

February 1945

PASTRANO, Nicholas Visitacion

In December 1942, the subject person, a classified laborer at the Mare Island Navy Yard, was reported to the Intelligence Organization of the Twelfth Naval District as a possibly pro-Japanese suspect.

Investigation undertaken at the time revealed that Pastrano, although he had worked at the Yard for a number of years, was nevertheless of apparent pro-Japanese sympathies. His supervisors stated that he had recently been observed examining confidential papers without authority, had been the instigator of two serious slow-downs, had used statements from Japanese propaganda broadcasts as authority for the prospering of the Filipinos under Japanese domination, had urged his fellow workers to disbelieve American leaders and to cease buying War Bonds, and had stated that he hoped the Japanese would soon bomb the MINY.

Despite the foregoing data which was amply substantiated, administrative action was not taken against the subject at that time, probably due to his long tenure of office. He was, however, removed from contact with confidential matters, and the investigation was carried in a pending status in the event additional data was brought to light.

In October 1944, subject's leading man in the welding shop at MINY where Pastrano was then employed as an electric welder, again made representations of subject's pro-Japanese utterances. The investigation in his case was re-opened, and in addition to re-affirming statements of a nature similar to those at the time of the previous investigation, it was established that Pastrano told Filipino co-workers that the Filipinos would be better treated by the Japanese than by the Americans, that the Japanese would annihilate the Americans who had just landed at Leyte, that the only authoritative comments on the war came from Tokyo and that all American newspaper accounts were nothing but propaganda. The subject's immediate supervisor was of the opinion that unless he was gotten out of the shop immediately his fellow workers would gang up on him and do him extreme bodily harm.

When this case was again brought to the attention of the Labor Board, Pastrano was discharged effective 22 January 1945 for making pro-Japanese statements and having expressed sentiments against the best interests of the United States Government.

Declassified / Downgrade to.....

Auth: EO 12958

Date: SEP 98 Unit: NCFSS 22

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