planted must begin the task of cultivating and fertilizing.

Many have been unable to get bank credits to finance planting. In the past the credit of Japanese farmers was good enough to get substantial loans without collateral, but this year things are different.

These, however, are minor considerations beside the greater problem of an impending produce shortage should the skilled workers who produced last year's great harvest be suddenly withdrawn with no prospects of substitutes for them.

FARM REPORT

Total of Western Washington Districts:

Total acreage farmed: 9,052 acres

People involved: Aliens--849 Citizens--1,432 Total--2,281

Commodities raised: Lettuce, cauliflower, peas, beans, corn, cabbage, spinach, squash, celery, tomatoes, carrots, strawberries, other berries, turnips, cucumbers, radishes, green onions, beets, asparagus, dry onions, potatoes, and miscellaneous.

Total valuation \$3,120,205.00

Note: Acreage is based on total number of acres cultivated during one year. In other words, the actual number of acres is 6353 but since 2 and 3 crops are grown on some farms, the total acreage is increased by approximately one third. About 5,000 workers find direct employment on the farms and countless thousands in allied lines.

FARM REPORT

Western Washington District

Local, Cannery & Interstate Sales
Summary of Commodities

| | | |
|---------------|----|----------------|
| Lettuce | \$ | 613,152.00 |
| Cauliflower | | 213,845.00 |
| Peas | | 347,630.00 |
| Beans | | 169,433.00 |
| Corn | | 37,067.00 |
| Cabbage | | 95,391.00 |
| Spinach | | 79,667.00 |
| Squash | | 22,610.00 |
| Celery | | 249,947.00 |
| Tomatoes | | 66,630.00 |
| Rhubarb | | 218,050.00 |
| Carrots | | 13,325.00 |
| Strawberries | | 382,960.00 |
| Other berries | | 155,523.00 |
| Turnips | | 44,000.00 |
| Cucumbers | | 68,150.00 |
| Radishes | | 39,098.00 |
| Gr. Onions | | 74,288.00 |
| Beets | | 17,475.00 |
| Asparagus | | 3,500.00 |
| Dry Onion | | 1,900.00 |
| Potatoes | | 1,560.00 |
| Misc. | | 154,625.00 |
| | | <hr/> |
| Total | | \$3,120,205.00 |

REPORT OF VEGETABLE SHIPPING INDUSTRY

(Western Washington District)

| Shippers | Cars shipped | Paid for Supplies | Wages | Employed |
|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Seattle Growers | 76 | \$ 6,198.00 | \$4,389.00 | 35 |
| Western Producers | 315 | 124,846.00 | 22,191.00 | 90 |
| Puget Sound Assn. | 555 | 132,356.00 | 39,927.00 | 195 |
| Bellevue Growers | 83 | 7,800.00 | 5,400.00 | 40 |
| White River Pkg. | 257 | 45,000.00 | 25,000.00 | 95 |
| Sumner Pkg. Co. | 77 | 7,000.00 | 6,866.00 | 50 |
| Kent Vegetable | <u>124</u> | <u>9,644.00</u> | <u>7,178.00</u> | <u>28</u> |
| Total | 1487 | \$332,884.00 | \$110,951.00 | 533 |

The principal commodities shipped from the Western Washington District are Lettuce, Peas, and Cauliflower during May, June and July and celery in October and November.

The official total of car-lots shipped from this District as reported by the Washington Produce Shippers Association for 1941 is 1843 of which the Japanese organizations shipped 1487 or 80% plus.

The smaller communities in the rural Districts will be affected to the extent of the loss of this payroll as well as the loss of business from the Japanese farmers.

REPORT ON GREENHOUSES OPERATED BY JAPANESE

CITY OF SEATTLE

February, 1942

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Number of Japanese-operated greenhouses in this district | 50 |
| Total number of greenhouses in this district | 80 |
| Estimated number of workers in Japanese- operated greenhouses | 200 |
| Total value of crop in Japanese-operated greenhouses | \$398,000 |

Ninety per cent of the Japanese-operated greenhouses are owned and ten per cent are leased.

Greenhouse labor is generally furnished by the families themselves. Practically no outside help is required.

The total value of the crop is broken down as follows: tomatoes, \$66,000; cucumbers, \$32,000; flowers, \$100,00; bedding plants, pot plants, etc. \$200,000.

FARM REPORT

Bainbridge Island

| | | | |
|------------------|------------|---------------|------------|
| Number of farms: | Leased--16 | Owned--27 | Total--43 |
| People involved: | Aliens--83 | Citizens--187 | Total--270 |

| Commodity | Acreage | Local Sales | Interstate |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Strawberries | 574 | \$46,644.00 | \$186,576.00 |
| Rhubarb | 5 | 1,500.00 | |
| Peas | 14 | 2,040.00 | |
| Truck vegetables | 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 1,200.00 | |
| Other berries | 18 | 7,500.00 | |
| Total | 619 $\frac{1}{2}$ | \$58,884.00 | \$186,576.00 |

Note: Approximately 80% of the agricultural products in this area are controlled by Japanese.

FARM REPORT

Bellevue District.

| | | | | | | |
|------------------|--------|----|----------|-----|-------|-----|
| Number of farms: | Leased | 35 | owned | 19 | Total | 54 |
| People involved | Aliens | 88 | Citizens | 160 | Total | 248 |

| Commodity | Acreage | Local sales | Interstate |
|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| Peas | 130 | 7,200.00 | 24,000.00 |
| Cauliflower | 50 | 17,200.00 | 8,300.00 |
| Lettuce | 50 | 18,750.00 | |
| Tomatoes | 100 | 45,200.00 | 4,800.00 |
| Rhubarb | 20 | | 6,000.00 |
| Strawberries | 50 | 25,000.00 | |
| Beans | 15 | 12,000.00 | |
| Celery | 20 | 12,000.00 | |
| Cabbage | 30 | 6,000.00 | |
| Turnips | 20 | 4,000.00 | |
| Cucumbers | 5 hothouses | 25,000.00 | |
| Tomatoes | 2 hothouses | 3,000.00 | |
| Total | 485 | \$175,350.00 | \$43,100.00 |

Note: 20% of the farmers in this locality raise 2 crops per year.

TRUCK REPORT

Bothell Area

| | | | | | | |
|------------------|--------|----|------------|----|-------|----|
| Number of farms: | Leased | 7 | Part owned | 2 | Total | 9 |
| People involved | Aliens | 15 | Citizens | 32 | Total | 47 |

| Commodity | Acreage | Local Sales | Interstate |
|-----------------|---------|--------------|--------------|
| Lettuce | 209 | \$ 38,000.00 | \$ 16,950.00 |
| Cauliflower | 45 | 5,000.00 | 5,450.00 |
| Peas | 10 | 1,000.00 | 480.00 |
| Spinach | 45 | 2,350.00 | |
| Dry Onions | 6 | 1,900.00 | |
| Corn | 4 | | 400.00 |
| Celery | 25 | 500.00 | 2,870.00 |
| Carrots | 28 | 4,250.00 | |
| Tomatoes | 2 * | | |
| Cabbage | 26 | 7,350.00 | |
| Rhubarb | 4 * | | |
| Strawberries | 2 * | | |
| Beans | 4 * | | |
| Brussel Sprouts | 1 * | | |
| Cucumbers | 3 * | | |
| Misc. * | | 1,500.00 | |
| Total | 414 | \$ 61,850.00 | \$ 26,150.00 |

Note: 58% of the acreage in this district raise from 2 to 3 crops per year.

Approximately 50% of the truck farming in this area is controlled by Japanese.

FARM REPORT
Kingston District

| | | | |
|------------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| Number of Acres: | Leased--15 | Owned--100 | Total--115 |
| People involved: | Alien--14 | Citizen--20 | Total--34 |

Commodity

| | |
|------------------|------------------|
| Strawberries | \$22,000.00 |
| Truck vegetables | <u>10,000.00</u> |
| Total | \$32,000.00 |

Port Orchard and Poulsbo District

| | | | |
|------------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|
| Number of acres: | Total--64 | | |
| People involved: | Aliens--9 | Citizens--13 | Total--22 |

Commodity

| | |
|------------------|------------------|
| Strawberries | \$11,220.00 |
| Truck vegetables | <u>15,000.00</u> |
| Total | \$26,220.00 |

FARM REPORT

Puyallup Valley

| | | | |
|------------------|------------|---------------|------------|
| Number of farms: | Leased--89 | Owned--25 | Total--114 |
| People involved: | Alien--181 | Citizens--367 | Total--548 |

| Commodities | Acres | Local | Interstate |
|---------------|-------|--------------|--------------|
| Lettuce | 500 | \$78,750.00 | \$104,319.00 |
| Peas | 612 | 31,756.00 | 99,409.00 |
| Cauliflower | 145 | 45,900.00 | 25,468.00 |
| Spinach | 100 | 15,360.00 | 10,877.00 |
| Celery | 223 | 49,275.00 | 72,520.00 |
| Endive | 2 | 1,200.00 | |
| Potatoes | 65 | 1,560.00 | |
| Cabbage | 106 | 21,200.00 | |
| Cucumbers | 70 | 42,000.00 | |
| Radishes | 45 | 23,625.00 | |
| Green Onions | 42 | 42,000.00 | |
| Beans | 135 | 64,800.00 | |
| Asparagus | 16 | 3,500.00 | |
| Corn | 130 | 27,300.00 | |
| Beets | 40 | 12,000.00 | |
| Carrots | 140 | 70,000.00 | |
| Tomatoes | 11 | 8,250.00 | |
| Strawberries | 156 | 105,300.00 | |
| Raspberries | 80 | 57,600.00 | |
| Blackberries | 110 | 88,000.00 | |
| Squash | 45 | 13,500.00 | |
| Miscellaneous | 10 | 5,725.00 | |
| Total | 2,783 | \$713,831.00 | \$312,593.00 |

Note. Approximately 95% of the agricultural products in this area are controlled by Japanese.

45% of acreage of this district raises 2 to 3 crops making an actual acreage of 3980 acres cultivated.

FARM REPORT

South Park, Riverton, and West Seattle Districts

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------|--------|----|----------|-----|-------|-----|
| Number of farms | Leased | 34 | Owned | 11 | Total | 34 |
| People involved | Aliens | 68 | Citizens | 125 | Total | 193 |

| Commodity | Acreage | Local sales | Interstate |
|-------------|---------|--------------|-------------|
| Carrots | 56 | \$ 35,200.00 | |
| Beets | 19 | 5,250.00 | |
| Gr. Onions | 38 | 27,600.00 | |
| Radishes | 45 | 13,035.00 | |
| Lettuce | 107 | 9,500.00 | \$22,000.00 |
| Celery | 88 | 10,800.00 | 10,150.00 |
| Spinach | 38 | 15,300.00 | 5,900.00 |
| Cabbage | 40 | 9,200.00 | 2,000.00 |
| Cauliflower | 68 | 4,600.00 | 15,000.00 |
| Peas | 28 | 850.00 | 6,400.00 |
| Corn | 2 | 435.00 | |
| Beans | 10 | 2,750.00 | |
| Cucumbers | 3 | 1,150.00 | |
| Tomatoes | 5 | 3,100.00 | |
| Misc. | 4 | 2,050.00 | |
| Total | 298 | \$130,820.00 | \$61,450.00 |

Note: 85% of the farmers in this locality raise from 2 to 3 crops per year.

Approximately 50% of truck farming in this area controlled by Japanese.

FARM REPORT

Sunnydale. District

| | | | |
|------------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|
| Number of farms: | Leased--7 | Owned--3 | Total--10 |
| People involved: | Alien--18 | Citizens--30 | Total--48 |

| Commodity | Acreage | Local and Interstate Sales |
|---------------|-----------|----------------------------|
| Lettuce | 12 | \$ 4,500.00 |
| Peas | 10 | 2,540.00 |
| Cauliflower | 10 | 4,613.00 |
| Beans | 1 | 300.00 |
| Corn | 2 | 378.00 |
| Cabbage | 4 | 1,350.00 |
| Spinach | 7 | 900.00 |
| Celery | 5 | 3,375.00 |
| Miscellaneous | <u>28</u> | <u>16,269.00</u> |
| Total | 79 | \$34,225.00 |

FARM REPORT

White River Valley

| | | | | | | |
|------------------|--------|-----|----------|-----|-------|------|
| Number of Farms: | Leased | 257 | Owned | 28 | Total | 285 |
| People involved: | Aliens | 456 | Citizens | 685 | Total | 1141 |

| Commodity | Acres | Local | Interstate |
|-------------|------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Lettuce | 726 | 179,258.00 | 141,106.00 |
| Cauliflower | 198 | 33,607.00 | 48,142.00 |
| Peas | 443 | 24,685.00 | 148,590.00 |
| Beans | 206 | 89,583.00 | |
| Corn | 284 | 6,225.00 | 2,329.00 |
| Cabbage | 287 | 49,039.00 | 252.00 |
| Spinach | 203 | 28,980.00 | |
| Squash | 59 | 9,110.00 | |
| Celery | 170 | 18,000.00 | 104,220.00 |
| Misc. | <u>225</u> | <u>117,950.00</u> | |
| Total | 2801 | \$556,437.00 | \$444,639.00 |

Note: Approximately 95% of the agricultural products in this area controlled by Japanese.

FARM REPORT

Yakima District

Total acreage farmed: 9,000 acres

People involved: Families--125 Aliens--275 Citizens--350

Commodities raised: Onions, potatoes, tomatoes, carrots, peas, beans, watermelons, sweet corn, rutabagas, cantaloupes, squash, turnips, lettuce, cucumbers and other truck vegetables; also hay and grain.

Total valuation: \$750,000.00 to \$1,000,000.00

Note: 70% of the above named commodities and 10% of the potatoes grown in this District are raised by Japanese.

6,700 acres on the Indian reservation are leased with a yearly rental of approximately \$25,000.00 to the United States Government.

Spokane District

Number of farms: Total 16

| Commodity | Local Sales |
|------------------|--------------|
| Truck vegetables | \$140,000.00 |

REPORT ON HOTELS OPERATED BY JAPANESE

CITY OF SEATTLE

February 1942

| | |
|--|--------|
| Number of Japanese-operated hotels | 206 |
| Total number of all hotels in Seattle | 325 |
| Number of rooms in Japanese-operated hotels | 13,759 |
| Number of Japanese-operated apartment houses | 56 |
| Number of apartments in Japanese-operated houses | 1,300 |

These figures show that almost two-thirds of the hotels in Seattle are being operated by resident Japanese. These include for the most part, hotels in the cheaper price scales patronized mainly by the laboring class. The hotels average 66 rooms per hotel. From this it can be seen the majority are comparatively small places, profitable only if operated by the manager and his wife with the aid of the family and a minimum of outside help.

Practically all these hotels are now filled to capacity due to the great influx of labor to local defense industries. It is essential that these hotels keep operating, and it will be impossible to keep them in operation at the present price levels if the Japanese are removed in wholesale numbers; simply because no one will work like the Japanese have been working at the remuneration which Japanese accepted.

REPORT ON RESTAURANTS OPERATED BY JAPANESE

CITY OF SEATTLE

February 1942

| | |
|---|--------------------------|
| Number of restaurants operated by Japanese | 53 or |
| Total number of restaurants in Seattle | 10% of city total 500 |
| Number of employees in Japanese-operated restaurants | 225 |
| Weekly payroll in Japanese-operated restaurants | \$5,100 |
| Number of meals served daily in Japanese restaurants: | |
| 10 Class I restaurants | 7,500 meals |
| 25 Class II restaurants | 12,500 meals |
| 18 Class III restaurants | <u>6,000 meals</u> |
| Total | 25,100 meals daily |

The majority of meals in the Class I and II restaurants are served to defense workers. These restaurants are located mainly in the southern section of the down-town area near the waterfront, not distant from defense industries and on the route from the industrial area to residential districts. By mass turnover, these Japanese restaurants can serve a good meal at reasonable prices.

Lunches are also put up by these restaurants for defense workers but are not included in the above figures.

Class III restaurants cater mostly to individuals on welfare aid and relief.

Restaurant operators declare that if they were forced out of operation, restaurant prices would climb immediately for defense workers.

REPORT ON GROCERY STORES OPERATED BY JAPANESE

CITY OF SEATTLE

February, 1942

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Number of Japanese-operated stores | 140 |
| Total number of grocery stores in Seattle | 840 |
| Percentage of Japanese-operated stores | 16 2/3 |
| Average investment per store | \$3,500 |
| Aggregate investment | \$500,000 |
| Average monthly gross income per store | \$2,100 |
| Average total gross income per month | \$294,000 |
| Average number of employees (mostly family members) | 3 |
| Estimated total employment | 420 |
| Average number of years in business | 15 years |

More than 95 per cent of the stores are in localities outside the Japanese community. Stores located within the Japanese community and those bordering on it now average between 30 and 40 percent of their sales to the Caucasian trade. This abnormally high percentage is due to the fact that many defense workers now live in Japanese-operated hotels and rooming houses which are either in or close to the Japanese community. Japanese stores located definitely in Caucasian residential and business districts are practically 100 percent dependent on Caucasian trade.

The range of investment in these stores is from \$700 to \$18,000.

The smaller stores are operated by families while the medium sized ones employ extra help for delivery and general work in the store. The larger stores employ as many as five or six clerks and are in most cases located in shopping centers.

REPORT ON DYE WORKS AND CLEANERS OPERATED BY JAPANESE

CITY OF SEATTLE

February, 1942

| | |
|--|--------|
| Number of Japanese-operated Dye Works and Cleaners | 90 |
| Total number of dye works and cleaners in Seattle | 390 |
| Average total number of customers per month | 12,169 |

About 22 per cent of all dye works and cleaning establishments in the city are operated by Japanese. The 90 establishments average a total of 12,169 customers each month, or about 140 per month per shop.

Most of these shops are located in low-income areas of the city. None of them is on a scale to rival the large white American firms. They are, with few exceptions, purely family enterprises with small capital investments.

JAPANESE IN THE LUMBER INDUSTRY

| | Total No. Employed | No. of Japanese | Union |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-------|
| LONGVIEW, WASHINGTON | | | |
| Long Bell Lumber Co. | 1300 | 125 | CIO |
| Weyerhauser Lumber Co. | 1000 | 75 | CIO |
| ENUMCLAW, WASHINGTON | | | |
| White River Lumber Co. | 700 | 30 | CIO |
| SNOQUALMIE, WASHINGTON | | | |
| Snoqualmie Falls Lumber Co. | 500 | 50 | AFL |
| NATIONAL, WASHINGTON | | | |
| National Lumber Co. | 450 | 70 | AFL |
| EATONVILLE, WASHINGTON | | | |
| Eatonville Lumber Co. | 85 | 40 | AFL |
| ONALASKA, WASHINGTON | | | |
| Carlisle Lumber Co. | 375 | 25 | AFL |
| CALLAM BAY, WASHINGTON | | | |
| Bodell-Donovan Lumber Mill | 400 | 20 | CIO |
| FORKS, WASHINGTON | | | |
| Forks Lumber Co. | 100 | 12 | CIO |
| TACOMA, WASHINGTON | | | |
| St. Paul Lumber Co. | 500 | 6 | CIO |
| Defiance Lumber Co. | 150 | 6 | AFL |
| Dickman Lumber Co. | 110 | 8 | AFL |
| Tacoma Harbor Lumber Co. | 100 | 2 | AFL |
| Seattle, Washington | | | |
| Nettleton Lumber Co. | 200 | 3 | AFL |
| Hartung and Hansen Lumber Yards | _____ | <u>1</u> | AFL |
| TOTAL | 5970 | 483 | |

Percentage of Japanese workers as compared to total number of workers employed..... 9%..

JAPANESE IN THE ALASKA SALMON CANNING INDUSTRY

DATA:

| | | |
|----|-----------------------------------|------------|
| A. | Estimated number of American-born | 350 |
| | Estimated number of Non-citizens | <u>150</u> |
| | Total | 500 |

B. Approximate total of cannery labor supply dispatched from Seattle 3,000

Ratio--1/6 Japanese

C. Estimated number of Japanese employed in key positions (Foremen, Timekeepers, Plant Delegates, Department Heads) 45 to 50

D. Estimated average individual gross income \$400.00

Estimated total gross seasonal income \$200,000.00

E. Type of work: Processing, canning, labelling, longshoring and the supervision thereof.

F. Areas and canneries where Japanese employed:

| Area | Cannery | Company |
|--------------|--|---|
| Bristol Bay | Koggiung | Libby, McNeil & Libby |
| Peninsular | False Pass | P. E. Harris & Co. |
| Kodiak | Port Bailey Shearwater Bay | Kadiak Fisheries Kadiak Fisheries |
| Southeastern | Craig Taku George Inlet Hawk Inlet Cordova Noyes Island Ketchikan Chatham Excursion Inlet Snug Harbor Waterfall Hidden Inlet Union Bay | Libby, McNeil & Libby Libby, McNeil & Libby Libby, McNeil & Libby P. E. Harris & Co. New England Fish Co. New England Fish Co. New England Fish Co. New England Fish Co. Astoria-Puget Sound Canning Company Snug Harbor Pkg. Co. Nakat Pkg. Corp. Nakat Pkg. Corp. Nakat Pkg. Corp. |

SALMON SUPPLEMENT--2

Floating Cannery S. S. "Ogontz"

Total number of canneries employing Japanese--18

NOTE: The above data is based upon the 1941 season. The estimate on the number of Japanese employed in the industry is reasonably accurate. The total fluctuates annually according to the number of canneries operating. The figures on the gross seasonal income of these workers are rough estimates, the difficulty in obtaining accurate figures being that income varies according to the cannery, type of work, amount of fish packed, length of season, etc. The usual length of the season and period of employment is two months.

All Japanese cannery workers embarking from Seattle are either regular or permit members of the Cannery Workers' & Farm Laborers' Union, Local #7 of the United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing & Allied Workers of America (C.I.O.), 221 Second Avenue, Seattle. Either the union or the canning companies may be consulted for additional facts or for corroboration of the data presented above.

The immediate concern of the Japanese cannery workers is the question of whether or not the American-born majority will be employed in the Alaska canneries during the approaching season. The union has not been able thus far to obtain an official government verdict on this question. Since the industry has long been a consistent source of income for large numbers of Japanese workers and a major factor in the economic life of the community, the importance of securing government definition of the status of Japanese cannery labor under the conditions of war cannot be over-emphasized.

The following tentative recommendations and proposals are submitted with the above question in mind:

1. That, in the event the American-born are granted employment for the 1942 canning season, they be assigned to specially designated and segregated plants which are farthest removed from the arena of conflict. They shall work under military surveillance. The normal practice of placing Filipino and Japanese workers in the same plant must be abandoned for obvious reasons.

SALMON SUPPLEMENT--3

2. That, in the event all Japanese (including the American-born) are barred from employment in the industry for the duration of the war, their exclusion shall strictly be construed as temporary and the result of military emergency and necessity. Special provisions should be made to guarantee their right to return to their former jobs upon termination of the war or when it is deemed advisable for them to be re-employed.

3. Should these Japanese workers be barred from employment in Alaska, the government shall consider and adopt all possible steps to effect their rehabilitation and utility as an asset to the national war effort.

OYSTER INDUSTRY REPORT

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| No. Acres owned and leased by Japanese..... | 910 Acres |
| Total output..... | 177,000 gallons |
| Sales amount to..... | \$218,000 |
| No. Japanese employed..... | 185 |
| Total wages earned by Japanese..... | \$223,500 |

Note:

Six out of eight main oyster houses in the state employ Japanese almost exclusively in the fresh and cold packed oyster industry.

Approximately 50% of the fresh packed oysters opened in the Willapa Harbor district are done by Japanese-American concerns.

Japanese have been in the oyster business for the past 10 to 15 years, both in the native and pacific oyster industry. It will be hard to replace these skilled men.

Since there will be no more oyster seeds coming in from Japan due to the war, local seeds must be caught; and Japanese concerns play a large part in this seed trade.

OYSTER INDUSTRY

| NAME | ADDRESS | ACREAGE | OUTPUT (Gallon) | SALES | EARNED AMOUNT |
|---------------------------------------|------------|---------|--------------------|-----------|------------------|
| Eagle Oyster Packing Co. | Nahcotta | 200 | 80,000 | \$ 78,000 | \$18,000 |
| New Washington Oyster Sales | South Bend | 325 | 60,000 | 80,000 | 55,000 |
| Main Oyster Co. | Bay Center | 50 | 5,000 | 20,000 | 3,000 |
| Stackpole Oyster Co. | Nahcotta | 150 | 15,000 | 3,000 | 2,000 |
| Shintani | Poulsbo | 20 | 4,000 | 2,000 | 1,500 |
| Yamashita | Silverdale | 25 | 5,000 | 4,000 | 3,000 |
| Western Oyster Co. | Blanchard | 20 | 3,000 | 4,000 | 3,000 |
| West Coast Oyster Co. Yoshihara | Shelton | 120 | 5,000 | 27,000 | 8,000 |
| | Total | 910 | 177,000 | \$218,000 | \$93,500 |

Japanese employed in American concerns:

| | PEOPLE EMPLOYED | APPROXIMATE EARNINGS |
|----------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Willapa Harbor | 10 | \$ 9,000 |
| Olympia and Puget Sound | 50 | 47,000 |
| Bellingham, Samish Bay | 25 | 35,000 |
| Seattle Opening Houses | 16 | 19,000 |
| Tacoma Opening Houses | <u>20</u> | <u>20,000</u> |
| Total - - - | 121 | \$130,000 |
| Employed by Japanese firms | 63 | |
| Grand Total - - - | 184 | |

PUBLIC OPINION

For many weeks after the attack on Pearl Harbor, public opinion regarding resident Japanese was considering everything extremely favorable. The newspapers, civic officials, and prominent figures in public life were responsible for editorials and statements stressing the necessity of fairness to individuals of Japanese extraction, and urging that no untoward action be taken to alter the friendly pre-war relationship.

So far as we know, there was no sudden public reaction against Japanese aliens or their citizen children, although there were a number of cases where employers anticipating public disfavor discharged Japanese help. School authorities, church leaders and others, who knew the Japanese or were interested in preventing hysteria from rising against them joined in these appeals.

Newspaper letter columns showed about as many communications favorable to resident Japanese as unfavorable, and generally the situation was well in hand until the agitation growing in California spread to this district.

Investigation will substantiate our contention that the relations between Americans of Japanese descent and Japanese aliens with the Caucasian community of the Pacific Northwest have, on the whole, been extremely good. The Japanese have a high reputation as to honesty, integrity, industry, and are considered by those most closely in contact with them as law-abiding and useful citizens.

Our investigation has shown that there are a great many individuals who would not like to see wholesale evacuation of Japanese, but who dare not jeopardize their own positions by

PUBLIC OPINION--2

speaking up at this time. Understandably, they do not care to lay themselves open to the charges of the vociferous minority that they are un-American and "Jap-lovers".

Except for the most rabid critics who make baseless and blanket charges attacking the loyalty of Japanese and stress their danger as potential saboteurs and fifth columnists, most persons who express themselves on the subject seem to believe that only one out of 10 or perhaps one out of 100 Japanese may be disloyal. Many contend that because of the presence of this questionable element, the whole group must suffer.

While there is no general agreement on just what portion of the Japanese are dangerous to the safety of the United States, it should be stressed that the Federal Bureau of Investigation has already detained some 300 alien Japanese in the Seattle area. Analysis of the total population figures shows that at least half of the Japanese in the State are women, and thus safely to be ruled out of consideration generally as saboteurs and fifth columnists. This would leave at the very most, 2,700 alien Japanese males in Washington. From these must be subtracted the aged and infirm, no small consideration because the average age of this group is 59 years.

From these figures, it can be seen that considerably more than one in every ten alien Japanese males is under detention by Federal authorities. Many others are doubtless still under surveillance by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Here is the reply, then, to those who urge mass evacuation so that the one in ten, or the one in 100 dangerous character may be removed from the coastal states.

PUBLIC OPINION--3

We believe that if the proper action and leadership could be initiated by responsible individuals with access to the facts, it would lead the way for the now silent groups to speak up. Once the hysteria is controlled by a statement of the facts of the case, it would seem self-evident that the problem would take care of itself. It seems evident also that those individuals and organizations who spoke in behalf of loyal Japanese aliens and American citizens of Japanese descent before the hysteria began would speak out again when the facts to substantiate their contentions became generally known.

It should also be remembered that one of the favorite Nazi techniques for creating internal disorder is to create an atmosphere of fear and mistrust in the civilian population. The creation of an attitude that holds, that everyone with Oriental features is a spy or a saboteur would delight the masterminds of Nazi psychological warfare. Hysteria has no place in a nation that is resolved to fight the war against the Axis through to a victorious conclusion.

SELFISE INTERESTS

From the speed and organization with which the agitation for removal of Japanese aliens and American citizens of Japanese parentage grew, there is reason to believe that it was not only the result of hysteria or genuine fear of dangers, actual, potential or imagined. We have discovered that there is at least some agitation being conducted by interests which would profit from removal of Japanese. Facts and figures of the economic position the Japanese have built up are a fairly good index to the sort of behind-the-scenes pressure one might find.

First, however, the political angle must be mentioned. This is more prevalent in California than in Washington. Nonetheless, the Japanese issue has become one that apparently is without the "other side", and politicians find it a most convenient football to be kicked around without fearing any sort of counter-reaction developing from the opposition. In other words, the Japanese issue is an ideal punching bag which politicians can pummel in the limelight of public approval without experiencing any sort of political retaliation. Such irresponsible tactics have done much to inflame public opinion. It might also be pointed out that any office-holder, who remained silent on this issue, could expect to be attacked by those who covet his office.

In Seattle proper considerable pressure has been applied by owners of hotel properties as well as real estate agencies, both powerful and influential groups, for the removal of Japanese. Most Japanese-operated hotels are operated on leases of from three to five years. Hotels have not been profitable

SELFISH INTERESTS--2

for the past few years, and it was only in the latter half of 1941, when defense workers rushed to Seattle, that hotels began to make money.

Now that these hotels are experiencing a boom, many of the owners are anxious to break present leases and increase the rental for the next lessee. Others, seeing the profitable nature of the hotel business are anxious to become operators and are hurrying the day when they may be able to step into hotels left vacant by departing Japanese.

Real estate agencies have approached at least 50 Japanese-operated hotels with propositions that they take over operation of the hotels for the duration, in return for a percentage of the gross income, usually 5 per cent. In some of the larger hotels, where gross income for the month is \$10,000 and more, five per cent amounts to \$ 500 monthly and up. A holding company which could operate four or five of these hotels would find it a most profitable venture, especially when there is every possibility of cheating the original operator on practically every item of operation. It must be emphasized that this is not a baseless charge. There are at least 50 large Japanese-operated hotels which have had this proposition put up to them.

A somewhat similar but not quite so severe situation exists in the rural areas where other farmers have showed that they desire rich lands leased by Japanese farmers. However, it is extremely doubtful if outside farmers can turn out anywhere near the volume or the quality of produce that the present tenants are able to do with their infinite patience.

SELFISH INTERESTS--3

There also appear to be groups which are trying to discredit the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Just who or what they are is beyond the scope of this report, but it must be remembered that the Japanese issue is only one of the many duties of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The internment of large numbers of enemy aliens within twenty-four hours of the attack on Pearl Harbor; the unflagging zeal with which the Federal Bureau of Investigation has since rounded them up; and the absence of any serious sabotage on the Pacific Coast all eloquently attest the fact that the Federal Bureau of Investigation has not been slumbering.

PROBLEMS OF EVACUATION

So far we have reviewed at some length the various reasons why we believe that, provided the Federal Bureau of Investigation can continue to hold the situation well in hand as it certainly has done, it serves the best interests of the community of Seattle and the United States as a whole to keep the Japanese right where they are. A tremendous burden falls upon those still in civil life to keep the daily routine from being entirely disrupted by the new war economy. It is fundamental to keep the home front secure against shortage of foods, shortage of housing, and shortage of domestic labor, for unless these needs are first met, the production of the war industries is bound to suffer.

Thus, we believe that from every angle the problem is approached, the benefits derived by moving the Japanese out en masse are overbalanced by the advantage of keeping them here where they are already concentrated under proper supervision. It must be pointed out that if the Japanese are a problem here, they will continue to be a problem wherever they are sent, for war industries and vital centers are spread out over the length and breadth of the land.

In the case, however, that in the face of these arguments the authorities deem it to be the best interests of the United States to order evacuation, certain problems arise. We present them, not only ^{with} the intention of helping the authorities get a complete picture of the issue, but also in the hopes that assurances can be given a naturally anxious Japanese public.

LOCATION

A large number of people have remarked that they will go where the government orders them to go, willingly, if it will help the national defense effort. But the biggest problem in their minds is where to go. The first unofficial evacuation announcement pointed out that the government did not concern itself with where evacuees went, just so they left prohibited areas. Obviously, this was no solution to the question, for immediately, from Yakima, Idaho, Montana, Colorado and elsewhere authoritative voices shouted: "No Japs wanted here!"

The Japanese feared with reason that, forced to vacate their homes, unable to find a place to stay, they would be kicked from town to town in the interior like the "Oakies" of John Steinbeck's novel. Others went further, and envisioned the day when inhabitants of inland states, aroused by the steady influx of Japanese, would refuse to sell gasoline and food to them. They saw too, the possibility of mob action against them as exhausted, impoverished and unable to travel further, they stopped in some town or village where they were not wanted.

The matter of location is an extremely realistic one. Exceedingly few Washington Japanese have friends or relatives elsewhere to whom they might be able to go. The others, in the overwhelming majority, would have to depend on sheer guess work or on government guidance in re-locating themselves.

Naturally, farmers desire re-location on farm lands, but it must be pointed out that the large scale farming of the mid-West presents problems entirely foreign to the experience

of the truck gardeners of the coast. It has also been suggested that all Japanese be organized as farm laborers in the mid-West, but here again, it must be emphasized that the average age of the alien Japanese male is 59 years, and that due to the rigorous life he has been forced to lead, he is not so rugged as his Caucasian counterpart of the same age. True, truck farming calls for unremitting labor, but the actual physical strain is much less than that imposed on the individual in harvest time in the mid-West.

RESETTLEMENT

What will the government's policy be? Will communities be shifted as units to other sections? Will the Japanese be re-settled as family units? Will men and women be segregated and families split-up? Will Japanese be scattered at random in the interior? These are questions that are arising in the Japanese communities in this area.

It would seem hardly feasible to place thousands of Japanese into inland communities without extensive preparation because of the natural repercussion from outraged citizens who understandably would not want the "backwash" from the coast dumped in their cities. On the other hand, concentration camps are not a permanent solution, especially if this turns out to be a long war as the government seems to believe it will.

We are also vitally interested in learning to what extent we can rely on federal financial assistance, not only in the matter of transportation, but also in the numerous problems of resettlement. Our financial reserves are not great as a glance at the statistics on Japanese businesses will reveal, and a long pilgrimage followed by a difficult period of adjustment would be too much for the savings of the average

evacuated family.

Another problem is that of how to go. Is it sufficient to go east of the Cascade mountains to the Yakima and Okanogan valleys? Or would it be more sensible to travel as far inland as possible, to the Mississippi valley, for instance, to obviate the possibility of a second evacuation? Would the sparsely populated areas along the Canadian border be feasible, or is this likely to be considered a danger zone? Should the migration cross the Rockies?

RETURN

It is necessary to think of the future, of the day when this war will be over. Could the Japanese people, once evacuated, return to their homes? There is the great possibility that once the Jap-haters and outspoken opponents of the resident Japanese were successful in driving the Japanese out of this area, they would never permit them to return. A post-war campaign of hate and villification when resident Japanese tried to get back to their homes and investments here, is a definite possibility should these elements score an initial victory.

There is a huge but indeterminable investment here in furniture, personal belongings, businesses, land and property by the Japanese. Certainly the matter of personal possessions is dwarfed by the issue of the national good, but this is a humanitarian problem that strikes close to the hearts and pockets of old people who have lived here close to a half century, of young people just starting out in life.

Who will take care of investments and personal belongings which cannot be taken by the evacuees? Is it better for

EVACUATION--5

evacuees to try to liquidate their possessions at the best possible price so they will have funds when they find a place to relocate? Would it not be better to do so if the chances of returning to this section of the country are remote? These are other questions that should be answered.

HUMANITARIAN

A problem of this magnitude involves certain far-reaching humanitarian considerations. Evacuation means the uprooting of ties established since birth for the citizen group, ties of 30, 40, and 50 years standing for the resident aliens.

We have noted with gratitude that the authorities have decided that aliens too ill to move, occupants of hospitals or other such institutions, and those more than 75 years of age will be permitted to remain in certain California prohibited areas. While this is an humanitarian move, it does not go far enough for it does not provide for persons to care for the incapacitated and helpless.

Other related problems include women in pregnancy, the education of children, individuals less than 75 years of age not ill enough to be considered invalids but useless in the establishments of new homes in a distant area.

What assurance have evacuees that they will find security, a chance to make a livelihood, or even to uphold their pride and dignity as individuals in their new homes? What reaction can evacuees expect from their new neighbors in the matter of welcome, co-operation, assistance and neighborliness? Or must they live fearful and apprehensive under armed guard wherever they are taken, to protect them from sullen natives outraged that their precincts have been invaded by the West Coast's unwanted?

A matter of 14,000 Japanese from the state of Washington might be comparatively easily taken care of, but this issue affects more than 130,000 individuals in the western states.

It must also be remembered that the Axis propaganda machines would immediately seize upon an un-humanitarian mass evacuation to discredit the war aims of all the United Nations as set forth in the Atlantic Charter, for example. Unfortunately, such propaganda might prove to be a serious psychological blow to the cause of the democracies.

WISHES OF THE JAPANESE

The Japanese do not want to be evacuated. They desire to stay in their home cities and districts, away, of course, from vital defense areas such as factories, airports, military establishments, hydro-electric projects, water supply systems and the like to avoid all unnecessary suspicion. In this way they believe they can serve the United States best. But, we repeat, the Japanese will abide faithfully by any decision that the Government reaches.

Assuming, however, that mass evacuation is decreed, they have several ideas which the Committee may like to consider.

MODEL CITY

This is an ambitious plan entailing the creation of an all-Japanese city somewhere in the interior of the country, able to sustain itself as a self-sufficient unit. It would be financed originally partially by the Japanese themselves, partially by the government. Some important defense industry would be set up to give employment to Japanese labor, preferably one calling for skill and efficiency which Japanese workmen possess. The city would be governed by American citizens,

who would elect a mayor and council, just as other American cities, and the Japanese, both American citizens and aliens, would be given an opportunity to practice the American ideals of democratic government which they have learned.

After the initial investment, the city could be expected to become self-sufficient and a center for the hinterland. It is altogether likely that such a city, as an experiment in democracy would be so progressive and would provide such advantages that friends of the Japanese would desire to share its benefits.

This would be a long-range project, to be continued in perpetuity. The objection of the time required to set it up would be overbalanced by the permanent nature of the project.

ALTERNATIVE TO EVACUATION

If a licensing system for individuals in vital and necessary occupations could be worked out under the supervision of either the military or the Federal Bureau of Investigation, unwanted mass evacuation can be avoided. It is our belief that only those considered not dangerous are being allowed to be at liberty today, but this might be carried further by thorough investigation of each individual.

Those permitted to remain at their jobs should have to pass two tests: Prove their necessity to the national defense effort and be approved by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Thus, the general public would be assured that only the unquestionably loyal individuals remain, and that their importance to the defence effort justifies their remaining in this area.

EVACUATION--8

Covering the problem generally, these are the important points:

1. The Japanese do not know where to go in case of general evacuation.
2. They wish to be directed by the government as to where to go.
3. They wish to be sent together, with families intact and in sufficient numbers to be able to help each other over the difficult period of adjustment.
4. They wish to be settled near large urban centers.

CONCLUSION

We believe the so-called Japanese problem is not so serious as certain vocal exponents of mass evacuation profess to believe. We are sure that the benefits to be derived from large scale evacuation of Japanese from the state of Washington are overwhelmingly over balanced by the benefits to be derived by keeping them here under the proper supervision.

The Japanese problem is not going to be solved by evacuation. If they are a problem here, they will be a problem wherever they are sent. Since this is so, it is logical that they can be kept under better surveillance where they are now, concentrated as they are in well-defined areas, and where they can continue to do their bit for the national defense.

The argument that the Japanese must be placed in safety because of danger to themselves in case of invasion or parachute attack is not entirely valid. It is admitted that loyal residents might be mistaken for such invaders and be subject to injury. But in that case, a similar danger is present for both Chinese and Filipinos for racial characteristics which differentiate Japanese, Chinese and Filipinos are so difficult to detect that even members of those races cannot make infallible identification of each other.

Among Axis enemies, the Japanese are the worst possible people to select as saboteurs, spies, and fifth columnist. A Japanese can be distinguished from a considerable distance because of oriental facial characteristics which set him apart from the general mass of people. Enemies with Caucasian faces can mix with crowds anywhere and carry out their nefarious missions.

Japanese are already barred from vital war industries

CONCLUSION--2

such as aircraft plants, ship yards, and other such places where saboteurs are most likely to strike. His contribution is in other fields where the matter of sabotage is not involved, where there is ample opportunity for government supervision.

Espionage is a highly specialized business which cannot be engaged in by just anyone. The vast majority of alien Japanese and American citizens of Japanese descent have no training whatever in espionage, sabotage or fifth column work. Their age distribution precludes this possibility. The Federal Bureau of Investigation has already detained, or is keeping under surveillance those considered suspicious.

Distinction must be made between long-time residents of this country and temporary visitors or treaty merchants. The first have made their homes here, and have made up their minds to remain here until they die. The great majority has resolved never to return to Japan. The others are here on a temporary basis, their homes are in Japan and their interests are Japanese. The two groups have never had anything in common other than race. The first group came here as immigrants, just as immigrants from various parts of Europe, in search of the life, liberty and freedom to pursue happiness which this country has granted all oppressed and unhappy people. They have found it here, and they are appreciative. It is against their principles to turn against the country that has sheltered them, given them a livelihood, security, prosperity, and happiness for all these years.

This is not a war of races. To consider it so is to be taken in by Tokyo propagandists who have used the "Asia for Asiatics" theme in their conquests to create internal turmoil. To succumb to badly informed public opinion and carefully

CONCLUSION--3

organized mass hysteria by pressing undue hardships on the Japanese is to emulate the Nazi tactic of racial persecution which proved so successful in Hitler's climb to power.

If the loyalty of citizens as a group is to be questioned, in what may the American people have faith and confidence?

Internecine warfare is not new. It has precedents in the United States where first the 13 Colonies turned on the mother country in the American Revolution. Brother fought brother in that war, and cousin fought cousins. The issue was the ideal of liberty. Another such war was fought in the Civil War, and here again it was brother against brother, cousin against cousin, over an ideal.

In Asia, the Japanese are pitted against other Asiatics. The Japanese are allied with Germany and Italy, Caucasian nations. The Allied nations include Caucasian nations as well as the Chinese and Filipinos. The Japanese also claim allies among the Chinese of the Nanking regime. Thus, it is a war that transcends racial barriers, a war in which ideals stand as the banner around which various peoples of many nations and many colors have rallied.

For the Japanese, this is in fact a civil war. The Japanese in the old country are fighting for one thing. The Japanese here are fighting for the American way of life. If any substantial number of the Japanese in this country, either those with or without American citizenship, sided with the bloody and ruthless aims of the Axis powers, then it is poor testimony indeed for the principles of democracy and freedom to which these people have been exposed for so long.

CONCLUSION--4

We have, in extensive personal contacts, heard time and again from alien Japanese the desire to do something concrete to assist the United States to victory. These people believe such victory to be a double triumph--for the principles of democracy upheld by the Allied nations, and for their cousins and brothers back in the old country who will be liberated from the mad Fascist warlords, who have misled and exploited them.

As for the younger generation, they are already playing an active part, serving in United States forces by the thousands. Many hundreds volunteered after the attack on Pearl Harbor, and all of them are serving willingly and loyally.

To shun and disavow this patriotic feeling expressed spontaneously by the vast majority of the Japanese in the United States is to throw an offering rising from the heart back into the faces of those who have made it.

If it is for the greater good that evacuation be decreed, we shall obey to the best of our ability. But we are convinced that here in our homes and in our community is where we belong, where we can lend every ounce of our strength, and every cent of our resources, in creating the sinews of war so necessary to total victory. We are Americans. We want to do our duty where we can serve best. We make these statements, not because we fear evacuation, but because we believe, to the bottom of our hearts, that the best interests of the United States, our nation, are to be served by being permitted to stay, work, fight, and die for our country if necessary here where we belong.

S U M M A R Y

REPORT SUBMITTED

TO

TOLAN CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE

ON

NATIONAL DEFENSE MIGRATION

EMERGENCY DEFENSE COUNCIL

SEATTLE CHAPTER

JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

517 Main Street

Seattle, Washington

SUMMARY 1

We wish to go on record now that the safety and welfare of the United States is, has been and will continue to be foremost in our minds. We, as American citizens, have a duty to this, our country, and the first tenet of that duty is complete and unshakable loyalty.

* * * *

We are wholeheartedly in favor of complete co-operation with the military and other authorities on withdrawal of civilians from the immediate vicinity of defense projects and establishments. But we do not believe that mass evacuation is either desirable or feasible.

* * * *

We also desire the privilege of remaining to fight shoulder and shed our blood, if necessary, in the defense of our country and our homes together with patriotic Americans of other national extractions if that time should ever come. It is repugnant to us that we be given a place of safety when our friends and neighbors remain behind to defend the things that we together created and developed.

* * * *

If, finally, the decision is that the Japanese must go, the Committee is assured of the Japanese American Citizens League's complete co-operation in the evacuation movement. Loyalty demands that orders, no matter what, be obeyed willingly and efficiently.

* * * *

SUMMARY 2

In the state of Washington there are approximately 14,000 individuals of Japanese extraction. About 63 per cent, or 8,800 are American-born, therefore American citizens. The remainder, approximately 5,200, is foreign-born and alien.

* * *

Of the alien group the average age of males is 59 years; of the females, 51 years. Many of these aliens have been in the United States for 45 and 50 years, all have been here since 1924 when the Exclusion Act went into effect, and their average tenure of residence in this country may be approximated at 30 years.

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The love of the alien Japanese for America is understandable. Many of the aliens are pioneers of the Pacific Northwest. They came here at the turn of the century when the State of Washington was comparatively a raw frontier, and they grew up with the country, aiding in its development.

* * *

The average age of the American-born generation is 20 years, although there are a few individuals in their 40's.

* * *

Juvenile court and police records show that the American-born Japanese rarely if ever are in difficulty with the law in spite of the fact that most of them come from Seattle's economically depressed areas.

* * *

SUMMARY 3

Contrary to popular belief that Japanese has not willfully segregated himself in his own little communities where he moves only in completely Japanese circles.

* * *

The Japanese resident in the United States has made his greatest contribution in the field of agriculture and it is here that he can make a great contribution to the war effort of the United States.

* * *

Japanese farmers in Washington cultivate 15,353 acres, some for two or three crops, or a total of about 18,000 acres of production. The total number of farms is 666, actually involving 1,166 alien and 2,206 citizen workers.

* * *

The total value of produce handled by Japanese farmers in 1941 was roughly four million of which \$3,029,760 was in Western Washington alone. Interstate shipments from Western Washington were valued at \$1,089,209 in 1941 while \$2,815,051 was sent to local markets.

* * *

In Seattle there are 140 Japanese-operated grocery stores representing an investment of \$500,000; 90 Japanese-operated dye works and cleaning establishments; 53 Japanese-operated restaurants, serving an estimated 25,000 meals per day; 206 Japanese-operated hotels with a total of 13,759 rooms; and 56 Japanese-operated apartment houses with a total of 1,300 apartments.

* * *

SUMMARY 4

Investigation will substantiate our contention that the relations between Americans of Japanese descent and Japanese aliens with the Caucasian community of the Pacific Northwest have, on the whole, been extremely good.

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Considerably more than one in every ten alien Japanese males is under detention by federal authorities. Many others are doubtless still under surveillance by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

* * *

From the speed and organization with which the agitation for removal of Japanese aliens and American citizens of Japanese parentage grew, there is reason to believe that it was not only the result of hysteria or genuine fear of dangers, actual, potential or imagined. We have discovered that there is at least some agitation being conducted by interests which would profit from the removal of Japanese.

* * *

Covering the problem of mass evacuation generally these are the important points:

1. The Japanese do not know where to go in case of general evacuation.
2. They wish to be directed by the government as to where to go.
3. They wish to be sent together, with families intact and in sufficient numbers to be able to help each other over the difficult period of adjustment.
4. They wish to be settled near large urban settlements.

* * *

SUMMARY 5

If a licensing system for individuals in vital and necessary occupations could be worked out under the supervision of either the military or the Federal Bureau of Investigation, unwanted mass evacuation can be avoided.