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JAPANESE ACTIVITIES**RESETTLEMENT**

The return of evacuated Japanese to restricted areas in the Pacific Coast states and its consequent problems have been the principal subjects of interest to the Japanese during the past month. The announcement that Japanese of American citizenship "in cases of special merit where the records of the individuals are absolutely clear" are being permitted to return to restricted areas brought some protests from California State and local officials, American Legion Posts and farm organizations. The subject has been of increasing incidence in the news. Press comment appearing in Pacific Coast newspapers reflects all shades of opinion from urging that they be treated as other loyal American citizens regardless of creed, race or color to demands for strict exclusion with eventual repatriation to Japan in the interest of military safety.

Some West Coast newspapers took issue with the policy of allowing Japanese to return to California and others commented that if they do return, it will be with the knowledge and permission of the Western Defense Command, which has the responsibility for deciding when and if the danger of national security is passed. Newspapers have commented that civilian opposition to the return of California-Japanese is based partly upon fear and partly upon antagonism to the Japanese as an enemy race. Elaborating on this premise, one newspaper stated that military approval should serve to reassure the fearful but racial antagonism is a deeper and far more difficult aspect of the situation, involving the principle of citizenship rights. According to California newspapers, Governor Warren announced that California will give the Japanese "full recognition and their constitutional and statutory rights", if the Federal Government determines military necessity no longer requires the exclusion of Japanese from that state. Governor Warren continued with the announcement that evacuation of the Japanese and permission for their return to California during wartime have been and are matters wholly within the jurisdiction of the United States Army and, therefore, the State Government cannot prevent the return of the Japanese. At the same time, he stated that he was apprehensive of the outcome of re-introducing Japanese in large numbers into California because of social factors.

Immediately subsequent to the announcement of the arrival of Japanese in California, particularly that of James K. Yamamoto, an evacuated Santa Clara County farmer, and the publication of reported plans for the return of other Japanese, organizations and persons advocating the acceptance of the Japanese into California communities and groups of opposite views demanding their exclusion became increasingly vocal.

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Protagonists of the cause of the evacuated Japanese are evidencing increased activity throughout the West Coast. Pacifist groups and organizations advocating the return of the Japanese to the West Coast have taken steps to prepare for their reception. The organizations formed to protect the rights of returning Japanese and pave the way for their acceptance by the Caucasian communities are largely church groups and groups led by religionists. Several of these endeavored to place the opposition to the residents of Japanese in California upon the basis of racial discrimination. The Welfare Council of Metropolitan Los Angeles Community Relations Committee Negro and White had, as a guest at a recent meeting, a Japanese named Takahashi, former business manager of the Japanese Union Church. The activities of the Church Federation in race relations were presented by Dr. Muelder, the Co-Chairman of the Race Relations Commission of the Los Angeles Church Federation as follows:

"The Church Federation became vitally concerned with racial intolerance when the Japanese were evacuated from the Pacific Coast and numerous discriminatory bills were introduced in the state legislature and into Congress. Subsequently, the Church Federation addressed letters to members of the state legislature pointing out certain principles of Christian ethics and democracy. Then meetings were held about a year and a half ago with the legislators and the Federation was asked to testify before the Dies Committee when the committee held hearings in Los Angeles. Last year a conference of 30 or 40 outstanding leaders were called to discuss how the churches could contribute toward better race relations. A code of ministerial conduct was formed.

"The Church Federation will be concerned with (1) how can the educational processes in the churches help their membership develop better attitude in housing as it affects racial groups; (2) how can members of the Protestant churches be assisted in arriving at more constructive attitude preparatory to the return of the Japanese to the Pacific Coast, and (3) how an all-inclusive fellowship may be promoted. In other words, the psychological "acceptance of people of various racial groups is accomplished by association rather than in absentia. Thought has been given as to how young people of all racial groups may generally participate in various church activities.

"The chief organizational problem in the Church Federation is to secure a closer working relationship between the Race Relations Commission of the Los Angeles Church Federation and race committees within individual churches. The National Con-

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gregational Council loaned a staff person to this community to assist in the race relations work. There is a desire to add to the staff of the Church Federation a full-time person for race relations. In most churches there is a Race Relations World Order and Communion Sunday, which are good instruments for discussing and putting into effect better race relations. Also, many of the larger churches have social action groups, which groups the Race Relations Commission is attempting to guide. The Council of Church Women of Los Angeles is being geared into the Race Relations Commission program."

The American Front Service Committee sponsored a three day conference at Seattle in November. The Portland Chapter of the Council for World Citizenship is associating with the Fellowship of Reconciliation and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom to consider problems to assist in the return of these Japanese.

Roger Baldwin, Director of the American Civil Liberties Union, spoke at the Friend's Center in San Francisco on November 26, 1944. He was reported to have asserted that the mass evacuation of the Japanese from the Pacific Coast was a product of hysteria. He is said to have also expressed his opinion that the hostility toward the Nisei is an "old anti-oriental prejudice, rekindled by Pearl Harbor, but now subsiding again to a pre-war level." His assertion that the hostility to Japanese-Americans was diminishing among Californians was coincident with bitter denunciations of the Japanese and their return to California on the part of many organizations and increase in the campaign of some West Coast newspapers to restrict the Japanese from that state. It is noted that Mr. Baldwin termed segregation centers as "American concentration camps." Mr. Baldwin also spoke at the Reed College Alumni Forum at Portland, Oregon on December 1, 1944, on the subject, "What Prospect for Race Equality?" with special attention to the Negroes and the question of jobs for Japanese-Americans. On the same date, he was said to have spoken in Portland on the topic of "How Goes the Bill of Rights in War?"

Baldwin has been active in advocating acceptance of Japanese by West Coast residents and in furtherance thereof, wrote an article which was published in a national magazine.

Opposition to the return of Japanese to California has been expressed by the Native Sons of the Golden West and by a number of American Legion Posts throughout California as well as state and police officials. Many of the Legion Posts have declared that they are against the return of the Japanese to California. The protests are based on what is termed military security and consideration for the welfare of the nation.

Letters directed to California Senator W. W. Gray, Executive Secretary of the American League of California request that the public be assured by the Federal Government that "the West Coast security will not be jeopardized by the return of the Japanese before the end of the Pacific war". According to press reports, the membership of this organization includes several hundred prominent California business men. Later, the American League of California made public assertions that the WLA was engaging in propaganda designed to weaken the public's opposition to the return of the Japanese to vital Pacific Coast areas.

The sentiment of numerous groups and individuals have been given vocal expression through the California press. Adjutant General Ray W. Hays, head of the California State Guard, announced that he thought that it would be unwise to permit the Japanese to return to California at this time. Los Angeles Chief of Police, C. E. Horrell announced that the return of Japanese to Los Angeles is "unalterably opposed by the Los Angeles Police Department, at least until after the war." He stated further that the "depleted police personnel and a very bad crime situation caused by the war brings us to give twenty-four hour daily protection to the Japs." Walter N. Odemar, Chairman of the Committee on Japanese Legislation of the Native Sons of the Golden West is said to have directed a request to President Roosevelt that the decision to permit American-born Japanese to return to the Pacific Coast be reconsidered. Delegates representing 40,000 American Legion members and 239 Legion Posts, at a semi-annual Fourth Area Caucus in Glendale, California, voiced a demand by unanimous resolution that the Japanese be restricted from West Coast states, and that control of Japanese both in and out of relocation centers be given to the Army. At a similar meeting of Legionnaires of the Fifth Legion Area at El Centro, California, a resolution was passed requesting the State Commander to "find out and cause to be published the legislative records of all California Congressmen and state officials in regard to their stand on the subject of permitting the Japanese to return to California."

Chicago continues to have the largest population of resettled Japanese in any city in the United States. The latest figures reflect there are now 714 persons of the Japanese race in the city, an increase of 269 during the past month. This represents a decrease in the number of evacuees taking up residence in the city as there were 502 arrivals in October, 1944. The State of Colorado follows Illinois in the number of relocated persons absorbed.

The New York Church Committee reports that 1712 Japanese have entered New York City from relocation centers. The city is now said to have a Japanese population varying in number from 1051 to 1000.

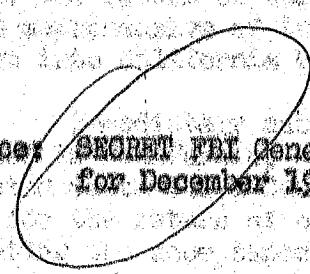
~~ALLIED ACTIVITIES~~

Removal of the Army ban prohibiting persons of Japanese descent from returning to the West Coast has been requested by directors of the Colorado Chamber of Commerce. A Chamber official asserts that between 8,000 and 9,000 Japanese aliens are living in Colorado, a higher proportion than in any other state. This figure is greatly at variance with the data release by the War Relocation Authority, which reflects that there were 3,352 Japanese in that state in November, 1944.

Japanese living in non-restricted areas as well as those presently residing in war relocation centers have expressed plans to bring suit against the Government for damages allegedly incurred by their removal from the West Coast. One Japanese, an American citizen, asserts he is saving all available funds to defray expenses incident to bringing such action. Other Japanese, particularly those in the Tule Lake Segregation Center, appear confident of obtaining assistance from the Japanese Government, particularly if it should emerge the victor, in recovering damages from the United States for losses resulting from the evacuation program. These state they plan to bring suit against the United States for \$100,000 through the Japanese Government.

Several residents of the Manzanar and Tule Lake Relocation Centers have plans to join the Japanese Government's colonization schemes for the South Seas after the termination of the war. These plans appear to have been motivated by Japanese radio broadcasts, particularly that of Foreign Minister Shigemitsu on November 3, 1944, promising a budget of \$75,000,000 from the Japanese and Chinese Governments for colonization in the South Seas. These Japanese express the desire to become part of the vanguard of Japanese expansion abroad.

(Source: ~~SECRET FBI General Intelligence Survey in the United States for December 1944 - pages 13 to 18.~~)



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