

WE SHOULD KNOW

Loyalty towards a Country or a Nation is a matter of the sentiment. It is nurtured from acknowledge of Justice received. It is a covenant of faith between the Party of the People on the one hand and, the Party of the Government on the other. Under this understanding, the People is obligated to maintain the inviolability of our Instruments of Government and the various Institutions. For this service, the Government ~~and~~ assume the responsibilities of Justice, freedom, security and Liberty, to it's inhabitants.

With such ~~and~~ interpretation, the President himself broke the cornerstone of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights when he caused the evacuation of 112,000 People without due process of law. He caused us to be Citizens without a Country.

THE FIRST DUTY OF EVERY LOYAL CITIZEN IS THE PROTECTION OF THE CONSTITUTION AND THE BILL OF RIGHTS. THE CORNERSTONE OF THESE INSTRUMENTS OF OUR GOVERNMENT IS JUSTICE, LIBERTY, SECURITY, FREEDOM, AND THE PROTECTION OF HUMANE RIGHTS. The desecration of any one of these is a direct attack upon the fundamentals that moulded our democratic institutions. To maintain humane rights, the Boston Tea Party was organized, the Revolutionary War was fought, the Declaration of Independence was formulated, the Constitution was framed and the Civil War was fought.

If the Niseis are truly loyal Citizens of this Nation, now is the time to stop and to think. IS THE ISSUE CONFRONTING THEM TODAY OF SUFFICIENT IMPORT AND VITAL?

Judge Denman said...."Where claims of oppression arising from Congressional Legislation are not regarded as making the legislation invalid, the claimant should look to Congress for his remedy." We believe the draft law was not intended for us, under our constricted and suspended Citizenship.

Then too, Abraham Lincoln said...."If by the mere force of numbers a Majority should deprive a Minority of any Constitutional Right, it might in a moral point of view justify a revolution." We do not intend to start a revolution but we demand judicial and orderly procedures in the moulding of our destinies. Thereby the question is....THE EVACUATION, THE PAUPERIZATION, DEPORTATION, THE CONCENTRATION, THE DETENTION, THE DENIAL OF FREEDOM AND JUSTICE WITHOUT ANY FINDING OF GUILT IN ACCORD WITH CONSTITUTIONAL SANCTION? IS THE DRAFT LAW APPLICABLE TO US RESIDENTS OF CONCENTRATION CAMPS?

Thus, to be drafted or not to be drafted or, to be loyal or to be disloyal are not the questions at issue. To us, the fundamentals of Democracy is at stake. If Democracy and Freedom is to exist in this Country, we must rectify the breaches made upon the guarantees of the Constitution, the Bill of Rights and the various Amendments. Democracy, justice and freedom must be practiced at home first. It is ~~our~~ our right to ask a first clarification of our status and rights as forced residents of these camps under threat of military force and barbed wire entanglements.

Neither Congress, the President nor the Judiciary have as yet, made acceptable pronouncement to validate the acts of wholesale pauperization, evacuation, deportation and internment of 112,000 Human Beings.

We have not as yet, received either hearing nor trial through acceptable channels to vindicate our right to clear conscience, freedom, liberty and justice. Our legal status in these concentration camps have not been cleared. We are herded within barbed wire fences and, guarded against freedom by soldiers bullets and bayonets. We ~~are~~ exist as Citizens without a Country. In truth, all the guarantees

of the Constitution are denied us.

Under these conditions, what are we? Are we American Citizens? Are we Enemy Aliens? Or, are we....what?

This absence of clarification of our status and rights is the keystone of our indecision towards any proper orientation of attitude towards the draft.

If we are Enemy Aliens then, we owe no obligation to bear arms for a Country that is not Ours.

If we are nothing but oriental monkeys as have been attributed to us at times then, propositions and offers of compensation should be advanced for the ruination of health and the uncertainties of Fate on foreign battlefields or, to compensate for the loss of life valuable to dependants and loved ones.

If we are Americans by right of birth and Constitutional grant then, why our wholesale pauperization; why our evacuation, why the denial to us of the due process of law, why the deportation into another state by threat of military force, why the concentration, why the detention and why the denial to us the justice, freedom, security and the other guarantees fo the Constitution and the Bill of Rights?

Tue, we have been given a Hearing Board as a means toward due process of law. Out of it, we are told that we are free Americans through the leave clearance. But, is this tue in fact? Certainly, the WRA is urging us to relocate but...under their terms only. Then too, what are the military guards doing in their observation towers and guarding the entrances and exists through the barbed wire fences?

"COMMON SENSE AND JUSTICE DICTATE THAT A CITIZENS UNDER SUSPICION SHOULD HAVE THE FULLEST HEARING POSSIBLE, PLUS THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT EVERY REASONABLE DEFENSE. This is a guarantee under our rights The later protion have been denied us. We were confronted at the hearing by staffs of competent and trained legal talents. We were not given the right of representation of advise. Even Criminals are given the right to demand a defense counsel Before any adjudication of judgement.

Thereby, if the "iseis are Americans and Citizens of this Nation by right of birth and Constitutional grant then, let it be decided once for all and without equivocation our positions as members of this Nation. This may be done through a rectification of our pauperization, oru evacuation, our depoertation, through Military force. oru concentration, our detention and, denials/ of to us of freedom, liberty, justice, equity, security all Constitution and the various Instruments of our Geovernment as protection for the People of the United States.

By the granting of these, we will know of a Cause and a Country worthy of our blood and our Lives and, we need never feel ashamed to look the enemy in the eye. The granting of these will not only liquidate the injustices in the past but, it will rectify any future unwarranted inroads upon the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. It will guarantee assurance to the other Minorities who otherwise, may face similar fate in the future. It is in accord withe the principles that motivated the Declaration of Independenece, the War of Rebellion, the Boston Tea Party, the Constitution, the Bill of Rights and the Proclamation for the Emancaipation of Slavery.

We have retained in service of an able attorney.

By Kiyeshi Okamoto

22-B-8

Heart Mountal Concentration Camp

February 25th, 1944