

REDRESS

"COMMITTEE FOR REDRESS PRESS KIT, CHICAGO CHAPTER JAPANESE
AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE"
MATERIAL

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BOX 10 FOLDER 9

COMMISSION ON WARTIME RELOCATION AND INTERNMENT OF CIVILIANS



726 JACKSON PLACE, N.W. □ SUITE 2020 □ WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506 □ 202/395-7390

AGENDA

PUBLIC HEARING

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1981

10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Northeastern Illinois University Alumni Hall
5500 North St. Louis Street
Chicago, Illinois

- 10:00 a.m. CALL TO ORDER
- 10:00 - 10:10 a.m. Opening Statement By Chair
- 10:10 - 10:35 a.m.
- (10:10-10:30 a.m.) Statements by Public Officials
Office of the Mayor, City of Chicago
Hon. Willlam Marovitz, Illinois State Senate
Hon. Maryann Mahaffey, Council member,
City of Detroit
- (10:30-10:35 a.m.) Statements: Personal Observations
Studs Terkel, Author, Chicago
- 10:35 - 11:20 a.m. Organizations
Jay Miller, American Civil Liberties Union, Chicago
David Roth, American Jewish Committee, Chicago
Minoru Yasui, Colorado Advisory Commission, U.S.
Commission on Civil Rights, Denver, Colorado
Yvonne V. Delk, Office for Church in Society -
United Church of Christ, New York, N.Y.
- 11:25 - 12:15 p.m. On Japanese From Peru
C. Harvey Gardiner, Ph.D., Murphysboro, IL
Seiichi Higashide, Honolulu, HI
Eigo Kudo, Honolulu, HI
Elsa Kudo, Honolulu, HI
George Fujii, Chicago, IL
- 12:20 - 1:25 p.m. (Lunch Break)
- 1:30 - 1:45 p.m. Media Reaction
J. Fred Mac Donald, Ph.D., Audiovisual Presentation,
Chicago

September 22 (Cont'd)

- 1:50 - 2:20 p.m. Loss: Economic/Education/Property
Chiye Tomihiro, Chicago
Ben Yoshioka, Glenview, IL
Allan M. Hida, Wauwatosa, WI
Thomas T. Kanno, White Bear Lake, MN
Grace Watanabe Kimura, Morton Grove, IL
Masaru K. Yamasaki, Centerville, OH
- 2:25 - 2:50 p.m. Psychological Impact - Individual
Monica Sone, Canton, OH
Masy Tashima, Cleveland, OH
Henry Tanaka, Cleveland Heights, OH
Rev. Jitsuo Morikawa, Ann Arbor, MI
Shigesato Murao, Evanston, IL
- 2:55 - 3:20 p.m. Impact On Health
Asae Honda, Mayfield Heights, OH
Toyo Suyemoto Kawakami, Columbus, OH
Helen Murao, Evanston, IL
Mitzi Shio Schectman, Chicago
Maye Nakano, Morton Grove, IL
- 3:25 - 3:55 p.m. Impact On Family - Survey/Experiences
5:30
Toaru Ishiyama, Parma, OH
Ike Komatsu, Shaker Heights, OH
Mary Sadataki, Northfield, OH
Kiye (Kay) Yamashita, Chicago
Kei Harada, Glenview, IL
- 4:00 - 4:15 p.m. On Resettlement
Dean L. Frantz, Church of the Brethern,
Fort Wayne, IN
Virgil A. Kraft, Barrington, IL
Kazutoshi Mayeda, Bloomfield Hills, MI
- 4:20 - 4:40 p.m. Impact On Sansei
John Sone, Canton, OH
Tom Nakao, Jr., Parma, OH
John Kawano, Chicago
Ann Yoshida, Glenview, IL
- 4:45 - 5:00 p.m. Forms Of Redress
attorney Gregory Northwestern
Michael Ushijima, Buffalo Grove, IL
Allan Meyer, Chicago
Jack Nakagawa, Chicago
- 5:05 - 6:25 p.m. (Dinner Break)

September 22 (Cont'd)

6:30 - 6:55 p.m.

Camp Conditions/Problems

Henry Ushijima - Audiovisual Presentation,
Park Ridge, IL
George Taketa, Mentor, OH
Harry Taketa, Cleveland, OH

7:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Social Impact/Loyalty

May Ichida, Salvation Army Brigadier (Ret.),
Euclid, OH
Alice K. Esaki, Chicago
Rev. Seiichi Michael Yasutake, Evanston, IL
Thomas Minoru Tajiri, U.S. Military Intelligence
Service, Park Ridge, IL
Yoji Ozaki, Chicago
Miyo Morikawa Hayashi, Chicago

7:35 - 8:00 p.m.

Impact On Family

Kazuko (Kay) Ige, Elk Grove Village, IL
Sue Shizu Lofton, Chicago
S. Garry Oniki, Chicago
Akira Arai, Chicago
Lillian K. Hayano, Chicago

8:05 - 8:40 p.m.

IMPACT ON JAPANESE AMERICAN VETERANS

(8:05-8:25 p.m.)

442nd Regimental Combat Team

Tomoharu P. Hachiya, Chicago
Frank Masaru Kajikawa, Chicago
Sam Ozaki, Chicago
Frank Sakamoto, Chicago

(8:30-8:40 p.m.)

U.S. Military Intelligence Service

Hosen Oshita, Northbrook, IL
Sam Shiraga, Northbrook, IL

To the Chicago hearings of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians held at Northeastern Illinois University on September 22-23, 1981:

We regret the spectacle but honor the victims.

Sisters and Brothers:

We express our profound regret at the insensitivity of these hearings in seeking testimony from the victims of America's WWII concentration camps in order "to determine whether any wrong was committed," as though placing on them the burden of proof. Further, we believe that this unfortunate spectacle obscures the real need for documentary research and for interrogation of those individuals, still active, who initiated and authorized the program of unlawful exclusion and internment.

We respect the Commissioners as distinguished and conscientious persons. We respect those who have come to testify. We honor especially the victims themselves, both those who speak and those who listen.

But we believe the evidence abounds, making the wrong apparent. The racism of the times combined with our wartime hysteria, the panic of military defeats, and the calculated actions by our government to make victims of 120,000 persons with Japanese faces.

The desolation, the barbed wire fences and guard towers are evidence enough!

The infant internees, children, innocent women and men, the elderly internees and the disabled are evidence enough!

The absence of any effort to provide even the semblance of due process, the absence of trials or hearings is evidence enough!

Why, then, must the victims be invited to recount and re-live their years of travail? Why must they submit to this public display? Why must they suffer the abuses of Lillian Baker and Senator Hayakawa?

The purpose of this Commission is to review the facts and to recommend appropriate remedies. The facts are available in government files and may be obtained through patient research. The facts, both published and unpublished, reveal the official foreknowledge of Japanese-American loyalty, the deliberate government efforts to use victims as draft labor, the strategy to circumvent the Fifth Amendment, and extensive deliberations to suspend the writ of habeas corpus.

If the Commission is serious, it must request an extension considerably beyond its January, 1982 deadline.

The facts are also available through two key former officials, John J. McCloy and Karl R. Bendetsen. Most major decisions involving the internment program were reviewed and authorized by McCloy in his capacity as Assistant Secretary of War. Col. Bendetsen was instrumental in drafting the infamous Executive Order 9066 and legislation to suspend the writ of habeas corpus.

(over, please)

Mr. McCloy declined to appear before the Commission in July and has not submitted a public statement. (His excuse was a visit to Europe; but Lillian Baker travelled 2700 miles at her own expense to appear.)

Mr. Bendetsen also declined to appear, but did submit a written statement. It is a complete and total cop-out:

"I did not recommend such action."

It is a cover-up by means of the Fast Shuffle:

"Ultimately, an Executive Order was prepared in the Justice Department, not the War Department."

It is an obscene distortion:

"Under my direction the relocation centers were built and furnished with residential equipment, bedding, beds, dressers, tables, chairs, schoolrooms and teaching equipment, infirmaries, dormitories, bathing and sanitary facilities, as well as kitchens and dining halls, fully equipped."

If the Commission is serious, it will subpoena McCloy and Bendetsen and require their sworn testimony under penalty of perjury.

It is not for the victims to testify. It is for them, instead, to be granted reparations!

In order to express our regret and to show honor for the victims who do testify, we shall stand for a brief period at the beginning of each victim's testimony. We invite you to join with us.

Peace be with you!

Alice Smith Basoms, Rev. Fred Berchtold, Clergy and Laity Concerned,
Rev. Martha Coursey, Rev. Gregory Dell, Rev. Martin Deppe, Harold Flitcraft,
Dorothy Frueh, Emi K. Fujii, Hiroki Hamaguchi, William Hohri, Yuriko Hohri,
Helen Izumi, John Izumi, Tom Jamison, Joseph Johnston, Jack Y. Kashihara,
Nelson Kitsuse, Taka Kitsuse, Judy Knop, Jan Linfield, Andy Miyake, Harry Nagaoka,
Setsuko Nagaoka, National Council for Japanese American Redress, John T. Omori,
Merry Omori, Parish of the Holy Covenant, Gertrude Rubin, Robert Siedle,
Ken Tamura, Elsa Weber, John Weber, James Wilkey, Kathy Wilkey, Ann Yamasaki,
Mas Yamasaki, Rev. S. Michael Yasutake

Frequently Asked Questions about Redress

Answers by the National Committee for Redress of the Japanese American Citizens League

Q. Why seek redress? What are the issues?

The Japanese American Citizens League is seeking redress on behalf of Japanese Americans and legal permanent residents of Japanese ancestry (the Issei) for their eviction and incarceration by an official act of the United States Government during World War II. This action was based solely on racial grounds and imposed without criminal charges, indictments or trials of any kind. It was a gross violation of rights guaranteed under the Bill of Rights and the Constitution.

The basic question being raised is: Are the guarantees enumerated in the Bill of Rights and the Constitution absolute for all people at all times, or are they conditional and subject to the desires of those in power or the mood of the times?

Q. Which rights were violated?

Seven of the ten articles of the Bill of Rights were abrogated. They are as follows:

Article I: (a) freedom of religion, (b) freedom of speech, (c) freedom of the press, (d) the right to assemble

Article II: (e) right to keep and bear arms

Article IV: (f) freedom from unreasonable searches and seizures

Article V: (g) right to an indictment or to be informed of the charges, (h) right to life, liberty, and property

Article VI: (i) right to speedy and public trial, (j) right to be confronted with accusatory witnesses, (k) right to call favorable witnesses, (l) right to legal counsel

Article VII: (m) right to trial by jury

Article VIII: (n) right to reasonable bail, (o) freedom from cruel and unusual punishment

Further constitutional guarantees abridged were: (p) right against involuntary servitude, (q) right to equal protection under the law, (r) right to vote, (s) right to habeas corpus.

Q. What are the bases for your claim?

Defamation of character, false eviction, false imprisonment, loss of property, loss of income, loss of life and health due to government actions, emotional and psychological damages, damage to ethnic identity, disruption of family life.

Q. What do you hope to gain? What are your goals?

Compensation of sufficient magnitude to create a public awareness of the violations of constitutional rights during 1942-46, and a greater awareness of the need for vigilance to prevent similar unconstitutional conduct in the future.

Q. Didn't the Supreme Court rule that the Government's actions were constitutional?

Yes, the United States Supreme Court did in the *Hirabayashi*, *Yasui*, *Korematsu*, and key portions of the *Endo* decisions. But we hold that these decisions were wrong — morally and legally — and need to be overturned. The Court reflected the prejudices of the times and based its decisions on rumors, stereotypes, and speculation. There was no factual evidence to support its decisions.

NOTE: At hearings of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians held in Los Angeles in August, Commissioner Arthur Goldberg, a former Supreme Court Justice, stated "a great deal (has been) made over the court's rulings. Well, the Supreme Court has been wrong in the past, as cited the Dred Scott decision which was so wrong that it brought on the Civil war and was eventually corrected by the Fourteenth Amendment. Furthermore . . . the essential basis of *Korematsu* was overruled by the Supreme Court decision in *Bolling v. Sharpe* which said that the Fifth Amendment does contain, although not expressly stated, an equal protection clause."

Q. Weren't your losses already compensated?

The Japanese American Claims Act of 1948 compensated only a small and inadequate fraction of the property losses alone. Even though there was no inflation corrections and no interest paid, loss of freedom, loss of income, death, injuries, loss of increased land values, mental suffering, etc., were not covered. The Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco estimated actual tangible property losses to be at least \$400 million in 1942. Even at 3% interest per year, property losses would have totaled \$538 million by 1952 when the claims were settled. However, the government placed an unreasonable burden of proof on most of the claimants, who received a total of \$34 million, which amounted to 8 ½ % of the actual property losses.

**Q. Why redress now, after 39 years?
Why so long a wait?**

The time lag is an indication of the severity of emotional damage incurred. The wounds have to be at least partially healed before the victims can confront the offender. Also, it is not quite true that we simply waited. Efforts were made in the past and partial relief obtained. Examples of past actions are:

- 1942-44 court challenges
- 1945-52 campaign to redeem property losses
- 1968-71 campaign to repeal the Emergency Detention Act
- 1969-72 effort to gain Social Security retirement credit
- 1975-76 drive to rescind Executive Order 9066
- 1975-78 effort to secure retirement credit for federal employees

Q. Considering the treacherous sneak attack on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese, wasn't the Government justified in locking up the Japanese?

As Americans, we were not responsible in any way for the acts of the government of Japan. We had absolutely nothing at all to do with the bombing of Pearl Harbor or any other acts by the military forces of Japan. By the logic of the question, one could then ask, are Americans of German ancestry to be held accountable for the acts of Nazi Germany? Or, Americans of Italian ancestry for the acts of the Italian government during WWII?

Remember too, that Pearl Harbor is located in Hawaii, yet Americans of Japanese ancestry in Hawaii were not locked up. To do so would have brought a halt to the economy of Hawaii because Americans of Japanese ancestry in Hawaii constitute a major portion of the working force there.

Q. Everyone suffered and lost during the war, so why should your case be considered different?

We made the same sacrifices that other Americans made during the war, including giving our lives for this country on the battlefield. But no other group of Americans suffered eviction and false imprisonment because of ancestry. Our losses were not the result of enemy action, but the actions of the American government against American citizens.

Q. Weren't the Americans in Japan incarcerated?

The question poses an incorrect analogy. We are talking about people who were incarcerated en masse by their own government, such as the German citizens of Jewish faith who were locked up by their own government, Germany.

Q. Are you saying that the incarceration of Japanese Americans is similar to the Jewish experience in the Nazi concentration camps?

Obviously there are differences: the camps in Germany were death camps, while in America they were detention camps. However, there are similarities: barbed wire compounds with armed guards, innocent prisoners of our own country; isolated because of ancestry; imprisoned without charges and held without due process of law

Q. Wasn't it a military necessity because of the dangers of espionage and sabotage?

If there were any such dangers, they did not come from Japanese Americans. No person of Japanese ancestry was ever charged with or convicted of espionage or sabotage. But numerous Caucasians were charged and convicted as agents for Japan.

The fact that the Japanese American population was no threat was fully documented by the FBI, Navy Intelligence, and a special investigatory report ordered by the President. Furthermore, it was physically impossible for much of the Japanese American population to have engaged in espionage or sabotage — they were too young, too old, or too visible.

If military necessity dictated eviction and detention, why weren't those of Japanese ancestry in Hawaii, 3,000 miles nearer Japan and in an active theater of war, also detained?

Q. Wasn't it just an unfortunate necessity because there was a threat of invasion and there was no time to determine who was loyal and disloyal?

If there was an actual threat of invasion, martial law could have been declared and the restrictions applied to everyone equally, as was the case in Hawaii. But martial law was not declared on the West Coast because our Government and the military knew that Japan was incapable of landing an invasion force on the continental United States, especially after June 1942 (the Battle of Midway) when the Japanese fleet was virtually destroyed.

The question of who was dangerous was already determined through FBI and Navy Intelligence files. Anyone suspected of the crimes of espionage or sabotage could have been charged and brought to trial in the civil courts which were in full operation.

Q. Wouldn't it be better to fund community projects rather than to give the money to individuals who will squander it in a short time?

Such a concept for a lasting trust fund is already incorporated in the redress proposal. More importantly, we must remember that it was individuals who suffered, and each individual has a right to redress. We cannot legitimately take that right away. Individuals may donate their share to a community trust fund, but that choice has to be left to each individual. We are not limiting ourselves to one or the other — we are working for both individual and community trust fund payments.

Q. Why should those who were children at the time receive redress?

Children's constitutional rights were violated too. Children have a right to redress for false imprisonment, defamation of character, and emotional damages. Children were burdened with the life-long stigma of having spent their childhood in captivity. One part of an entire generation of Japanese Americans spent its most formative years in prison camps and grew up with the stigma of having been prisoners in their own country.

In the camps, family structures disintegrated; children were deprived of normal parental nurturing and guidance; children grew up without a sense of security usually provided by parents. The schools were sub-standard, and the Government stripped children of their self-identity by prohibiting or discouraging Japanese language, religion, culture, and sports.

Q. Why should heirs receive payment? If you include heirs, would not that set a precedent for others, like Blacks and Native Americans, to make claims for ancestral grievances?

The Government is not relieved of the responsibility of making amends just because the victim died. Children and family members of detainees suffered the consequences of lost property, lost income, lost health, ruined reputations, and psychological damage long after the camps closed. No other group of American citizens suffered such a massive denial of constitutional rights in existence at the time. Ours is a unique case in the constitutional history of this country. Blacks were brought here under a free enterprise system (i.e., not by Government order), and Native Americans suffered a series of broken treaties between nations. This is not to say that the Blacks and Native Americans did not suffer immensely, but that only in the case of the Japanese Americans was there a total abrogation of constitutional guarantees inflicted against a single group of citizens solely on the basis of race.

Q. Weren't there numerous disloyal people, like those who refused the loyalty oath, resisted the draft, renounced their citizenship, and expatriated to Japan? Why should they be redressed?

There were very good legal, moral, and psychological reasons for resisting the Government. Each act of resistance was a protest against injustice. The loyalty oath was imposed after they had been imprisoned for nearly a year; the draft was instituted while they and their families were still incarcerated and American citizenship had proved to be worthless. The Government later recognized the mitigating circumstances surrounding these cases, and granted full pardons to the draft resisters and restored citizenship to the renunciants.

Q. How much support do you expect from the American public?

We fully expect some bitter opposition. We believe, however, that there will be much more support than many Japanese Americans believe. Americans are not afraid to admit to the mistakes of their country.

Q. Who do you represent? Aren't there many Japanese Americans who oppose redress?

Based on five separate surveys conducted throughout the United States, we represent the views of the vast majority of Japanese Americans. Some form of redress was favored by 94% of the respondents, and direct payment to individuals was desired by 83%.

Q. If you fail to obtain redress, will this campaign have been a total failure?

No, because the ultimate principle of the redress campaign is to help insure that what we experienced in 1942 does not ever happen to any other group of people in this country. Consequently, one of the objectives of our redress campaign was to educate the American public of our experiences and thereby to fortify the principles of the Bill of Rights and the Constitution. The media exposure gained by the hearings of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Citizens has helped achieve this.

Another objective of our redress campaign is for Congress to "acknowledge that the actions taken against American citizens and legal residents of Japanese ancestry during 1942-46 were wrong and contrary to the Constitution of the United States." We think it unlikely that Congress would deny this basic objective of redress, for such a denial would represent approval of the right of the Government to abrogate the Constitution during a national emergency. Then the rights of all Americans will be in jeopardy.

Another illustration of the fact that people were confined against their will is Mitsuye Endo's case. Upon finding herself involuntarily detained, she petitioned for a writ of habeas corpus in July 1942, but her plea for release was denied by the federal courts for almost three years. Temporary work of harvesting crops or education furloughs under strict parole conditions were granted to approximately 33% of the detainees at one time or another, but the majority of detainees were not actually "free" and "encouraged" to leave until after January 1945 when the camps began to close down.

Q. Considering all the present problems which need to be worked on, isn't it better to forgive and forget the past and concentrate on the present and future?

Much of the present problems affecting our youth and elderly are the direct result of injustices suffered in the past. We are inextricably linked to all that has happened before, and cannot forget unresolved grievances. As long as we have not received personal redress, our reputations are tainted, and unfortunately, many Americans still believe that we were disloyal and that the Government was justified in its actions.

Q. Aren't you being materialistic and greedy? What happened to the pride of the Japanese people?

We are only asking for partial compensation for actual losses. Considering the huge amount of losses, no one will make a profit. We ask for no more, and undoubtedly a great deal less, than what any other American would demand under similar circumstances. Reluctance to seek what is due constitutes false pride. True pride requires a full redress of justified grievances.

Q. Isn't it true that money cannot restore lost freedom? By placing a price tag on freedom, aren't you cheapening what is priceless?

The basis of American jurisprudence is founded upon the principle of monetary redress for lost freedom. Because freedom is considered so precious, false imprisonment has been compensated with large sums of money: for example, a Washington, D.C. court recently awarded \$10,000 per person in damages to the 1,318 Vietnam peace demonstrators for just two to three days of false imprisonment in 1971. Refusing to arrive at an estimate is a functional equivalent of assessing the damages at zero.

Q. Victims of Nazi persecution are receiving compensation are they not?

The United States Government was instrumental in pressuring West Germany to pay restitutions. West Germany has paid to date \$25 billion and is yet to pay another \$20 billion. Furthermore, the United States is urging Poland, the poorest of the East bloc nations, to pay a similar type of restitution to Jews for their experiences in Polish camps during WWII.

Q. Japanese Americans have a high income, so do you really need the money?

Present average income is not relevant to the issue. Our case is not based on need, and we are not asking for welfare. Right to just compensation for wrongs inflicted does not depend upon whether the victim happens to be rich or poor.

Q. Would you be satisfied with an official statement admitting error and tendering an apology?

We have already secured such statements many times over. Each time one of the bills for partial redress passed, there were admissions of error and expressions of regret: in 1948, when the property loss claims bill was passed, in 1971 when the Emergency Detention Act was repealed, in 1972 when the Social Security retirement credit bill was passed, in 1976 when Executive Order 9066 was rescinded, and in 1978 when the federal employees retirement credit bill was enacted. What we need now is tangible compensation. The amount needs to be sufficient enough in order to leave a lasting impression on the Government that constitutional rights cannot be violated so cheaply. Also, we need to find some means of rectifying the Supreme Court decisions in the *Hirabayashi*, *Yasui*, *Korematsu* and *Endo* cases.

Q. Why should we have to pay for the wrong committed by our parents' generation? We had nothing to do with incarcerating Japanese Americans.

We must remember that "we" also includes Americans of Japanese ancestry. As citizens of America, *all* of us are responsible for the acts of our Government. As a nation and as individuals, we are the products of the past. As citizens, we inherit the responsibilities, debts, etc., as well as benefits, passed on to us by our ancestors.

Q. Wasn't it a perfectly understandable wartime lapse caused by panic and hysteria?

The movement to exclude Japanese Americans from the West Coast had been going on for nearly 50 years. The war was only a convenient pretext seized upon to accomplish that goal. The public did not suddenly and spontaneously go berserk; instead, a carefully calculated and organized hate campaign started to achieve results. Furthermore, panic and hysteria should never justify the abrogation of constitutional guarantees.

Q. Weren't most of the adults enemy aliens and therefore subject to summary detention during a war?

The so-called "enemy aliens" were permanent residents who were legally in the United States and fully entitled to constitutional protection of the Bill of Rights. They were "aliens" only because they were prohibited by law from becoming naturalized citizens.

NOTE: Commissioner Goldberg reminded those attending hearings of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment in Los Angeles that the Supreme Court has construed that the protection of the Constitution extends to resident aliens as well as citizens.

Presidential Proclamation 2525, which was based on a 1798 statute, did permit the apprehension of certain "enemy aliens," but only those individuals against whom there was specific evidence to show they were dangerous to the safety of the United States, and all such individuals had the right to a hearing in a court of law to determine if there was sufficient cause for removal or detention. Only those persons arrested under individual warrants by the FBI and placed in Department of Justice internment camps fell into this category — and they comprised just 5% of the total number of Japanese aliens who were incarcerated. Japanese nationals could have been detained as "prisoners of war" under the provisions of the Geneva Convention of 1929, and many of the detainees demanded POW status, but the Government refused to recognize them as POWs because many of the Geneva Convention rules would have been violated. Also, it should be noted that German and Italian "enemy aliens" — who incidentally, were free to become United States citizens — were not similarly imprisoned

Q. Weren't most of the citizens who were incarcerated children who had to accompany enemy alien parents?

Under our legal system, children are not locked up just because their parents are imprisoned. The basic rights of United States citizens cannot be deprived due to age: the Constitution protects children as well as adults. The Government did not give the children, nor their parents, any choice in the matter. All persons of Japanese ancestry were ordered incarcerated, including orphans and other children with non-Japanese guardians, foster parents, or adoptive parents. The military arbitrarily decided that a person with as little as 1/16 Japanese "blood" was condemned to be evicted and incarcerated. This, by the way, is twice as harsh as Hitler's formula for determining those of the Jewish faith.

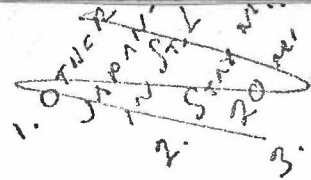
Q. Weren't you placed in these camps for your own protection against mob violence?

In a case of mob violence, the law-breakers should be locked up — not their innocent intended victims. There was no basis for believing that the Japanese American population was in grave danger. There were just 28 isolated cases of assault against Japanese Americans on the West Coast during the first months of the war, and only one was committed by a white person. The general public may have been prejudiced, but they were law-abiding people. Any small need for security could have been readily handled by the local police and sheriff departments.

The physical arrangements of the camps prove that the purpose was detention — not protection. Despite being in the middle of isolated deserts with no others around, the camps were surrounded by barbed wire fences with the tops tilted inward to keep the prisoners *in*; the guards in the watchtowers had their weapons pointed *into* the camps, and the searchlights were directed *inside* the camps.

Q. Weren't these camps just relocation centers to give you temporary shelter until you could find new homes? Weren't you not only free to leave, but encouraged to do so?

Detainees were explicitly prohibited from leaving under Civilian Restrictive Order 1 and Public Proclamation 8 issued by General John L. DeWitt (Commander of the Western Defence Command), and Public Proclamation WD-1 issued by Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson. Anyone leaving without permission was shot, as evidenced by the eight inmates killed by guards.



MADAM CHAIRPERSON

LADIES & GENTLEMEN OF THE COMMISSION

I APPRECIATE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO TELL YOU THE STORY OF THE TANAKA FAMILY WHO ARE MIDWESTERN

My name is JOE TANAKA

I WAS BORN IN ST. LOUIS, IN 1916. ^{NO. I GROW UP IN ST. LOUIS. I WILL LIVE THERE. I WAS 15}

25 YEARS OLD WHEN PEARL HARBOR WAS BOMBED

I WAS ATTENDING A SYMPHONY CONCERT IN ST. LOUIS WITH MY CAUCASIAN FRIENDS ON THE SUNDAY WHEN THE NATION OF JAPAN ATTACKED THE UNITED STATES OF THAT INFAMOUS ATTACK. NEWS AND RUMORS

RUMBLING THROUGH THE AUDIENCE. SEVERAL TIMES MY FRIENDS WOULD SAY: IF THERE IS ANYTHING I CAN DO LET ME KNOW. ^{IN THE DAYS} THERE WOULD BE DIFFICULT TIMES AHEAD.

I REFUSE TO ACCEPT THE FACT THAT I WOULD BE TREATED DIFFERENT FROM OTHERS. I WAS AN AMERICAN. I WENT TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN ST. LOUIS. I HAD MY DEGREE IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING FROM WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS. I WAS AN AMERICAN BY BIRTH I WAS AN AMERICAN BY EDUCATION.

My America thought differently

When I returned home after the St. Symphony there were two FBI agents in the house. ~~we had a visit by two FBI agents.~~ They searched the house. No. I don't remember

SEEING A SEARCH WARRANT. I DO REMEMBER ONE QUESTION. DO YOU HAVE A SHORT WAVE RADIO? NO. I REMEMBERED THEM LOOKING BEHIND AND INTO A FLOOR MODEL RADIO AT THE TIME. MY PARENTS WERE HOME. THIS WAS UNUSAL. THEY HAD CLOSED THEIR RESTAURANT WHICH THEY HAD STARTED IN 1914 THE RESTAURANT SERVED AMERICAN FOOD: BEEF STEW, SAUSAGE AND POTATOES, PIC EAR, PIC NOSE, PIC TAIL, CHITTERLINGS, KALE GREEN, BISCUITS, ETC. ~~THEY HAD BEEN IN BUSINESS SINCE 1912 OR 1914.~~ OPENED 7 DAYS A WEEK. OPENED AT 5 IN THE MORNING AND CLOSING AT NINE. THE CUSTOMERS WERE MOSTLY BLACK. I HAVE MORE SOUL FOOD IN ME THAN THE RESTAURANT WAS SUKIY CALLED TOKYO RESTAURANT. WHEN THE FBI AGENTS LEFT ^{W/ SOME PERSONAL PAPERS} WERE TOLD NOT TO GO MORE THAN 20 MILES FROM ST. LOUIS

THE RESTAURANT REMAINED CLOSED FOR A MONTH. WHEN MY PARENTS REOPENED THE STORE, THE NAME HAD BEEN CHANGED FROM TOKYO REST. TO PICMEAT REST. WHY PICMEAT BECAUSE WHEN MY DAD WOULD GIVE CREDIT TO THE CUSTOMERS OR WAS GOOD TO THE CUSTOMERS THEY WOULD AFFECTIONATELY CALL HIM PICMEAT OR PICCY. IF HE DENIED THEM CREDIT WOULD CALL HIM AN OLD HOG. BUSINESS WAS NOT GOOD BECAUSE 2 FBI AGENTS STAYED IN THE RESTAURANT FOR THE 1ST.

BECAUSE MY FATHER AND MOTHER WERE ENEMY ALIENS BY LAW ~~BY THE ORIENTAL EXCLUSION ACT~~ THEY COULD NOT OWN PROPERTY. THE RESTAURANT WAS PURCHASED IN MY NAME. I WAS AN AMERICAN BY BIRTH.

THE HOME WAS BOUGHT IN THE NAME OF MY BROTHER CHESTER, WHO ALSO IS AN AMERICAN BY BIRTH.

ARE ^{ARE} THREE ^{AND WE} TANAKA BOYS WERE DRAFTED INTO ARMY. I WAS DRAFTED IN FEB. '42

IT IS INTERESTING THAT MY BROTHER EDDIE TRIED TO ENLIST IN THE MARINES. HE WENT TO THE RECRUITING OFFICE. HE FILLED OUT THE APPLICATION FORM ~~IN~~ IN TRIPPLICATE. HE CAREFULLY ANSWERED EACH QUESTION. HE HANDED THE RECRUITING OFFICER THE FORMS. THE OFFICER TOOK THE FORMS, TORN THEM UP, SAYING YOU ARE JAPANESE. MY BROTHER ~~AND~~ REACHED ACROSS THE TABLE TO GRAB THIS OFFICER BUT WAS SUDDENLY SURROUNDED BY WHAT SEEMED TO BE THE ENTIRE MARINE CORP. HE WAS EVENTUALLY DRAFTED.

BROTHER CHESTER WAS THE CONTACT MAN OF C. K WHO REACHED THE LOST BATTALION. HE WAS ONE OF 17 REMAINING OF HIS ENTIRE COMPANY.

A

TODAY AMERICA IS FLEXING ITS MILITARY MUSCLE.
BEFORE JOINING THE FAMOUS SEGREGATED
442ND COMBAT TEAM, I WAS A SERGEANT
~~AS A~~ IN TRAINING AID IN THE 13TH REGIMENT
STATIONED IN CAMP ROBINSON, LITTLE ROCK, ARK
AND AT CAMP FANNIN, TYLER, TEX.

I AM TELLING YOU THIS FOR 2 REASONS.
ONE. I WAS A GRADUATE ENGINEER WHO
WANTED TO CONTRIBUTE MORE TO THE WAR
EFFORT THAN IN A TRAINING CENTER. I TRIED
TO GET INTO ORDNANCE OR INTO ENGINEERING
AS ONE OF MY SUPERIOR OFFICER SAID. I
WAS CONSIDERED SAFER IN THE TRAINING
CENTER THAN IN A MORE VITAL AREA WHERE
I WOULD BE A SUSPECT AND NOT A LOYAL
SUBJECT. I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED WHAT
EVER HAPPENED TO THE IMPROVEMENTS
I SUBMITTED TO THE NATIONAL INVENTORS
COUNCIL FOR A MORE ACCURATE MORTAR,
FOR A NON-METALLIC CARTRIDGE AND NOT
THE WASTEFUL BRASS CASINGS, AND A
LIGHTWEIGHT BAR (BROWNING AUTOMATIC
RIFLE). I WONDER IF THEY WERE SHELVED
BECAUSE THEY WERE SUBMITTED BY AN AMERICAN
WHO LOOKED JAPANESE.

THE SECOND REASON I MENTION THE

WARTIME EXPERIENCES OF JAPANESE AMERICANS
IN COMBAT. IS ^{NOT TO BRAG OF OUR EXPLOITS} ~~THAT~~ ~~FEEL THAT THE~~

~~COMMISSION INVESTIGATING INTERCOURSE~~
~~OF CIVILIANS...~~ ~~GUILTY WHOSE CHILDREN~~

BUT WHY

^{WE} WERE THE FIGHTING MEN IN AMERICAN
MILITARY HISTORY. WHY? WHY DID

THESE MEN FIGHT AS NO OTHER MEN HAVE
^{EVEN} FOUGHT WHEN THEIR FOLKS WERE BEHIND
BARBWIRE. IF THE COMMISSION COULD

INITIATE A STUDY OF THE MENTALITY,
MOTIVATION AND MYSTIQUE OF THIS OUTFIT
THEN THIS COMMISSION MAY HAVE DONE
SOME GOOD.

A

"B

YES, IF THIS COMMISSION WILL TELL THE
STORIES OF THESE AMERICANS IT WOULD BE
WORTH HOLDING THESE MEETINGS.

BUT THERE IS MORE.

YES, AMERICA SHOULD KNOW OF OUR HISTORY.

~~AM LEARN~~ BUT MORE THAN THAT. ^{AMERICA} ~~BE~~ SHOULD
BE TAUGHT THAT COURAGE ~~FEAR~~ THE COURAGE OUR PARENTS HAD TO BRAVE
COMING TO A STRANGE COUNTRY WITH A STRANGE
LANGUAGE AND CUSTOMS.

YES, AMERICA SHOULD TEACH THE CHARACTER
^{OF THE CHILDREN} AND ACHIEVEMENT, THAT DEVELOPED IN SPITE
OF RACIAL HATRED AND HYSTERIA. AND THE CAMP
EXPERIENCE.

IT IS DIFFICULT ENOUGH TO GROW UP,
 TO BE ACCEPTED FOR WHAT YOU ARE AND NOT
 FOR WHAT YOU LOOK LIKE, IT IS DIFFICULT
 TO FIND ONE'S PLACE AND NICHE WHEN YOU
 WEAR A RACIAL ARMOR, IT IS MOST DIFFICULT
 AND TRAUMATIC TO HAVE YOUR COUNTRY SINGLE
 YOU OUT AND POINT IT'S FINGER AT YOU
 BECAUSE YOU LOOK LIKE AN ENEMY.

THE ST. LOUIS TANAKAS
THE

7 (B)

~~WE~~ WERE FORTUNATE ENOUGH, WE WERE NOT INTERNED
BUT WARTIME RELOCATION AND INTERNMENT
AFFECTS EVERYONE. IT AFFECTS EVERYONE
REGARDLESS OF GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION,
OCCUPATION, OR EDUCATION.

THE EFFECTS ON THE INDIVIDUAL ARE
FAR REACHING AND THE PSYCHOLOGICAL SCARS
ARE EVIDENT.

TO PREVENT THE DENIAL OF HUMAN
RIGHTS OF CIVILIAN AND TO CREATE
MEANS OF WARNING ~~TO~~ WHEN VIOLATIONS
OF HUMAN RIGHTS OCCUR IN PEACETIME
AS WELL AS IN TIME OF WAR AND TO
HAVE MEANS OF REDRESS ^{OF FUTURE WRONGS} ARE IMPORTANT
GOALS
~~RESULTS~~ OF THIS COMMISSION.

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