

Some say it's not fair to second-guess the wisdom of the wartime decision to forcibly incarcerate Japanese Americans out of mistrust. We put that question to a surviving member of the Roosevelt administration.

CART: 161 NOTHING WRONG ACKNOWLEDGE A MISTAKE Q"you shouldn't recognize it" :05

I'm Frank Abe with Other Voices.

In 1942, Edward Ennis was director of the Alien Enemy Control Unit. He shared responsibility within the Justice Department for the security of civilians in the U.S. In the weeks following Pearl Harbor, Ennis was responsible for thousands of arrests and internments. Those rounded up had been identified--not as disloyal, but as POTENTIALLY disloyal.

CART: ALIENS Q"was concerned" :18

But War Department officials continued to press for a mass exclusion of aliens and of U-S citizens...but only those of Japanese ancestry.

CART: UNCONSTITUTIONAL Q"mass action" :32

Ennis says the Justice Department was willing to consider moving Japanese Americans who lived near military bases or airplane factories, but that, he says, was different from looking at farmers 300-miles

away. But there, the generals prevailed.

CART: 141 IWO JIMA OK BUT NOT HOME FRONT Q"I think indefensible" :21

Ennis is a white-haired and ruddy man of 77 who says his view has been borne out by hindsight. And hindsight, he says, isn't a dirty word.

CART: PERSPECTIVE Q"make the mistake" :25

Those who would say Ennis is rewriting history are given comfort by two surviving War Department officials, John J. McCloy and Karl Bendetsen. Ennis fought internal battles with both men in 1942, and both men continue to defend their decision.

CART: 219 MCCLOY SHOULD KNOW BETTER Q"man now of BB...chase national bank ...226 most influential man/
A"that was a mistake"

CART: WHY DOES HE DO IT? 236 "mystery to me"

Edward Ennis, one of the top three men in Franklin Roosevelt's Justice Department, took time out from his New York law practice to testify in the evidentiary hearing for Gordon Hirabayashi in Seattle.

U-S District Court Judge Donald Voorhes is not expected to issue his written ruling in the case until the end of the year.