

NISHOMOTO has conversed with EMI on the Fair Play Committee approximately one-half dozen times. EMI has spoken to NISHOMOTO to the effect that the draft should not apply to the evacuee nisei. EMI has remarked also that he is going to try to get the young fellows not to answer their pre-induction physical examination order with the assurance that the Fair Play Committee would stand behind them.

EMI lives at 9-21-B, while YANAGISAKO lives at 9-22-C. They are rather close neighbors. EMI and YANAGISAKO were very good friends and apparently worked jointly for the benefit of the Fair Play Committee. NISHOMOTO estimated that he had talked twice to EMI about the Fair Play Committee at YANAGISAKO's house in his, YANAGISAKO's, presence, however, YANAGISAKO had not made any statements to NISHOMOTO of an evidentiary nature but at times merely nodded affirmation of EMI's remarks.

NISHOMOTO also recalled that on the morning that DAVE KAWAMOTO was arrested for not reporting for his induction physical examination that EMI spoke to KAWAMOTO's mother saying to her not to worry for the Fair Play Committee would take care of him. NISHOMOTO also stated that a Fair Play Committee meeting was held on the night of April 5, 1944. It may be noted that on that day and the previous day a number of individuals had been picked up at the center by the United States Marshal for not reporting for their examinations. Still another group was picked up on April 6, 1944. EMI admitted to NISHOMOTO that he had coached the fellows in the meeting on the night of April 5, 1944, to plead not guilty when they were arrested before the Commissioner.

A further conversation was had with NISHOMOTO on the morning of April 11, 1944, by the Agents. NISHOMOTO had deliberately contacted EMI the previous afternoon to try to develop additional information. NISHOMOTO had gone to EMI's house and noticed much documentary material about the place but could not offer any specific descriptive information explaining it. In the casual conversation with EMI that afternoon EMI advised that if his citizenship status was not cleared up he was going to ask for repatriation to Japan. He also stated that he had coached the fellows picked up for draft evasion to plead not guilty before the Commissioner. EMI also stated to NISHOMOTO that a \$500 retention fee had been paid thus far to Attorney MENIN and \$100 was to be paid the attorney for each evacuee represented who had not reported to his draft call. Interview was also obtained with NOBU TSUGU KAWI, present associate editor of the "Sentinel," and a strong member of the JAFL, on April 10, 1944, by the writer and Special Agent LAWRENCE. KAWI hesitated to become involved in instant matter because he has previously volunteered for the United States Army and although he has not been called at the present time, will report to the Army just as soon as he possibly can. He does

not want to leave any reactionary situation that might be detrimental to his wife and children after he goes into the army. However, KAWI mentioned certain articles that were written by NAKADATE and EMI to be published in the "Sentinel" which are believed to be pertinent.

To begin with, KAWI, because of his known stand of loyalty to the United States and his equilibrium, was asked to speak on Sunday morning, March 12, 1944, before the Buddhist Young People's Association. NAKADATE and KEN YANAGI both attended such meetings although without question they are not Buddhists. KEN YANAGI was noticed by KAWI to take down in shorthand his, KAWI's, speech. This furnished the spring board for the resultant articles mentioned hereinafter. NAKADATE answered KAWI's patriotic speech by writing a letter to be published in the "Sentinel." This was done on March 18, 1944, as a matter of policy. This letter, as published in the March 18, 1944, issue of the "Heart Mountain Sentinel" is hereinafter quoted:

"To the Editor:

"Last week's editorial, 'Our Cards on the Table,' was the weakest and cheapest editorial I've seen. Whoever the writer may have been should have first informed himself of the Fair Play Committee's stand in regard to the reinstatement of the Selective Service Program before coming out with such an editorial. Everything that has been written does not stand on the solid foundation of facts. It was nothing more than moral intimidation and the presenting of a prejudiced view. At the most, the cards that were on the table is what the boys commonly call a bluff, a 'chinaman's straight.'

"In defense of the founder of the FPC I only wish to say that had not his ideals been correct the FPC would never have gained the tremendous moral support it is now getting. With the FPC in demand for nightly educational bookings at the request of the Block, the Sentinel could have very easily learned the true stand of the organization. I'm quite certain that the Administration has received one way or another the FPC bulletins for censorship purposes. From it too can be obtained the stand of the Committee.

KAWI  
"I have also heard the Associate Editor of the Sentinel speak at the Buddhist Y.P. Service and I have the context of his speech in shorthand: Mr. Kawai states 'True democracy is essentially the rule of the majority and when the majority rules in favor of the minority the minority will profit.' Would he want us to believe that the mere fact the minority should oppose the majority, the minority is still subject to the majority rule? He states 'We can fight but we still have to contend with the majority who kicked us out of the Pacific Coast States. . . we should fight for our rights but I do take issue of the method

we use in carrying out this particular fight. I believe today . . . the Japanese are the minority in the U.S. and behind the 8 ball . . . to gain our end we should promote better public relation which is all essential to appeasement. . . Let us remember that none of us or any group of us could be big enough to try to beat the U.S. Army.'

"If in a democracy the majority rules and the minority has no chance but to show the public our loyalty by complying to the selective service program, I wish to inform our readers that this is, in my opinion, a mistaken conception of democracy. Many want to save democracy at all cost without knowing whether they themselves are well versed in the true significance of democracy. In this regard I think and do believe that democratic rule is not only the rule of the majority but also the protection of the minority which is a direct antithesis of our government to that of Nazi Germany or Tojo's Japan. If democratic government means that constitutional rights can be disregarded at will as it applies to us, and expect us to accept the wrong as a matter of course then our government is wrong. If democratic government means accepting blindly the President's orders regardless what the orders are then we are jeopardizing the very cornerstone of our Constitution and the Bill of Rights. If we as a citizen accept orders as a matter of course or well knowing the invalidity of the law, we are not good citizens as elementary civics in the American education system teaches. An American citizen in the true sense is he who not only abides by the laws made by congress, but supports it to the limit whenever it is challenged and upheld by the supreme court of the United States.

"I'm also calling attention to the article 'Nisei Petition President' on page 8 of last week's Sentinel. In it the Sentinel claims 922 Heart Mountain niseis and 1,208 issei parents as signers to the petition. Lets tell the whole truth to the outside public. I think they have a right to know. The editorial states 'The American public has the right to know that the majority of nisei and their parents believe whole heartedly in Selective Service.' Can it claim that number as majority? The FPC and a group of Japanese-Americans and signers of the petition by mistake informed the Community Council to hold off sending the petition to the President. The FPC specifically called the attention of the council as to the underhanded procedures. The Council made the petition for the American citizens without approval of the citizenry body and brought the petition to some doors and omitted others. Many of the blocks did not entertain this petition. Some young and old people who couldn't read English signed thinking it was the FPC petition. In a hurried overnight drive for signatures the petition was picked up and sent despite the Council's word that it would hold it for correction and the adoption by each block. As a consequence of the aftermath the council group was attacked for their procedure and many resignation from the councilmen were

in order as was shown in last week's Sentinel.

"I'm quite sure the Sentinel know of these facts. If the Sentinel is going to be the Sentinel of this Camp I should like it to have it come out clean and straight. Why cannot the outside public know of our genuine feeling instead of putting an artificial front in accordance with WRA policy. I'm still for the people on the outside to know us just as we are. If the high-salaried administrators cannot maintain their high salaried position in light of the outside public knowing the true facts its high time they readjust their policy or get out.

"Paul T. Nakadate  
1-4-D."

KAWI remarked that this letter was officially ignored by the "Sentinel" and was not answered. He felt rather irked but deemed it the best policy to not deal in personalities. The original of this letter was not retained by the "Sentinel" Office.

The following week FRANK EWI submitted a lengthy letter for publication in the "Sentinel." Because of its length it was published in two different issues, that of March 25, 1944, and that of April 1, 1944. This letter is being quoted in its entirety as published in the two issues of the "Sentinel." KAWI advised that the original letter has been retained by the "Sentinel."

"To the Editors:

In defense of the FPC against the intimidations and slanderous editorials of the Heart Mountain Sentinel, the center's newspaper, I am writing this article.

"I do not believe it is the policy of the Fair Play committee to engage in any political disputes with individuals or publications, but the editorial that appeared in the March 11 and March 18 issue of the Heart Mountain Sentinel was so un-American and unsound in the light of a democratic country, that I, as a member of the Fair Play committee take this opportunity to try and straighten out some things for the benefit of the Sentinel's editors.

"The Sentinel editorial publicly announced that the FPC was being investigated and would soon be broken up on the rocks of law and reason. They hopefully look forward to such an event. The FPC would welcome such an investigation, for we are on the side of LAW and REASON. Furthermore, we are on the side of Justice, Humanity and Fair Play, but

above all, we are on the side from which emanates justice, freedom, and liberty. The Constitution and bill of Rights of the United States.

"The Sentinel editorial has now dropped down to the level of accusing the FPC of intimidating and threatening those who oppose the FPC, that the FPC leaders have tried to 'fire with fanatical zeal the weaker members in the latrines, behind closed doors, and under the protection of darkness.' If the writers of this editorial can produce one single evidence of such a nature, I think the FPC would appreciate knowing of it. These editors who first tried intimidations and veiled threats against the FPC are now resorting to the usual smearing tactics to try and discredit and break up the FPC.

"What manner of persons have we in the Sentinel editorial staff who would express, who would write such un-American, undemocratic, and bigoted words? Who are these people who would like to destroy anything that stands for justice, Constitutionalism, and humanity? Why would they like to intimidate, threaten, suppress, ridicule, those who have the fortitude to stand up for justice, righteousness, Constitutionalism, and for the very fundamentals which this nation was built upon?

"What makes them try to present an artificial front, and apple-polished exterior to the public, while trying to stifle the truth of how we loyal American citizens of Japanese ancestry feel towards all the injustices, the discriminations, and the suppressing of our rights which are our rightful heritage? Is it because of selfish interests which exist in the hearts of certain individuals? Or is it because of certain designing motives of some persons, that they would carry on against anything or anyone that raises its voice for justice, equity, and the perseverance of our constitutional rights?

"Why do these editors want to blame the parents for the indecision of the nisei to respond to the present discriminatory program? These parents who have suffered untold hardships, who have suffered extreme self-denial, and who have made every kind of sacrifice for their children, who literally sweated blood so that they, the nisei, may never know what, may never experience insecurity; may receive the best in education, may hold the respect of their fellow citizens,

"These parents who although are ineligible for citizenship, nevertheless are loyal, upright examples of good citizens, who would never think of doing anything to jeopardize the future welfare of their children, who would gladly send their sons to the army with their blessings if they, the niseis were treated like any other loyal American citizen. Why do they want to cast off their parents like an old discarded shoe; once they do not need their help any longer, just so they can further their own misconceived and twisted ideas and motives.

"Why these editors would shove the blame on the parents is beyond human comprehension: These persons must have parents, or at least had parents. They did not grow up like weeds or animals. They did not grow up by themselves, nor received their education through their own efforts. Why they accuse the parents in such a cowardly way is beyond the imagination of any normal, intelligent person. The above questions, I would like to ask of our editors and the so called apple-polishing 'leaders' of our community. Especially, of a former J...C.L. president of Pasadena and the present associate editor of our Sentinel, Mr. Nobu Kawai, who spoke on Sunday, March 12, at the Heart Mountain Buddhist church.

"Some members of the FPC who were present, took down in shorthand the text of his talk on Democracy, therefore the following quotes are entirely accurate. He said, quote, 'The only true democracy is of one mind; the rule of the majority. If the minority raises the ire of the majority, the majority can rule. The majority can change the Constitution itself.

"The rights and privileges of the minority can be held up—cannot fight against democracy. I believe today that the Japanese are the minority and behind the eightball. We have to use public relations to secure our future. Let us remember that the majority can change the Constitution and make this a dictatorship if they so desire. I am trying to put the right type of thinking into the minds of those persons.' Unquote. Those are some of the highlights of his address.

"Frank Emi  
9-21-B"

(To be continued in the April 1, 1944, issue.)

"To the Editor:

"We would like Nobu Kawai to read the Constitution very carefully, especially the Preamble, also we would like to have him study the causes and underlying principles that motivated the American Revolution, the Declaration of Independence, the Boston Tea Party, and Proclamation for the Emancipation of Slavery, before making such a distorted misleading, disgraceful speech in front of intelligent people. If some high public official were to utter those same words to the American public, we dare not think of the consequences which would follow him. After all, we are still living in a democratic country.

"What he says is, or would be, in complete harmony with the concepts of a Hitler or Stalin type of dictatorship government, but to

apply such an interpretation to our democratic form of government is due, either to his inability to correctly interpret the Constitution, or his misconception of a free and democratic country, or a gross refusal to believe in the instruments of our government, or to a stupid blunder on his part in making such public utterances. It seems like he made a mistake and read the doctrines of Hitlerism instead of reading the Constitution of his own country.

"The Constitution can be interpreted in many ways, but how long would his interpretation stand up in the eyes of the American public? It seems that he should not underestimate the intelligence of his fellow citizens, or at least spare them the insult of comparing theirs with the level of his own. Has JACLism again reared up its ugly head to spread its seeds of defeatism and bigotry through the Sentinel editorials? Stooging seems to be an accomplished profession of these JACL 'bigwigs.'

"Nevertheless, I believe the FPC respects his right to express his own opinions, whatever they are, but I think it is against the principles of this organization to let any such misconceived ideas of Democracy and of our Constitution go by unopposed.

"We nisei who are today fighting for justice and for the application of the real meaning of democracy as set forth in the Constitution by challenging the unconstitutional acts committed against us, a minority group, will if we are successful, emerge out of this present struggle of right against wrong, of justice and democratic ideals against unconstitutional acts and discriminatory actions, with a great new faith in Democracy and the American way of Life. We members of the FPC still believe, still have hope, that the Constitution of our country is not a mere scrap of paper. On that we are staking our all.

"Those nisei who are responding to the present draft call under the present conditions may believe that they are doing the right thing. That is their belief and we respect them for it. But again there are many who are going because of fear. Fear of being thrown in jail, of being isolated in some far concentration camp or some other form of punishment. Those people seem to have lost faith and hope in the principles and ideals of this country. They will go off to battle, and if they come back, they will still have the same feeling of mistrust, suspicion, lack of faith and confidence in the Constitution and Bill of Rights that they had when they went off to war. Especially, if there are still some discriminations and injustices present when they come back.

"On the other hand, we, who have made our decision to stay and fight to uphold our Constitution, and for what it stands, for the future security of this Nation, and for the sake of other minorities as well as

for the future of nisei, will if justice triumphs, be able to face the future unafraid, with a feeling of equality, with confidence, trust and faith in our country. We will be the staunchest defenders of these democratic ideals and principles. We will be a part of that mass of people who will never lose sight of the real and true meaning of Democracy.

"If justice does not win out, then, whether we do our fighting here at home, or on foreign battlefields, the end result will be the same. The future of a democratic nation, the future of all minority people, and the future of ourselves is dark indeed.

"The editors of the Sentinel said in today's issue, that 'we should be men among men and not whimpering weaklings who are afraid to prove themselves.' If these persons feel that what they say is right, that what they write is being loyal, why do they not volunteer their services to the combat unit? Why do they not back up their convictions with parallel action? To sit in an office and write bold words does not take courage. You do not have to be a man among men to utter such words behind an office desk. We members of the FPC sincerely believe that we are doing the right thing as loyal American citizens in fighting for our rights and in trying to uphold our Constitution. We are backing up our convictions with our stand, regardless of the consequences. We have faith in our principles. We are ready to defend this faith, come what may.

"We would like to ask one last question of the Sentinel editors and of the public. Who is the man? Who is the whimpering weakling?

'The ideals of democracy have never been dream pictures but goals,  
'The way toward our goals we will find only through our own exertions,  
'Through tireless, patient and courageous exertions.'

"Sigrid Undset  
Frank Emi  
9-21-B."

KAWAI advised that he framed a letter in reply to Emi because he felt that such biased opinions should be answered. His answer to Emi's letter was published also in the April 1, 1944 issue. It is as follows:

"To Frank Emi and the FPC:

"Because the welfare of the community overshadows the irrelevant consideration of personalities, I wish to answer your letter solely on the basis of the fundamental issues in question.



"I appreciate the sincerity of the Fair Play committee in seeking the same ultimate end that The Sentinel and other nisei bodies have in view . . . justice and tolerance. We take issue, however, with the means your committee employs in seeking that end.

"The FPC points to forced evacuation, confinement, segregation in the army and other evidences of discrimination as an indication that our government looks upon us as 'secondary' citizens. You advance the theory that selective service laws do not apply to nisei in view of such restriction of rights.

*DISTINCTION*  
"You reason further that acceptance of military service is tantamount to accepting such restriction of rights and have declared that you will resist induction 'until our status as American citizens is clarified' as a protest to such discriminatory treatment.

"The fallacy in your argument is your contention that a restriction of our rights means a loss of those rights.. We don't lose any rights under the constitution until the constitution itself is changed.

"We all feel evacuation and detention are unjust. The constitutionality of these issues are today pending decision before the Supreme Court.

"If the Supreme Court rules evacuation was constitutional, we will not have been deprived of any rights. We may then seek to avoid a repetition of such an injustice by constitutional amendment.

"The fact that our rights have been restricted does not justify us to resist induction.

"I believe you are sincere in your purpose. I trust there are none among you who seek only to avoid military service.

*SOME  
CENTRIST*  
"The constitution grants to American citizens all those rights embodied in the Bill of Rights. I believe those rights are for the enjoyment of loyal Americans. The moment a citizen violates the selective service laws and is convicted of draft evasion, he loses his claim to such rights.

"While we are seeking justice and tolerance, it is important that we make a special effort to conduct ourselves as loyal Americans.

"The use of selective service, at a time when our country is in a life and death struggle, as a vehicle to attain our ends will be

interpreted only as an act of disloyalty. It will destroy all the public relations we have worked so hard to build up.

"While it is for the courts of law to decide the justification of your action, the damage you will have done to all nisei will outweigh any legal points you may win. You will be tearing down the very things you are trying to secure.

"We can win the war, but lose the peace. So can we win our rights, but lose public acceptance. There are no laws barring Negroes in major league baseball . . . yet, there are no Negroes playing in the major leagues. It is as important to win popular support as it is to fight for our rights.

"The FPC no doubt feels it is justified in refusing induction. You feel your induction will be looked upon as a protest against intolerance and injustice. You regard yourselves as martyrs to the cause of the nisei. You feel the courts of law will uphold you.

"If you are sincere in testing your case before the courts of our country, a few test cases by some of your leaders is sufficient. It is not necessary for large numbers to refuse induction.

"My chief concern is for the young nisei who face the serious consequences of draft evasion and the stigma attached to it because they are led to believe they are doing the right thing.

"I believe in the thousands of individuals and organizations who are working for our cause today. How long do you think they would support us if we all refused to be inducted?

"I believe in preserving all the good that our boys in the 100th battalion and 442nd combat team have brought us by their sweat and blood.

"When this war is won, the Ben Kurokis, fortified by their undeniable proof of loyalty through action, will plead our case for tolerance and justice before the bar of public opinion.

"Let us never deny that we are anything but loyal American citizens. While we are fighting for our rights, let us conduct ourselves as good citizens so that no one can deny our claims to such rights.

"Associate Editor  
Nobu T. Kawai

"P.S. It may be of interest to you that on March 12, 1943, I volunteered for combat duty with the 442nd Combat Team and am, today, ready to be inducted whenever called."

Thereafter KAWAI advised that the Fair Play Committee has been a source of irritation to the Center because of its stand. Its immediate objective has apparently been the Selective Service Act. However, when the leaders saw this getting out of bounds they seized upon other alleged grievances of the evacuation. This of course would not only detract away from possible trouble concerning the Selective Service Act but also gain support from people who might not be so anxious to join when the sole purpose of the committee was apparently a discussion of the Selective Service. For instance, the Fair Play Committee wrote a letter to the Rocky Shimpo, a Japanese newspaper at Denver, Colorado, demanding the removal of Mr. ROBERTSON at the Center. It instituted a program of endeavoring to keep the Sentinel published free and distributed gratis to the Center. KAWAI also mentioned in conclusion that he is apprehensive at the present time that the Fair Play Committee may be taken over by the Kibei. From his past experience with Kibei this will not be a pleasant situation. From all appearances the past leaders of the Fair Play Committee are willing to drop the matter at the present time because the situation has become too hot to handle.

Mention should also be made of the fact that during March of 1944, fifty three evacuee nisei at the Heart Mountain Center have refused to report for their pre-induction physical examinations. Mr. CARL L. SACKETT, United States Attorney at Cheyenne, Wyoming, authorized complaints and warrants against these fifty three individuals. They are presently incarcerated in county jails in the State of Wyoming, awaiting Grand Jury action May 8, 1944, at Cheyenne, Wyoming. All but twelve of these delinquents have been interviewed by the writer, Special Agent LAWRENCE and Special Agent ROBERT A. KNITTLE of the Denver Field Division. They have all given a standardized set of reasons why they do not wish to report for the draft, including clarification of citizenship rights, various types of alleged discriminatory acts, and being placed behind barbed wire fences with M.P. guards. The majority have admitted membership in the Fair Play Committee but of course deny being influenced in attending such meetings to not report for the physical examination. MCMILLAN

COPY TO UNITED STATES ATTORNEY, DENVER, COLORADO: A copy of this report is being transmitted to United States Attorney THOMAS L. MORRISSEY at Denver, Colorado, because of possible connection with draft refusals at the Granada Assembly Center. It may also be noted that Mr. MORRISSEY is interested in the publication "Rocky Shimpo" and this report may furnish some background information. MURA

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