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Title: Susumu Mukushina Interview
Narrator: Susumu Mukushina
Interviewer: Anna Takada
Location:
Date: September 14, 2017
Densho ID: ddr-chi-1-4-12

<Begin Segment 12>

AT: 00:50:11 And how, how does it feel coming to an exhibition like this and seeing the narrative right now and seeing your family's piece in the show?

SM: 00:50:23 Well, um, I saw them, I saw some of those pictures before, some of the photographs before I saw new ones. It just brought back memories of where was. But not, it was, it was, um, it was peaceful, you know, um, I didn't like to see little children in trucks either with a face sticking up between bars, so that shouldn't have happened. But it did happen. And um, it's something for people to always remember, you know, that though you can't just ah round up a group of people because they look different, you know. And, and put them in a camp. It doesn't solve any problems, you know. Um, one thing I learned, I learned about the camp was some of my friends think what Japanese had to, uh, be interned for their safety or because of alleged terrorist. That's the corporate propaganda. But the story, but the comment I will throw out, we'll say if Japanese we're so endangered, dangers of causing terrorism. Why weren't Hawaiian Japanese interned? Remember Pearl Harbor happened in Japan, in Japanese, we're still working on the naval yard, you know, working as cooks or janitors or someone you know, and they say what it says Hawaiian Japanese were not interned? And I said no, you know, and uh, um, I think that the, uh, the internment, one was economics. Um, I saw an exhibit down there or down there, saying that about 40 percent of all the crops, crops, um, came out of Japanese hands before WWII. I did some research many, many years ago about that and I saw the titles, ah the land titles, and uh, um, a land titles of the 1930s in that area were all Japanese, were mostly Japanese. And um, I looked at titles in the, in the, in the forties, late forties. They're all American names. And, and if, if one group of people controlled 40 percent of an industry, that's a lot of money and I think that was a, that was not stated to Roosevelt, but I think that was the reason why Japanese were interned,

they wanted the properties, not all of their properties, but those farmlands. And those farmlands today are extremely valuable and I think they're owned by Japanese people, but the Japanese people started those farms. And, uh, and then, uh, uh, my, uh, my understanding of history back then was I said to my father for the, why didn't Japanese go to a lawyer to fight all these kinds of things. And then I read later on, this my own saying that the assumption assumption, some American, Caucasian, uh, lawyers try to help them, but their clients will say, if you help those families, I'm withdrawing my business. So that's why I didn't have any legal representation. The only legal group that helped the Japanese were, the, uh, the um, uh, the, uh, American Civil Liberty, the American Civil Liberties Union, ACLU. And they're mostly Jewish and, and the Jews were rounded up in Europe, so they didn't care, if they saw injustice. So they're the ones who have argued a case of some of the case, uh, for the, uh, the Japanese. One thing was um, 1930, early 1930s to late 1930s, the California passed a law stating that if you're a Japanese ancestry, ancestry, ancestry, you cannot own land, you know, I think you know about that. And what happened was that, uh, they found a loophole and that the babies were American citizens. So the baby's own the land, but they need legal help for that. They came from the ACLU. But no one else will help them.

AT: 00:54:53 That's

SM: 00:54:53 That's my understanding. Maybe some people would dispute this. But, uh, that's what I learned on my own.

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