

AUGUST 9, 1981-L.A.

Frank

History, our history is being written ~~by~~ to conform to the racist stereotypes of the 19th century. ~~Hayakawa~~ Hayakawa quakes before white racism as a cosmic power beyond the law. ~~Maxine Hong Kingston and David Henry Hwang~~ Maxine Hong Kingston and David Henry Hwang ruthlessly plunder names and legends of China and Asian America and distort them into compatibility with the white stereotype. The Association of Asian American ~~Performing Artists~~ Performing Artists (AAAPA) shamelessly used race prejudice to verify ~~the~~ the false history of the "China Doll" episode of "How the West Was Won". That's all Hollywood suck and suckoff ~~of~~ of white ~~racist~~ racist pap. The commission on the wartime ~~relocation and internment of civilians~~ relocation and internment of civilians is not Hollywood, but ~~under the ham handed guidance of the JACL, the commission of lazy, ignorant, burnt out, has been whites who know everything, and don't care, and a token black all kept impeccably stupid by a staff dominated by the JACL, are writing with all their combined prestige, as foul white racist fantasy as "Woman Warrior" "China Men," "F.O.B.," "Dance and the Railroad," "Kung Fu," "China Girl," or Charlie Chan. A lie just as attractive to semi-educated pearl bucking whites with fifty years of shangri-la banging Bijou in their brains and a current white need to believe a race of sissy yellows lives to be accepted by whites, after the humiliation left by the blacks, the American Indians, the Chicanos on white ego. There must be a race of pathological white racists whites can dump on and be thanked for it. A whole American minority people that want to dress like whites, play white music, talk white language, love to hate what whites hate, and love what whites love, who want only to know what whites know, and gather under the windows of great whites to chant, "We want to be just like you."~~

The purpose of the present commission is to ~~vindicate~~ vindicate the JACL, co-sign "NISEI: The Quiet Americans", ~~and~~ "East to America" and "The Japanese American Story," ~~cover up~~ cover up the the ~~experimental~~ experimental excesses of the social scientists ~~heroize~~ heroize Mike Masaoka, the Quisling of his people, and close the books on the camps.

Masaoka is full of shit about having foreknowledge of any "contingency plan." By his own ~~account~~ account in his final report to the National Board of the JACL, written in ~~1944~~ April of 1944, he ~~had~~ had no idea of such a plan til he heard of Bendetsen's speech at the Commonwealth Club, in May, 1942, long after ~~he~~ he had sold Japanese America out.

That JACL's decision to "constructively cooperate" and not oppose the evacuation was ~~confirmed~~ confirmed again when Colonel Bendetsen, speaking before the Commonwealth Club of San Francisco in May, 1942, revealed that the Army had two plans for evacuation: the one they followed with the able cooperatin of the evacuees themselves and an emergency one under which the Army would move out the entire Japanese population within twenty-four hours. (85)

Masaoka's been in the service. One would think he would know that such an emergency plan, involving the coordinated efforts of thousands of individual soldiers, would have had to be written and published plan in the hands of the Pentagon, and commanders from the DeWitt on down through the regimental and battalion level. The evacuation of Bainbridge Island and Terminal Island were small police operations, involving at most a couple of battalions. Masoka was spooked by the island swoop and scoot, on 24 hours notice and panicked, or more likely created a panic for himself to control.

The simple arithmetic of the number of men in the five western states of the Western Defense Command, under DeWitt's orders, and the number of Japanese Americans to be moved at the same time from a number of town and country places in the three coastal states, make such a plan ridiculous. DeWitt would have needed five soldiers for every Nikkei to move them all at once from wherever they were. Five times 97,000. He didn't have that kind of manpower. Five to one. That's about the ratio of troops to Jews, the Nazis used to evacuate their pariah race on short notice.

A twenty four hour coordinated move, in WWII is a massive operation. Too big for any sane commander to undertake while fighting men are needed overseas. The Chief of Staff wouldn't have approved of such a plan or reassigned entire corps, possibly another army to DeWitt's command. The Germans never attempted to evacuate ghettos all at once, unless they had massive manpower. Even then, they took a few at a time, rather than use massive units.

It's a question for the commission to put to the army. Did they have such a plan? How many men would have been needed to simultaneously evacuate all 97,000 Nikkei from their farms, and city homes, apartments and dormitories in Washington, Oregon and California? I guarantee the figure will be ridiculous.

Masaoka's historical section of his Final Report mentions Clarence Arai, but not James Sakamoto in his account of the founding of the JACL- (p-7)

Masaoka, like the sociologist Shotaro Frank Miyamoto, speak the language of white supremacy. In a single paragraph on the JACL slogans, Masaoka confesses racial inferiority, erases all a cultural, emotional ritual continuity with the Issei, and prays for white acceptance:

Cognizant of their physical characteristics which might make them targets for racial and class discrimination, and their great desire to be assimilated into the body politic, they embodied their aims and aspirations in two national slogans: "For Better Americans in a Greater America" and "Security Through (sic) Unity!" (9)

3/chin/

Masaoka ~~is~~ shoots the JACL ~~in~~ into the ~~business~~ assimilation business, fast, ~~in~~ in his history of the JACL ~~working~~ activity by activity, program by program, to ~~organize~~ organize the ~~Nisei~~ Nisei ~~devote~~ devote themselves to outwhitening the whites, on the street, in the home, and on the dance floor. The evangelistic sociology of Masaoka's ~~Nisei~~ Nisei self-contempt and white supremacy flies on the ~~goodie~~ goodie goodie ~~of~~ of church and 19th century social science ~~in~~ in defense of the JACL using ballroom dancing ~~to~~ to Americanize the Nisei:

In many communities, particularly those away from the more populous centers, JACL chapters were among the first to sponsor socials and dances for the younger people. Dancing classes were among the most popular courses ever given by the local units. Though the parent generation looked on askance, to put it mildly, and some Japanese Americans condemned the League for degenerating into a social club, looking back now Japanese Americans should be happy that a beginning was made to learn ballroom dancing and the social graces which go with them, for today, this dancing not only provides healthy recreation but also reflect the preponderantly American background of all. (22-23)

APRIL, 1942 Masaoka writes Eisenhower an 18 page letter, preaching ~~and~~ teaching and making recommendations. ~~He~~ They met in ~~May~~ May. ~~Moses~~ Moses was parting the white ~~sea~~ sea. He writes:

At the invitation of the WRA, leaders of the JACL from all sections of the west met with Director Eisenhower in San Francisco and made a number of constructive recommendations. The decision to "constructively cooperate" seemed to be ~~paying~~ paying dividends. (74)

a few

He goes on to ~~cite~~ cite/recommendations ~~the~~ the WRA adopted, ~~and~~ ~~He~~ He does not mention his recommendation to deny hearings to the Nisei before interning them, ~~and~~ nor does he mention his intention of using the camps to "eliminate Little Tokios."

Masaoka's ego gets the better of him. Let's back that ~~up~~ up:

APRIL, 1942:

~~Immediately~~ Immediately upon his appointment, Mr. (Milton) Eisenhower flew out to San Francisco and conferred with the National President and Secretary regarding the problems incident to his post. At ~~that~~ that time, the JACL submitted a long memorandum of recommendations and suggestions which, I am certain, influenced major WRA policy thereafter. The recommendations included those on housing, clothing education, social activity, welfare, government, self-support, and almost every other conceivable point. The stress made by the JACL at that time was humaneness and recognition of ~~American~~ American citizenship in community activities. (72)

Thus Masaoka joins the JACL and the WRA in the illusion, the linguistic etiquette, the fiction that the concentration camps were real homes and not places of forced confinement. Masaoka's next paragraph recommends these resettlement projects under Eisenhower's thumb be more homey for the Nisei than the Issei:

As far as possible and practicable, Japanese Americans should be treated in the same manner as all other American citizens, and certainly with greater consideration than the "enemy aliens,"

His next paragraph is a prophetic parody of the JACL's 1978-1982 campaign to redress the violations of the concentration camps:

Because of the unusual and unprecedented requests made upon American citizens of Japanese ancestry, special provisions should be made to compensate them for the temporary loss of some of their privileges and rights.

So far so good. It gets better.

This might be in the form of "certificates" of citizenship or appreciation, or some other token which will help them retain their self-respect in their own eyes and in the eyes of their fellow citizens. (ibid-14)

FRANK,

Can you get Rita Cates, Lawson Inada and me on the same panel... panel of scholars...literary, archival,...psychological, cultural, familial damage:

Tell people not to applaud, cheer, boo or jeer, no matter what they feel, in the audience.

MASAOKA, somewhere in the FINAL REPORT of 1944, I can't find it right now... says that he and Saburo Kido thought of turning themselves in as test cases but decided against it, as the JACL needed their leadership.

His "bad timing" argument holds no water. Hirabayashi and Yasui came within a hair of overturning the evacuation and internment order. Had they won, they would have closed the camps and freed the Nikkei. They opened the door to other challenges, more focused on the limitations of the court's prejudices.

The "timing" argument ignores and does not justify the JACL abandoning Nikkei honor. For the JACL it was obedience versus honor. As a partner with the government in the organizing and administration of the camps, Masaoka could not defend Nikkei honor. So he redefined it. Nikkei honor is not defined by Nikkei criteria or Nikkei unity, but white acceptance.

6/chin/

I'll be coming up in a couple of weeks to ready myself for the Seattle hearings. I'll be staying about a month, ~~xx~~ for the hearings and to meet with the Aiiieeeee boys and pound out the kinks in the Big Aiiieeeee!

I disagree with you about Masaoka being smart. His answers are canned, not canny. He follows the advice we've been giving at the media workshops. He answers the questions he wants to answer...even if that means he ignores the question asked. He is small minded, stupid, not very well educated or very knowledgeable in politics, American law, ~~xx~~ and history.

His Final Report is all self-congratulations and self-aggrandizement. ~~M~~ The JACL never considered test cases an option in their ~~xxx~~ possible array of responses to ~~xxx~~ the evacuation order. Masaoka stupidly limits the options to resistance, meaning physical resistance, ~~xx~~ cooperation, meaning submission, or a combination of both. Stupid! ~~x~~ Court not an option! Amazing.

His rhetoric has tightened up in ~~the~~ forty years. The words "sacred" "sacrosant" and all the biblical pulpit grammar and trumpet fanfares ~~xxxx~~ ~~xxx~~ are ~~xxxx~~ not as evident in ~~xxxx~~ his mouth today, but the pulpit is still there, and dominant.

Do you have a transcript of Masaoka's remarks to the commission in D.C.? I'd like to use his list of wrongs in the ~~Big~~ Big Aiiieeeee! then use his words and acts of the past to demonstrate his participation in the origination and administration of all the wrongs he lays at the ~~feet~~ feet of the whites.

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THE PANEL...I suggest Lawson talk about ~~what~~ the Nikkei writing about camp reveals. "Hawaii: End of the Rainbow," by Kazuo Miyamoto, of Hawaii, interned at Sand ~~A~~ Island, Hawaii, Angel Island, in Frisco bay, Tule Lake, where he worked in the hospital at the time of the riot, ~~xxxxxxx~~ various justice dept. camps, and Rohwer, ~~xxx~~ points to the loyalty oath as the ~~xxxxxxx~~ greatest single source of ~~xx~~ emotional anguish and bitter division among the Nikkei. The bulk of his camp chapters ~~xxxx~~ record ~~the~~ and attempt to analyze the effects and ~~xxxx~~ social ramifications of the loyalty oath on the Nikkei. Three chapters (check this) deal ~~xxx~~ specifically with the various arguments between friends, inside families, ~~h~~ between political ~~xxxxxxx~~ positions, between white and yellow ~~xxx~~ resulting from the loyalty oath. ~~M~~ John Okada's ~~M~~ "No-No Boy" is entirely concerned with the immediate ~~xx~~ effects of the ~~ly~~ loyalty oath on the Nikkei during the camp years and the lasting and growing effects of the loyalty oath on Japanese America after the war. "Nisei Daughter" touches on the disasterous effects of the loyalty oath. (I can't at this point say what, if anything, Toshio Mori has to say about the loyalty oath in his work...Lawson? Dorothy McDonald? anything?... "Farewell to Manzanar," the autobiography of Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston written with her husband, and the movie based on the book, cannot avoid the loyalty oath. The white social scientists...even the ones whose work is of dubious scientific validity...all point to the loyalty oath as the major source of division, anger, bitterness and violence among the internees, and the greatest blow to Japanese American honor.

7/chin/ABE

Michi Weglyn ties the segregation camp to the loyalty oath in "Years of Infamy". The Loyalty oath and Tule Lake are the mainstream of Nikkei damage. Miyakawa's "Tule Lake!!".etc.

So, Lawson surveys Japanese American writing, the scientific writing, and WRA reports---Dillon Myer himself looked on the loyalty oath as fucked up in its effects on the internees and attempted to rewrite it without offending the JACL (Myer to Attorney General- August 27, 1943)

Lawson, from the survey, establishes the loyalty oath as the single most potent source of damage to ~~the~~ Nikkei psychological, social, familial well-being.

I trace the history of the ~~loyalty~~ loyalty oath as a JACL creation, ~~and~~ from the JACL bogus campaign against dual citizenship (which sthe US. never recognized) the JACL loyalty oath of 1941 that was the ~~the~~ basis of the JACL assertion that 75% of the Nisei were loyal (because they supposedly signed the JACL loyalty oath)the various pitches for a loyalty oath, Masaoka made to Eisenhower, Naval intelligence, etc. Tokio Slocum's ~~loyalty~~ model loyalty oath composed with Larry Tajiri and Mike Masaoka to Masaoka's boasting about the loyalty oath in his final report. ~~The~~ To ~~enforce~~ drive the Nisei to sign the loyalty oath, the JACL ~~is~~ asked ~~for~~ that the Nisei be ~~denied~~ hearings to determine their loyalty before being interned. The loyalty oath was the ~~the~~ centerpiece of the JACL's arsenal of treachery and betrayal that would give them credit for creating the 442nd, ~~which~~ which was to win ...through obeidance and submission...white acceptance for all of Japanese America.

Rita Takahashi Cates ~~will~~ can point to other areas of damage not being explored by the commission.

Okay? Okay....Twenty five minutes for three of us.

Gotta get running now.

Later,

Chin
