

DVR 14-52

Wakaye: I think maybe perhaps in a lot of those cases they are mad about something and they want to make a lot of fuss.

Robertson: They say the camp is on the verge of a big strike and blow-up...

Wakaye: That was false.....

Robertson: I think those false things should be corrected don't you?

Wakaye: I think the individual should come out and not put too much blame on the Fair Play Committee. Those articles that were written weren't from the Fair Play Committee.....

Robertson: I would make them retract it then.

Wakaye: You mean the newspaper?

Robertson: I mean the 'Rocky Shampo' newspaper.

Wakaye: Am I the only one who will have a hearing like this?

Robertson: I am going to talk to you boys who are the leaders. Thank you for coming in Ben."

Pertinent portions will also be quoted from the leave clearance hearing held for FRANK EMI which was conducted on April 4, 1944, by Mr. ROBERTSON and Mr. W. J. CARROLL, Relocation officer.

"HEARING BOARD FOR LEAVE CLEARANCE  
Rehearing  
April 4, 1944

*DAY AFTER  
WAKAYE*

"MEMBERS OF THE BOARD: Guy Robertson, Project Director  
W. J. Carroll, Relocation Officer

"INTERVIEWEE: Frank Emi  
9 - 2k - 4  
Heart Mountain, Wyoming  
USES 18559

".....

Robertson: In the Fair Play Committee you boys have come out with the statement that you hereby resolve not to appear for

pre-induction physical or for induction if called. There is a law in our statute books which says that every citizen, unless excused for some special reason, is subject to the call when he is needed in the army, either in time of peace or in time of war. Now that is a law on the books.

Emi: Yes.

Robertson: Don't you think you should obey that law implicitly?

Emi: We are not saying that we will not go to the army or anything, Mr. Robertson. Like myself, I would go any time if I was out in California or if I was given the rights of any other American citizen, and I still say that I am not saying I won't go as soon as I am treated as an American citizen should be treated. I would be glad to go.

*To CAMERA*

Robertson: I think that is right; I think also you are making a mistake in that you are trying to bargain with the government of the United States on a law that is on the statute books, and that just can't be done. Now if you want to have that law repealed you shouldn't disobey a law in order to bring it up for repeal, there are plenty of ways to bring the case up without deliberately breaking the law of the United States. Don't you think it would be better for you to obey all laws of the United States and at the same time to work diligently to obtain that clarification of citizenship, or whatever you call it?

*LIFE WHAT?  
WHAT'S TO PRES?  
CONGRESSMAN  
WHO PUT  
HIM IN  
CAMP?*

Emi: That is the best way, yes. At the same time, up to now we have been suppressed in our rights and privileges of American citizenship because the government said so, and we have more or less complied with that order; but, that order, I believe, is unconstitutional. Of course, that is before the supreme court now. I believe that order to comply with the Presidential Proclamation and all was unconstitutional because the Constitution of the United States states that citizens shall not be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law. In my position I do not know just what my status is as a citizen. I do not know whether I am a full fledged citizen, they say I am, but actual factors are a little bit different, and I don't know whether I am in the same status as the Indians, aren't they wards of the government, Mr. Carroll?



Robertson: .....Do you think the activities of the Fair Play Committee have been subversive?

Emi: I don't think so, Mr. Robertson.

Robertson: Do you think you have influenced other people to not answer the Selective Service call?

Emi: No, I don't think so because at some of the meetings I have attended they have always come out and stated that if the person wants to get into the Fair Play Committee just to evade the draft we don't want them. They also stated many times at the meetings those people who had intention of joining the committee just to evade the draft were not welcome. As you know, it is up to the individual.

Robertson: Let me ask you, Frank, what do you think you can do by refusing to appear for Selective Service to clarify your situation. What, in other words, have you in mind, what is your aim?

Emi: I just wonder if it won't bring more attention to the fact that we, as American citizens in here and subject to the army, as such, that it would call the public's attention to the fact that we haven't the rights of citizens and they would try to remedy that. Of course they will have to see both sides of the question, if they only see that we are violating the Selective Service Act naturally there isn't any one that would be in sympathy with us, but in a court that is where I think a person has the right to present both sides of the picture.

*GOOD PUBLICITY + GOOD LAW FAITH THAT COURT WOULD BE FAIR - ULTIMATELY IT WAS*

.....  
Carroll: What are the requirements to be a member of the Fair Play Committee?

Emi: I don't know of any specific requirements. You have to be a citizen and consider yourself a loyal citizen to be a member

Carroll: Is their interpretation of loyal American citizen mean that they should not answer their draft call?

Emi: No. I think every loyal American citizen should protect and uphold the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

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Carroll: Are you a member of the Fair Play Committee?

Emi: Yes.

Carroll: And following that you think you are a loyal citizen? What would you do if you were notified to report for your call to the army tomorrow?

Emi: I don't know. Many things can happen between now and tomorrow. I may think one thing today and one thing tomorrow.

Carroll: What if I handed you your draft notice right now?

Emi: Right now I think you know the way I have been thinking.

Carroll: Would you go or wouldn't you go?

Emi: I would go just as soon as my status and rights are clarified.

Carroll: How can you declare you are a loyal American citizen, then?

Emi: Taking the stand that I just told you, I believe that by doing that I am helping toward the rectification of the unconstitutional acts the government has committed.

Carroll: You already have a test case in court now. How can you further help it?

Emi: That is my individual feeling. I don't feel that it should be left to some one else."

The existence and activities of the Fair Play Committee were first brought to the attention of the writer by Mr. GUY ROBERTSON and Mr. M. L. CAMPBELL, the latter being Chief of Internal Security at the Center. The initial conversation with Mr. ROBERTSON and Mr. CAMPBELL occurred on February 22, 1944. At that time Mr. ROBERTSON advised that on February 9, 1944, CHICERU MASANUGA, Chairman of Block Engineers, came into his office, together with one BOB KODOMA, an evacuee assistant relocation officer, and told of the fact that a meeting had been held by subject OKAMOTO a few days prior and it appeared that OKAMOTO was holding such meetings for the purpose of inducing evacuees to not comply with the rules of the Selective Service Act as it had recently be reinstated

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for the nisei. Neither one of the above two individuals could give any specific information to Mr. ROBERTSON. However, with such alleged activity in mind, Mr. ROBERTSON caused a special bulletin to be printed on February 10, 1944, generally advising that if anyone or group of individuals interfered with the Selective Service Act they would be guilty of sedition and punishable therefore. In conjunction with this special announcement a notice was placed in the "Sentinel," the official newspaper reiterating the remarks previously set forth in the bulletin. This Sentinel was published February 12, 1944.

During the the periodic visits at the Center thereafter an attempt was made to secure additional information on the activities of this Fair Play Committee. The cooperation of Mr. CAMPBELL was solicited to try to keep track of statements made by the leaders of the committee and also to note any unusual activities. On various occasions the writer contacted ROYOZO MATSUI, Evacuee Chief of Police; JOHN KITASAKO, Editor of the "Sentinel;" KUNIO OTANI, Assistant Editor of the "Sentinel;" BOB KODAMA; TOM OKI, Block Manager; and SAM TANAKA, Reporter for the "Sentinel." However, for the most part such individuals were reluctant to talk about the activities of the Fair Play Committee because they did not wish to become involved. Two of these individuals attended Fair Play Committee meetings but desired not to in the future make their appearance at such meetings for their opinions were contrary to the apparent desires of the committee, consequently, they did not wish to have themselves seen at such meetings. What they had to relate is of no evidentiary value. Likewise, Mr. CAMPBELL was unable to secure any specific information of value as evidence.

Interviews with other evacuees will be hereinafter set out, not because of definite evidence of sedition on the part of subject organization but to somewhat give a running account.

A check was made on February 22, 1944, with HARRY YOSHIDA. YOSHIDA is a friend of Chief CAMPBELL and was formerly a detective on the evacuee police force. YOSHIDA advised that the initial meeting held by the Fair Play Committee as an organization was on February 1 or February 2, 1944, Subject OKAMOTO presided. A general speech was given by OKAMOTO complaining about relocation and the draft law. It was of particular interest to YOSHIDA that very obscene language was used on occasions by OKAMOTO throughout his talk. Incidentally, this use of obscene language was also reported to Mr. ROBERTSON by KODAMA who was mentioned previously. Another meeting was held on February 8, and still another meeting was held on February 17. During this time OKAMOTO and his cohorts had been collecting a minimum of \$2.00 from members who signed up with the committee for the purpose of hiring a lawyer to present the problem of the nisei and if

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necessary to fight a court action.

Inquiry was likewise made of WARNER OGADA, who is also an evacuee detective on the police force. OGADA was interviewed on February 22, 1944. OGADA had attended a Fair Play Committee meeting on February 18, held in Block 20, starting at 7:00 P.M. OKAMOTO presided at the meeting. The main topic of discussion was the recent employment of an attorney by the name of SAMUEL MENIN and an initial payment of \$250.00 was paid to Mr. MENIN for his representation of the nisei viewpoint in Washington, D, C. The attorney had agreed to present the nisei case to high authorities in Washington and upon a reply would initiate any action allowed by Washington authorities. OKAMOTO also advised that an additional fee of \$100.00 will be required later in payment to Mr. MENIN. With such payments in mind, OKAMOTO advised that it would necessitate a larger membership and of course more money, YOSHIDA also stated that PAUL NAKADATE was a leader of the committee with OKAMOTO. NAKADATE had presided at several of the meetings. OGADA also told of a meeting held by the Fair Play Committee on the 21st of February. This was held in Block 6, Mess Hall 30, with PAUL NAKADATE presiding. A general discussion was had on Selective Service at that time. NAKADATE announced at the meeting that the attorney that had been employed desired to be relieved from any future representations of the evacuees at Heart Mountain. This was indicated in the letter to OKAMOTO received that day or the previous day.

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IS  
WAY  
TO GO  
ABOUT  
CHANGING  
LAW

Mention was made, as has been mentioned, of Mr. MENIN above and in previous places in this report. Mr. MENIN appeared at the Heart Mountain Center on the evening of February 15, 1944. According to information furnished to the writer by Mr. ROBERTSON and Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. MENIN arrived about 7:00 P.M. that evening and asked the night internal security force to be taken to the residence of subject OKAMOTO. He stayed at subject's residence meeting with a group of evacuees until close to midnight. Because of the hour, quarters in the administrative building were furnished Mr. MENIN. The following morning Mr. ROBERTSON had a short talk with the attorney at which time Mr. MENIN did not hesitate to state his purpose and whom he visited the previous evening. He advised Mr. ROBERTSON that he had been asked by OKAMOTO through a third party in Denver to come to Heart Mountain for the purpose of discussing various evacuee problems. Mr. MENIN had gone to the Heart Mountain Center to meet with OKAMOTO and a group of evacuees on the basis of possibly representing them concerning the unfairness of evacuation, however, at the meeting many questions were asked of him concerning the draft issue. He definitely advised this group that it would be ridiculous to try to evade the Selective Service Act and he would have nothing to do with it. However, he was willing to see what he could do concerning evacuation as a whole.

JIMMY ?  
OMURA -



Inquiry was also made of MINORU YONEMURA who had been previously contacted by the Agent on other matters. YONEMURA advised that he had attended two of the Fair Play Committee meetings. One was held at Block 2 in the mess hall on Sunday, February 6, 1944. OKAMOTO presided. It was more or less a private meeting and about fifty people attended, mostly issei. OKAMOTO talked for approximately forty-five minutes discussing in his bombastic sort of way the constitutional rights of the nisei. He read excerpts from various periodicals and opinions by lawyers on evacuation. He denounced the administrative staff of the WRA pointing out particularly how Mr. ROBERTSON as an ex-sheep herder was lacking in intelligence and qualifications. He complained that WRA should not dictate to the evacuees. He further stated that the Constitution of the United States should be used to contest the unfairness of drafting nisei. This was to be done through the legally established courts of the land. In brief, it was a tirade of generalities about evacuees, the Bill of Rights, and the Constitution.

YONEMURA attended another meeting on Monday night, February 21, 1944. NAKADATE presided at this meeting on behalf of the Fair Play Committee. It was held in Block 6, Mess Hall 30. It may be incidentally mentioned at this point that this meeting was sponsored by the Ace of Hearts and Hi-Liners, two social nisei groups in Blocks 1 and 6. According to WRA authorities these two groups have been in existence for some time and are merely social gatherings of young fellows. A poster was furnished to the writer which had been tacked up in a mess hall and reads as follows: "Ace of Hearts and Hi-Liners invite you to hear P. NAKADATE on the Fair Play Committee and its view on the draft of nisei. Block 6, Mess 30, 7:00 P.M., tonight 2-21-44." Upon a small piece of paper attached to this poster was the following: "Hi-Liners and Ace of Hearts are neither for nor against the Fair Play Committee. We have booked the Fair Play Committee so the community may know how they stand. We shall appreciate one member of each family who have not heard of the Fair Play Committee in order that we may have room to accomodate all."

YONEMURA stated that about forty attended this meeting, the meeting lasting for about two hours. The meeting was orderly and there was no rough talk. NAKADATE, in his educational manner pointed out instances of favorable opinions relative to the constitutional right of Japanese-American born. In this connection NAKADATE told of a negro doctor in Detroit who volunteered for service in the United States Army but had been refused, consequently, when the doctor was drafted he refused to report. The matter was in court at the present time. Consequently, NAKADATE pointed out that there could be a fight put up and minorities given a voice.