

He was asked, 'Do you think it would be all right to sacrifice our country to some other country to preserve an idea you have about our constitution?' His answer was, 'It may be, in defending it, we may lose our ideals.'"

"In view of the fact that he now refuses to give affirmative answers to questions 27 and 28; that he has not come to a conclusion that the cause of the United States is just in the present conflict; that he says it may be all right to sacrifice our country to preserve his individual opinion as to the constitutionality of some of our laws; that he states that all individuals should have the privilege of refusing to obey the laws of the United States; that he is a member and active leader in the Fair Play Committee who has published a statement that they will refuse to answer the call to pre-induction physical and induction and that his general attitude and deportment for the past one and one half years has been antagonistic to our government and to government regulations, I do not feel that he should be permitted the liberty of leave where he might interfere with the war effort. Therefore, I recommend that leave clearance be denied and that he be transferred to the Tule Lake Center immediately. "

The questions and answers concerning the Fair Play Committee are hereinafter set out:

"HEARING BOARD FOR LEAVE CLEARANCE
March 30, 1944

"MEMBERS OF LEAVE CLEARANCE BOARD: Guy Robertson, Project Director
Tom Horn, Acting Project Attorney
M. O. Anderson, Ass't Project Director

"INTERVIEWEE: Paul Takeo Nakadate
1-4-D
Heart Mountain, Wyoming
USES# 22769

"Robertson:Are you a member of the Fair Play Committee?

Nakadate: Yes, I guess you would consider me a member because I'm helping out in speaking a little bit.

Robertson: What kind of organization is it? Does it have a purpose?

Nakadate: Well, when Mr. Okamoto started this Fair Play Committee, he wanted a following and it was some time ago that he wanted to do something—I don't remember what it was—go to

California or Denver, someplace—and wanted some finances raised and I said, 'no, I can't do that but I will see what I can do.' The main thing was this, although I didn't tell him. Myself, I have a lot of money customers here and friends and if I raise the money for a private individual who is taking a trip out, naturally, if Mr. Okamoto should skip with it, I am holding the bag so late last year, after I came back from Tule Lake, I was thinking about getting a job here and incidently I got Mr. McFarlane's letter and it said, 'you will be on 60 day probation' and signed by Mr. Carroll. I went to see him and he said he didn't know a thing about it. I went to Mr. McFarlane and said I wanted a copy—that Mr. Carroll didn't know anything about it, Mr. McFarlane said he did. I was assured who wrote it. I thought it was some kind of monkey business, a kind of a bluff. So I had that letter and I was sitting down talking, it was a little after Christmas and somebody came in and I forget the name of the boys, I think one was Emi. Anyway the rest of the boys, I don't remember but they told me that Mr. Okamoto sent them over to me to get a Fair Play Committee started so I said, 'What's the fight about?' Well, this thing, if it is for the good of the camp, we might as well go into it. I showed them my letter and the funny things that's been attached so they started to organize but it was never stable. It always centered on Doi. So one day I told them, 'You want a Fair Play Committee. Let's get everybody who is interested in it. In the first place let's get Doi. He knows procedures. He knows what to do. I know Okamoto. He's a funny guy. We don't get along so keep me out of it.' I kept on paying dues and one time they put me in as chairman for three days and then the chairmanship went back to him. I decided I would do my part—give readings and speeches and how, under this constitution you folks are living, what rights and privileges you have. And then this Council and their petition. We bombasted that. I don't bombast it for what was written in it but it was a matter of procedure. I'm very pat on procedure and it should have been brought to each block, sanctioned and then should be signed but they took it to each home. Mr. Nakashima gave me a retort which he gave me in the Sentinel. If it is the real Sentinel, the guard of this camp, it should know what is going on, what's cooking. Reporters should have sharp eyes. So I spoke to one of the reporters and I said, 'I want to put this in the Sentinel.' He said, 'Oh, the WRA won't let us put that in'. So I put that in. I'm not

journalistic minded. That's how it has been going. I don't know what Mr. Okamoto's been doing lately but I see that the Fair Play Committee is moving but don't know.

Horn: What is the purpose?

Nakadate: Everyone understands it to be—for instance, you are denied just procedure in this camp—to bear pressures.

Horn: What do you mean by that?

Nakadate: Well, labor relations—why can't we go to the Railroad instead of indefinites and the matter of messhall food. To tell you the truth though, I think the food is a little on the skimpy side. They eat it. They don't negotiate very much. One thing the Fair Play Committee lacks is taste probably due to leadership but by rights I think they should have come to the administrative group, if they didn't want to go to the Council.

Robertson: Do they accept dues?

Nakadate: Yes, they were.

Robertson: What do they do with that money?

Nakadate: I guess they spent it on the attorney in the very beginning.

Robertson: Are they still accepting dues?

Nakadate: No, it doesn't seem to be doing anything. Seems to be a one man outfit again.

Robertson: Do they have a treasurer?

Nakadate: Yes.

Robertson: What is his name?

Nakadate: Nakaye.

Robertson: Do you know where he lives?

Nakadate: No.

Robertson: Do you know whether Okamoto had any of this money when he left?

Nakadate: I don't know but Mr. Okamoto should be a broke man. He doesn't have much money. I think this whole thing of finances—there isn't too much involved there.

Robertson: Did you have anything to do with the preparation of the three bulletins that were put out?

Nakadate: No.

Robertson: Did you agree with them?

Nakadate: I disagreed on one point.

Robertson: What was that?

Nakadate: In order to contest this issue, it said something about refusing to go (draft). I stated that this thing is an individual problem. It is for me.

Robertson: What is the purpose of this—to hinder the workings of the Selective Service Act?

Nakadate: No, I don't think so. I don't think they had anything to do with it.

Robertson: When this bulletin came out plainly stating that, didn't the members all know about it and agree with it?

Nakadate: No, that was brought to me afterwards.

Robertson: Who put those out?

Nakadate: I don't know, I'm only supposed to speak on the educational side and any grievances they want to bring up. On the other hand somebody else prints the bulletins, somebody else does this and I don't know what Okamoto does. That's why I say it isn't very democratic and isn't really fair play. Mr. Okamoto has been studying on this evacuation and I think he was driving at some evacuation problems, whether evacuation was justified or not. He seems to be connected with the Civil Liberties or something.

Robertson: Does this organization have a counterpart in other centers?

Nakadate: No.

DVR 14-52

Robertson: Just in this center?

Nakadate: Yes.

Robertson: Was it to encourage the boys to refuse to answer the draft call?

Nakadate: No. Definitely not because I wouldn't stand for that.

Robertson: According to the pamphlets, the part that said 'in order to contest something or other', what part is that?

Nakadate: Myself, and the treasurer, and a fellow by the name of Nagata who lives in 30—he came over. He's not a member I don't think. He came over and said, 'What do you think about these things?' and I said, 'I'm not for it.' And that was printed so that's that.

Robertson: There is no responsibility in the Fair Play Committee then?

Nakadate: Doesn't seem to be. It is very loose.

Robertson: As a committee then their publications have no weight, therefore, if there is no one to back them up, there must not be a Fair Play Committee.

Nakadate: That's just about what it amounts to.

Robertson: If they had complaints, why didn't they come to the administration?

Nakadate: They should have. That's what I wanted but they blew up.

Robertson: Doesn't it just amount to somebody being a little vitriolic and making accusations and taking the stand but doesn't have the fortitude to defend their stand?

Nakadate: There is a good point in it too though—the Carter incident. That thing should be brought to life a little more.

Robertson: If it has good points and bad points, certainly some of the members should be willing to uphold them and acknowledge them.

Nakadate: I'll acknowledge the good points.

Anderson: How is the organization made up? You say it has had a chairman. Does it have an executive committee?

Nakadate: Yes, they have a steering board and you don't know who is in it because I am in the steering board and a lot of other people will be next time. It isn't organized. I want things set. Otherwise, I can't see through it and if the camp wants me to help in any way, I will but it has to be organized.

Anderson: Who else, besides Okamoto, is active in it?

Nakadate: Horino, Emi, myself, and Mr. Ben Wakaye. Outside of that their room is so big you can't tell who is who. It is a common body that gets together and talks.

Anderson: How much money did they collect?

Nakadate: I don't know just how much.

Anderson: You couldn't guess?

Nakadate: No.

Anderson: Who would have the money?

Nakadate: I believe the treasurer has it.

Robertson: Isn't it a fact that the Fair Play Committee as a committee has been advising the boys not to answer pre-induction physical examinations?

Nakadate: No. I don't think the Fair Play Committee has been doing that unless it has been some individuals.

Robertson: Is it the idea of the Fair Play Committee to try to influence the boys not to answer military call?

Nakadate: I believe it is Mr. Okamoto's view that both sides of the picture should be brought out. I believe in the constitutional angle of it and to some extent, I have thought on his point too but I can't answer his interpretation in total because some words - interpretations - do not agree with me. This fact—especially, the word 'loyal.' It sounds to me like a bargain. The other point is the way he used the word - the United States 'abducted' us or 'kidnapped' us.

Anderson: As far as you know, there is no responsible head or committee representing the Fair Play Committee?

Nakadate: No. Well, Mr. Okamoto and the steering committee.

Anderson: When they signed those bulletins, 'FAIR PLAY COMMITTEE', aren't you all bound to abide by the decision as set out by those bulletins?

Nakadate: No. In fact, I don't know who wrote those articles.

Anderson: You have admitted you are a member of the Committee. The pamphlets come out as a committee. Don't you feel that as a member of the committee that they bind you to the views expressed?

Nakadate: It is too late. Maybe so, but if I am over-ruled and they go ahead and do it, that's that.

Anderson: Have you taken any steps to resign?

Nakadate: No. I feel in the long run it may be a Fair Play Committee. Some article in the Sentinel said it has always failed. One difficulty is that if I resign, maybe other people will resign and won't support it. If Okamoto resigns, he has followers. I don't believe in breaking up. A lot of people want to break up the J.C.L. I feel that if it isn't right, do something about it.

Anderson: But you are still a member?

Nakadate: Yes.

Anderson: One of the pamphlets published by the Fair Play Committee makes the statement that members of the Fair Play Committee do hereby refuse to go to pre-induction physical examinations or to induction if and when called.

Nakadate: Yes, I say that part I objected to.

Anderson: How do you justify your membership then? You state you are a member. This has been probably stated as the position of the Committee. How do you justify your continued membership, having obligated yourself to that viewpoint?

Nakadate: I haven't obligated myself. If I don't like it I just don't like it. I say that I told them that I definitely didn't like that.

Anderson: Have you ever taken any steps heretofore to personally make known that you disagreed with that policy of the Fair Play Committee?

Nakadate: Yes, I have spoken to Mr. Wakaye.

Anderson: Would you be willing for me to state in the Sentinel that you have stated that you do disagree with that policy?

Nakadate: Yes, I'll write you an article in regards to that.

Anderson: In other words, if you are asked and properly notified to appear for the pre-induction physical examination, will you go or will you refuse?

Nakadate: That I don't know. I have to think that part over. That is my individual problem. I can't speak for anyone else's problem. No member should be bound by that and I think a lot of members have already reported for pre-induction physical. I can't say that all that don't go are members of the Fair Play Committee.

Anderson: Don't you feel that you have to accept responsibility for this position if you admit you are a member?

Nakadate: My position is to speak and bring up any materials which I have studied and relay it to the public.

Robertson: Do you believe in anonymous letters or publications?

Nakadate: No, I don't. I have heard in the Sentinel that there are a lot of anonymous letters but I haven't seen them.

Robertson: You are telling me now that no one will take the responsibility for this Fair Play Committee bulletins.

Nakadate: Only the writer can take that responsibility.

Robertson: Then he has no authority to sign FAIR PLAY COMMITTEE on it.

Nakadate: I guess so.

Robertson: Are you willing to permit some unknown writer to obligate you in the sense that you have been obligated?

Nakadate: As far as the viewpoint of opposing Selective Service, no. I don't let that express my view point. My viewpoint is entirely opposite.

Robertson: But at the present time it does.

Nakadate: It would seem so. I don't think that any of these members know just who wrote that.

Robertson: Since you state that it doesn't agree with your own belief, would you ever take any steps to try to correct your position on it or try to find out who committed you on that?

Nakadate: That thing was brought to me—I think it was Nagata, don't know, and Wakaye. That's all I know and I pointed to them that I don't know. The point is I can't go out during the day. I am always home. I have a baby to watch. Whatever comes to me comes to my home. That's the only way I know what is going on during the day.

Anderson: Is there any kind of a block organization plan involved?

Nakadate: Yes, I think Okamoto said something of that sort some time back but, as I say, the organization meetings are too loose. There is no organization. If I were to organize it, I would make it on the basis of the Community Council.

Anderson: Have many meetings have you spoken at?

Nakadate: Maybe half a dozen times.

Anderson: Did you initiate the meetings yourself?

Nakadate: No. I was requested as speaker.

Anderson: By whom?

Nakadate: Generally by Mr. Okamoto or some member of the steering committee.

Anderson: What was the nature of your talks?

Nakadate: Taken from Reverend Fosdick's book, 'Are We Fit for a Democracy' and 'Basic Manual of Individualism' by Amy Lind and the 'National Unity and What it Means' by Senator Holt and what else I know from American History.

Anderson: Have you participated as a part of the committee assisting the material to be sent out to outside publications, like the Rocky Shimpo?

Nakadate: No. Only once was I asked to send material. That one was the one in which Mr. Carter was involved and the one where the camp was quite on edge. I gave that to Mr. Omura.

Anderson: Have you participated in contacting people in other camps to help with the Fair Play Committee?

Nakadate: No. That is too much work.

Anderson: Do you have a membership roster?

Nakadate: No, not that I know of.

Anderson: Then there isn't a Fair Play Committee.

Nakadate: Well, there seems to be.

Anderson: Is it an underground movement?

Nakadate: I wouldn't say it is underground but just not well organized.

Anderson: Why aren't they willing to come out in public and put their cards on the table?

Nakadate: That I don't know.

Anderson: Have they something that they want to conceal to members?

Nakadate: The purpose of the Committee is to help the evacuees in this country. It has to do with anything that is unjust.

Robertson: I think they all realize that that is what WRA is trying to do.

Nakadate: Well, I think the idea of fair play is good if it is run on a fair basis.

Anderson: Has the Fair Play Committee thought of taking their activities through the Community Council?

Nakadate: No.

Anderson: Would you say that the Fair Play Committee, that part of its program would be to disregard the Community Council and obtain these measures by their own actions?

Nakadate: That may be Mr. Okamoto's idea.

Anderson: Were you present at the meeting which was presided over by the attorney from Denver.

Nakadate: Yes, I was. That was just about the time we got going and it was just a group of interested persons. They adopted it because Mr. Okamoto has been working on it so long.

Robertson: Do you think the name 'Fair Play' applies to your committee in that you don't bring these problems to the people who can solve them for you?

Nakadate: Well, they ought to but that isn't my—it isn't my—

Robertson: It isn't fair play is it?

Nakadate: It isn't fair play.

Robertson: Don't you think the organization would be a lot more healthy if they did bring them out?

Nakadate: Sure, that's the way I feel. Unfortunately there is a difference of personality.

Horn: Why don't they work with the WRA on this?

Nakadate: There is a personality difficulty in there.

Horn: Why did Mr. Okamoto want to have these boys resist draft calls?

Nakadate: I don't know if he is. About all I see is Judge Emmans remarks on the mess hall.

Anderson: You say many of the members haven't participated. Assuming that Okamoto has committed the Fair Play Committee that he may have sent material outside of the center for publication. Anytime during that period, to your knowledge, have any of the members of the Fair Play committee repudiated any of the comments made by Mr. Okamoto or anyone else?

Nakadate: Yes. Of course, what you write in and what they print is two different things. Yes, they were quite sore. I sent that last one in about this camp and about Carter. I told them the people are pretty mad about it.

Anderson: Have any of the members written any statements repudiating the stands indicated by the bulletins?

Nakadate: Japanese people don't give their opinions through letters or formal ways. They show their resentment though. I know that there are a lot of resentments. I have cautioned Mr. Okamoto many times as to his use of language and his attitude but after all, in this community of one set race, it is pretty hard to kind of break but he has been cautioned. I cautioned him and gave up cautioning him. Some members cautioned him many times. He doesn't bring in followers. He loses more of them.

Robertson: Do you think some of these boys refusing to answer pre-induction physicals have been influenced by the Fair Play Committee:

Nakadate: I don't think so.

Robertson: Don't you think that the fact that this bulletin was circulated and some of the members who refused to go were members of the Fair Play committee indicated that it had some effect upon them?

Nakadate: I don't know.

Robertson: Don't you think when it does, that it is unfair for the boys to have to go in and take their sentence for the acts of someone else?

Nakadate: That is all up to them. I don't know if the bulletin had any effect on them or not but if they went in knowingly, they should know what they are doing."

For the information of the file and with reference to the above interview, questions 28 and 27 are being set out in full.

Question 28: "Will you swear unqualified allegiance to the United States of America and faithfully defend the United States from any or all attack by foreign or domestic forces, and forswear any form of allegiance or obedience to the Japanese Emperor or any other government, power, or organization?"

Question 27: "Are you willing to serve in the armed forces of the United States on combat duty whenever ordered?"

A leave clearance hearing was also conducted for BEN WAHAYE by Mr. ROBERTSON and Mr. ANDERSON on April 3, 1944. The first part of the interview, which of course was transcribed, consists of questions and