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JACL IN WARTIME

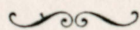
A Report by Saburo Kido

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*Best Wishes
Saburo Kido*

JACL IN WARTIME

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THE eventful year of 1943 is fast coming to a close. Many of us who were looking out from the inside of relocation centers at the beginning of the year are looking in from the outside today. Thousands have relocated successfully throughout the nation. We must be thankful that we are gradually resuming normal life.

I believe all you members desire to know what the JACL has accomplished during the past year. Frankly, I must say that ours has not been a "bed of roses."

During the course of our travels and from reports received, we have found that the JACL has been charged with the following:

1. That we caused the evacuation.
2. That we did not oppose the evacuation sufficiently.
3. That we were instrumental in sending the Issei to concentration camps.
4. That we were paid \$25 a name for those taken into custody by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Inasmuch as our members seem to be meeting many who are "anti-JACL", it may be worth the effort and time to set forth some of the facts and our side of the story briefly.

Our national officers opposed the evacuation at the conference called at Sacramento, California, by the then Governor Culbert Olson. We stood on our constitutional rights as citizens when we were asked to cooperate in a program to send all male persons of Japanese ancestry from the coastal region of California.

But when the army ordered evacuation, we decided to cooperate, although we were cognizant of the discriminatory policy being adopted. The prejudice of the military commander under whose orders we were asked to evacuate because of "military necessity" had not been disclosed as yet. We did not know of the economic interests, the race-baiters and other forces which had intentionally distorted stories to fan hatred and hysteria among the public and the Japanese.

We decided on a policy of working for the welfare of the majority. It is needless to tell you the situation which faced us. Everyone knew of the 48 hours' order which evacuated Terminal Island, resulting in the people, including women, children and babies, sleeping out in the open in Los Angeles. We decided that as an organization we could not place the entire Japanese populace in such a predicament.

Colonel Karl Bendetsen who was in charge of the execution of the evacuation orders, stated before the Commonwealth Club in San Francisco, California, in May, 1942, that the army had two alternative plans ready. One was to place all persons of Japanese ancestry into army

cantonments within 24 hours in case of emergency, and the other was the gradual process which was eventually carried out.

As an organization pledged to support national defense, we saw no other alternative when military necessity was given as the reason for evacuation. And our decision has been supported by our numerous friends in the Middle West and the East. Had we opposed the Army, we would have been branded as saboteurs in time of emergency. Our loyalty would have been the target of attack.

If we had not cooperated at great sacrifice to show the depth of our loyalty, our friends could not have come to our aid and defense, and we doubt if resettlement could have come this early.

We believe that the JACL chapters rendered splendid service to a demoralized Japanese society which had many of its Issei leaders taken away to internment camps. We believe the chapters helped to save the evacuees unnecessary grief, worry and loss. The Japanese people were indeed fortunate that the JACL was in a position to function in their behalf.

The charge that we sent the Issei to the concentration camps is ridiculous. It arose partly because some of those who were sent to the internment camps believed this was the case. Many of our chapters could not agree with the Issei leaders when times were normal, and therefore, the suspicion arose that the names were turned in for spite. When we met in Salt Lake City with the Issei, they told us the blame was placed on the JACL leaders. This was the same type of story we heard in the relocation centers.

We believe this matter has been clarified to a great degree. The FBI did not consult us as to whom they were going to arrest. This explanation should answer the charge that \$25 a name was paid to the JACL leaders.

We took the position that the large majority of the Issei were loyal to the United States. And it is our belief that the majority are still loyal.

The JACL cooperated with the army and other governmental agencies. Without the aid of the league, we doubt if the evacuation could have been carried out as smoothly as it was. The former director of the War Relocation Authority, Milton S. Eisenhower, commended the JACL before a congressional hearing in the following words:

"Remarkably cooperative. For example, the Japanese American citizens have an organization called the Japanese American Citizens League, and it has carried on a most vigorous education program among the total population, urging 100 percent cooperation. In fact, I just cannot say anything too favorable about the way they have cooperated under the most adverse circumstances."

Secretary of War, Stimson also recognized our effort to help at all times. He said in a letter addressed to the National President, Saburo Kido:

". . . express my appreciation for the fine work you and your

organization are doing in helping our Japanese population to carry on in the face of many difficulties."

We cannot deny the fact that we have made mistakes. The mass evacuation was new to all of us. National headquarters was preparing for the eventuality of war early in 1941. We anticipated personal persecution and discrimination but not the suspension of our civil rights. Whatever we did was for the general welfare of the Japanese people in this country. Any charge of bad faith is through lack of understanding. We shall continue to adhere to the same policy. We believe the record of what has been done since evacuation will verify this fact.

As we face the year 1944, we have greater confidence in the future. Plans are being laid for a busier and more fruitful year. Reports show that even those from the centers are beginning to realize the work that the JACL is doing and can do if given the proper support.

Today there is no doubt that the JACL has won the confidence of many governmental agencies. It has made many friends throughout the country. But we no longer represent the Nisei because our paid membership has not come up to expectations. It is hoped that with resettlement and improved conditions, the JACL will be in a position once again to have a larger membership and carry on its work.

The year 1944 will be a critical year for the future existence of the JACL. It will also have an important bearing on the future welfare of the Nisei and all those of Japanese ancestry in the United States. But before we dwell on this part, we shall review some of the activities and developments during the year 1943.

YEAR OF CHANGING PERSONNEL

The year 1943 has been one of constant shift in the staff of national headquarters. National Secretary Mike Masaoka, George Inagaki and Tooru Kanazawa volunteered for the army. Mike and Tooru are at Camp Shelby and George is at Camp Savage. Thus the three who had been carrying on our work in the East and on the government and public relations front left all at once. Furthermore, our secretarial help has undergone a constant change, making it difficult to produce the volume of work desired. Our pay scale heretofore has been too low to keep competent help. We are expecting to make revisions in 1944.

NEW OFFICES ESTABLISHED

Upon the departure of Tooru Kanazawa for the army, the Washington office was suspended. Scotty Miyakawa, now a faculty member of the University of Missouri, helped to keep up our contacts in New York City until Teiko Ishida arrived to open the office for the eastern area. The office address is Room 1109, 299 Madison Avenue, New York City, New York.

The St. Paul office which was opened in December of last year was closed in October of this year since it was believed that it had served its

purpose. Through the good services of Earl Tanbara, many were helped to resettle in this region, and valuable assistance was given to the WRA office at Minneapolis.

The Denver, Colorado, office was opened by Joe Masaoka in June 1943. Day by day, the membership is increasing in this area. Much credit belongs to Joe and his assistant, Sue Noma. In the beginning, it was difficult to make headway because of the prejudice which had been created by many voluntary evacuees and others who did not know the work accomplished or being undertaken by the JACL.

Since our leaders began to resettle in Colorado and the Denver office began to function, there has been a steady rise in enthusiasm for the JACL. Today the Colorado area is expected to increase its membership to 1,000 in 1944. The JACL office address is 618 Empire Building, Denver, Colorado.

The Chicago office was opened in April, 1943 with Dr. T. T. Yatabe, past national president as the director, and Mrs. Yatabe and Mrs. Fumi Yagi Hoshiyama as assistants. Trips to surrounding states have been made by Dr. Yatabe to explain the problem of the evacuees and of the Nisei in particular. With the arrival of more and more JACL leaders into the Chicago area, the office is expected to render valuable service. The office address is Room 1008, 189 West Madison Street, Chicago, Illinois.

The Salt Lake office is managed by National President Saburo Kido and Treasurer Hito Okada.

Requests to open offices elsewhere have come in. But we have felt that such expansion is not justified at this time in view of our limited funds and staff.

RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM MAKING STEADY PROGRESS

At the conference held in Salt Lake City in November, 1942, it was thought that the JACL would have to carry the brunt of the relocation program, which we believed to be the only salvation from the demoralization created by the evacuation of all persons of Japanese parentage from the Pacific Coast.

Fortunately, the WRA announced its resettlement policy and has pushed it vigorously. Numerous offices have been established throughout the country by the WRA. Resettlement is in full swing. We believe that the results have exceeded expectations. People in the centers are coming to realize that the center is no place for anyone who can make a living through his own efforts and at the same time contribute to the war effort. To sulk in the relocation center and expect someone to restore us to pre-evacuation days is not going to do anyone any good; instead it is merely retarding the return to normal life.

The various JACL offices will continue to offer aid to the resettlement program whenever and wherever possible.

FIGHT FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

A most important step was taken when we retained the services of

A. L. Wirin, noted attorney on civil rights, to serve as special counsel for the JACL at an annual retainer fee plus honorarium for extra services. The volume of work done makes us feel he is contributing his time and effort without compensation.

An extensive brief was submitted to the Supreme Court in the Yasui and Hirabayashi test cases. Close to a thousand dollars was spent in printing costs alone to prepare this brief. Today the JACL document is serving as valuable source material for all our friends who desire to ascertain the facts and present them to the public to combat the race-baiters of the Pacific Coast. The request for the brief has been great but we have not been able to print extra copies because of the cost involved. In all, close to \$4,500 was expended by the JACL for legal matters.

XX The Regan vs. King case, which concerned the franchise rights of all Nisei, was successfully defeated. JACL presented its brief before the Federal Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco, which affirmed our citizenship rights without going off the bench to discuss the matter. The petition for review filed in the United States Supreme Court by the persistent Native Sons of the Golden West was denied. Thus the attempt to challenge the citizenship rights of the Nisei went down to an ignominious defeat. At the same time, the utterances of U. S. Webb, the attorney for the Native Sons, clearly revealed the venomous hatred that was being engendered against all non-Caucasian groups.

The Oshiro case, which involves the right of an evacuee to have his lease rights cancelled since he is no longer able to use the premises, interested the JACL. The decision of the Superior Court was appealed and the JACL joined the defendant Oshiro. A new trial was granted and the case was retried in Los Angeles recently. The decision will have an important bearing on the lease and contractual rights of all Japanese evacuees. The JACL is expecting to follow through with this matter.

The absurd Arizona law, which required anyone doing business with a person of Japanese ancestry, to publish ten days' prior notice, was declared unconstitutional in the lower court. The test case was initiated by our Arizona chapter. Upon appeal to the State Supreme Court, it was declared unanimously by the justices as unconstitutional.

The Korematsu evacuation case has been decided by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. The judges followed the line of reasoning set forth by the United States Supreme Court in the Yasui-Hirabayashi curfew cases. But Judge Denman gave a splendid discussion of the background.

The American Civil Liberties Union has decided to appeal the case. JACL most likely will file a brief as amicus curiae.

We were evacuated from the Pacific Coast because of military necessity. And President Roosevelt has announced that we will be returned just as soon as the necessity ceases. Many problems pertaining to our civil rights may have to be tested. The American Civil Liberties Union is studying the various phases. JACL may join some of the test cases in order that the viewpoints and rights of the Nisei may be fully represented and protected.

Because of the large amount of money required for test cases, only those matters which affect our fundamental rights as citizens will be considered.

JAPANESE AMERICAN COMBAT TEAM

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The Japanese American Combat Team was the "brain child" of Assistant Secretary of War John McCloy. He and Colonel William Scobey were the champions of this unit. They believed that this would be a most effective way to impress the American public's mind with the Nisei's loyalty. The combat team was to symbolize our loyalty to the United States.

When the news about the formation of the Japanese American combat team was announced, it came as a surprise to all. In fact, at the Salt Lake conference held in November, 1942, many of the delegates had expressed disapproval of volunteering as the only means whereby Nisei might join the armed forces. No one knew that the combat team was under consideration.

Once the program was announced and the reasons studied, we felt that every support must be given. Our staff members therefore were among the first to volunteer.

The favorable publicity that the 100th Infantry Battalion received upon its baptism of fire from the Germans on the Salerno front vindicates our stand. When the combat team training at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, goes into action, we believe it will add further glory to the name of the Nisei. The record that our soldier boys will establish on the battlefield will refute the race-baiters' argument, "A Jap's a Jap."

THE DRAFT STATUS

JACL policy has been to advocate equal privileges for all Nisei. We believe that our after-the-war status and welfare will be greatly affected, depending on whether or not the Nisei are accorded the confidence of the army to the fullest extent. The WRA, the Fair Play Committee, church groups and liberal leaders have all urged the War Department to change the present order which permits Nisei to join the armed forces only through volunteering.

Many rumors have been floating around about the imminent drafting of Nisei. But such stories have been prevalent since last summer. We believe the draft will be reinstated in due course.

When and if the draft boards begin calling Nisei once again, we hope segregation will not be the rule. We believe the 100th Infantry Battalion and the Japanese American combat team are serving the role to symbolize Nisei loyalty. We believe it will be of immense value to have our boys serve alongside those of Caucasian descent. It will demonstrate the value of cooperation and bring about greater racial understanding. The result undoubtedly will be to make a greater circle of friends who will be willing to speak for the Nisei when they return to civilian life. Those

soldiers who have had actual contact with Nisei soldiers in the South Pacific, Alaska, and elsewhere attest to this fact.

Latest reports coming to our attention are that the Nisei are being reclassified. Many are being changed from Class 4-C to 1-A and so forth. This may mean the eventual re-institution of draft for the Nisei.

CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK

A special conference was held in May with leaders of all the groups interested in the evacuation problem and the relocation of those who have been uprooted from their homes on the Pacific Coast. The problems were presented to the group by JACL leaders. Those representing our organization were National President Saburo Kido, National Secretary Mike Masaoka, Past National President Dr. T. T. Yatabe, and Pacific Citizen editor, Larry Tajiri.

There were four objectives for this conference: (1) to explore the field for procuring financial support for the work of the JACL; (2) to obtain a list of prospective sponsors for national headquarters; (3) to enable those of us who will have to carry on the work of JACL to meet the leaders of the national organizations; and (4) to urge the leaders of national organizations to activate their local units and individual members.

We believe the meeting was highly successful. It enabled national leaders who were interested in the evacuation problem and civil rights of the persons of Japanese ancestry to come together and have the problems presented by Nisei speakers. We believe the results of this conference will become even more apparent, as time goes by.

NATIONAL SPONSORS FOR HEADQUARTERS

Upon the advice of numerous friends, national headquarters is soliciting sponsors. Already about 25 nationally prominent leaders have agreed to give us their support and cooperation. The Right Reverend Bishop Henry St. G. Tucker, the President of the Federal Council of Churches; Most Reverend Bishop James Walsh of the Maryknoll Missions and Mrs. Pearl Buck were the first to accept our invitation. The solicitation committee aiding the JACL consists of the following: Roger Baldwin, American Civil Liberties Union; Read Lewis, Common Council for American Unity; Clarence Pickett, American Friends Service Committee; Dr. John Thomas, Baptist Home Missions; and Miss Annie Clo Watson, until recently with the national YWCA.

Inasmuch as the roster of sponsors will cover the entire United States, we are hoping to give them a comprehensive picture of the problems confronting the persons of Japanese parentage in this country, and thereby increase our friends everywhere.

DIES COMMITTEE HEARING IN WASHINGTON

The Dies Committee was used by the anti-Japanese race-baiters to discredit the War Relocation Authority and raise doubts as to the loyalty

of the Nisei. JACL files left in Washington, D. C. were seized. There was some question as to the legality of the seizure, but time was too short to institute any legal proceedings to test the committee's actions.

When the hearing was opened in Washington, it was publicly announced that its purpose was to show that the WRA was dominated by a "Japanese" organization, the Japanese American Citizens League. It was a compliment to the JACL, although not the truth. We have always given all possible support and help to the WRA, since we were convinced of its sincerity and worth.

Privates Mike Masaoka and Tooru Kanazawa appeared as witnesses. Larry Tajiri was sent from Salt Lake City as observer.

When Mr. Dillon Myer appeared on the witness stand, he blasted all the untruths given wide publicity by the Dies Committee in Los Angeles.

Nothing was proved against the loyalty of the members of the JACL or of the league itself. There was no question that there had been numerous meetings between the WRA and the JACL. Our interest in the work of the WRA made this inevitable. But to claim that the JACL dominated the policy of the federal agency was giving us too much credit.

This was the first time that the JACL was under a Congressional investigation. All our friends in the East told us not to worry since those who have been helping us or are willing to help us will not pay any attention to the Dies Committee. But we were concerned about the distorted stories which would be publicized by the Hearst organs to poison the public mind.

Our friends assured us that the JACL had increased in stature after the hearings, since we had been investigated by the Dies Committee and had come out unscathed.

Not all the committee members were biased. Congressman Eberharter wrote a minority report protesting the majority's views. Furthermore, he has become one of the champions of the Nisei in Congress. The investigation has convinced him that the large majority of the Nisei are loyal and are trying to do everything possible to prove this fact.

FORMATION OF CREDIT UNION

The pet project of our national treasurer, Hito Okada, was the National JACL Credit Union. His dream has finally materialized. Today there are close to 70 members who have saved over \$1,600. Once the members realize what a wonderful thing has been created for them, more will be joining in order to prepare for a rainy day when they may need credit to finance household necessities, doctor's bills or many other numerous items. The insurance feature alone makes it a worth-while investment.

Now is the time for everyone to put aside a certain percentage of his income. For the time being, your money may be helping others. The day, however, may come when you want extra dollars for yourself.

The Credit Union is one of the mediums through which the JACL will be achieving one of its purposes, that of a fraternal organization of

Nisei who are interested in a common cause, the betterment of their status for the sake of their own posterity.

THE PACIFIC CITIZEN

During the fiscal year 1942-43, the Pacific Citizen had a circulation of 6,000.

Gift subscriptions made by various chapters in 1942 were not renewed in 1943. Circulation dropped to the 4,000 level. This created great concern among us. Things have been straightening out, however, in that we are getting more and more evacuee readers who are resettling. We are also receiving subscriptions from Hawaii and from men in the armed forces.

This publication is the only paper which gives a comprehensive picture of the problems facing those of Japanese ancestry in this country. Those in the armed forces are anxious to learn what future is in store for them after the war and consequently follow the news through the Pacific Citizen.

We believe that with a more aggressive sponsorship on the part of the members we will not have to go through another crisis as far as Pacific Citizen finances are concerned. Our goal is to have every family of our members receive a copy of the Pacific Citizen.

INFORMATION BUREAU SERVICE

Being shorthanded has been a handicap in many respects. This has been particularly true in the matter of answering letters for information. We have received many inquiries from college students and evacuees, both Japanese and Caucasian. We have been helpful in locating people in the centers and elsewhere, for the Red Cross, individuals and so forth.

We are hoping to strengthen this department by having a research bureau in order that more information can be given to our friends throughout the country.

EMPLOYMENT OFFICE

The Denver office has been most helpful in finding employment. In Salt Lake City, the local chapter carried on this work until the secretary went into the Army. Now the burden has shifted to national headquarters. Interpreting, filling out forms, employment contacts and numerous other matters are handled.

PUBLIC RELATIONS WILL BE MOST IMPORTANT

The California race-baiters are not satisfied with agitation in their own bailiwick. They are trying to stretch their tentacles to the intermountain states and eastward. The recent trip of Dr. John L. Lechner to Washington, D. C. to stir up trouble amongst the Congressmen is one indication.

The situation in the intermountain area cannot be met with complacency. The Ogden city council has refused to issue business licenses to

evacuees, that is, to those who came after Pearl Harbor. The Idaho schools are charging non-resident fees. The real estate board of Salt Lake City has taken steps to segregate the Japanese by refusing to sell in districts not already settled by the Japanese. The Veterans of Foreign Wars in Utah and Idaho are following the footsteps of the American Legion in California. Some of the newspapers are displaying unfavorable and misleading headlines in selling their street editions.

The biggest battle will be to offset the Pacific Coast propaganda. If all our members and their friends in the Middlewest and the East will join hands with us, we are confident that we can win. The churches and liberal groups throughout the country are coming to our defense. There are many other influential and fair-minded persons who will be willing to fight for us if they are informed about the true facts. It is up to us to let them know that California race-baiters and pseudo patriots are acting purely on race prejudice or selfish motives.

1944 BUDGET

Our 1943 expenditures were met chiefly because the Intermountain District Council generously raised \$10,000 and the chapters with funds donated several thousand dollars. The balance of the needed money came from unexpected 1942 funds. Our program for associated and active members was not fully realized because of the induction of our key workers at national headquarters as well as in the centers.

We are hoping to operate on a budget of \$35,000 to \$50,000 for 1944. If funds are not available, we will have to curtail our activities. But we are optimistic enough to believe that there will be greater support in 1944 than we had in 1943. The Intermountain District Council is again being asked to raise \$10,000. The balance will have to be raised through associated membership dues and donations.

In this connection, when you are remitting your 1944 membership dues, please remember to include a gift to the JACL to help finance its 1944 program. This forthcoming year will be a crucial one. We shall need all the support that the members and friends can give us. The more money we have, the greater will be the sphere of our activities.

OBJECTIVES FOR 1943

The major objectives of the JACL for the year 1943 were the following:

FOR LOYAL AMERICANS OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY

I. Restoration of every citizenship right and privilege.

- A. Re-institution of the Selective Service on the same basis as for other Americans; equal treatment and opportunities for advancement within the army; equal opportunities for commissions for qualified doctors, dentists, etc.; and the opening up of the WAC and other established women's services to eligible young women of Japanese ancestry.

- B. Freedom of movement anywhere in this country, on the same basis as other Americans, including the right to return to the Pacific Coast.
 - C. Revocation of the "contraband articles" regulations of the Western Defense Command.
 - D. Equal opportunities for employment in defense industries and the government services; and membership, on an equal basis, in labor and trade unions.
 - E. Elimination of unwarranted supervision and "snoopervision" of Americans of Japanese ancestry as a class.
2. Defense of attitudes, loyalty, citizenship and property rights.
- A. Legal vindication, by court action, as in the Regan, "evacuation" and Arizona cases.
 - B. Defeat of anti-American discriminatory bills and ordinances.
 - C. Retraction of, and if possible the elimination of lies, rumors, and vicious un-American proposals suggested by, and in, motion pictures, the press, and radio.
 - D. Public acknowledgment and recognition of the loyalty and "unprecedented sacrifices" made by Americans of Japanese ancestry.
 - E. Acceptance by the government of its complete responsibility for this unfortunate situation.
 - F. Greater cooperation with interested persons and individuals.
3. Re-assimilation into normal community life, to aid the war effort and to restore self-respect.
- A. Speeding up of the WRA Resettlement Program.
 - 1. "Decent jobs at decent wages, with decent working and living conditions."
 - 2. Government transportation subsidies for persons seeking resettlement and for their storaged goods.
 - B. Post-war planning for rehabilitation and adjustment in order to avoid unnecessary movement and hardship.

FOR LOYAL RESIDENTS OF JAPANESE NATIONALITY

- 1. Passage of the "Marcantonio Bill" or any bill with similar objectives, permitting Orientals to gain citizenship by naturalization proceedings.
 - A. "One cannot demand loyalty to country without granting the privilege of citizenship."
- 2. Status of "friendly alien," with all rights and privileges thereto appertaining.
 - A. Freedom of movement; freedom of employment; and freedom from "special regulations" regarding "enemy aliens."
- 3. Privilege of enlisting in the armed forces of the United States.
- 4. Protection of property rights jeopardized by the evacuation.
- 5. Defeat of laws and bills discriminating against persons of Japanese origin.

During 1944 we will continue to work on the objectives which still re-

main as unfinished business. There is no doubt, however, that the public relations front will become the most important. As soon as emphasis shifts to the Pacific welfare, there is likelihood of greater hatred against all persons of Japanese ancestry. Unless a firm foundation is laid to offset any hate campaign, the tide will turn against us once again.

To summarize some of the things we hope to undertake for 1944:

1. Public Relations

- a. Research work to compile data on Japanese problem in this country; information bureau to attend to inquiries; educational campaign to disseminate accurate information; campaign to combat falsehoods being spread; contacting of all friendly groups.

2. Restoration of citizenship rights and privileges.

- a. Freedom of movement; opening of all military services to Nisei; military service and naturalization for aliens; equal treatment and opportunities for advancement in the armed forces; opening up of special army training program in colleges for Nisei; "Friendly alien" status for parents of sons and daughters in the armed forces; revocation of "contraband articles" edict of the Western Defense Command in the unrestricted area; change of Nisei draft classification from 4-C.

3. Equal Employment Opportunities

- a. Elimination of discrimination in hiring, training, and up-grading; acceptance into labor unions; defeat of proposals discouraging rent, lease, sale of homes and business establishments and farms, elimination of restrictions against issuance of business and professional licenses.

4. Un-American Discrimination

- a. Defeat of anti-American discriminatory laws, bills, ordinances and proposals; test cases to have our rights as citizens clarified.

5. Post-War Planning

- a. Encouragement for family and individual resettlement from the centers; post-war measures for rehabilitation, adjustment and occupational re-training; regional surveys for opportunities for permanent resettlement; encouragement of systematic savings for post-war needs.

The important factor which will govern the extent of our activities is the amount of money national headquarters can have at its disposal. If we can raise \$35,000, all the offices in New York City, Chicago, Denver, and Salt Lake City can be maintained. Also we may be able to expand into Idaho, Oregon and Washington where a large number have resettled.

CHAPTERS NOT OUR OBJECTIVE

Membership is our aim. Unless there arises a special need for chapter operation, it is not our intention to form new chapters. We would like to see the day come when our chapters will consist of persons of Japanese ancestry and their friends. We have no intention of obstructing the process of acceptance into community life by forming an organization of only persons of Japanese ancestry.

POST WAR PLANNING

Everyone of us has an idea as to what conditions will be after the war. The JAACL expects to form a Post War Planning Committee to study this question. The return to the Pacific Coast, the place that returning Nisei soldiers will occupy, the types of occupation that will be available, the acceptance in the Middle West, the East and the Pacific Coast as well as many related problems concern us. The matter of the residents in the relocation centers is a vital problem, too.

It will be of value to marshal the thought of ourselves and our friends on this question.

WHAT MEMBERS CAN DO

The great lesson of the evacuation which should not be forgotten is that no one of Japanese ancestry will escape the consequences of hysteria. Such being the case, simply because others go along nonchalantly is no reason for our not continuing to fight against the tide of racism being engendered from the Pacific Coast.

There are several things which members can do individually. The league will need your cooperation.

a. Become Letter Writers. Whenever you hear or see comment on the Nisei problem by any Congressman, newspaper columnist, radio commentator, clubs and so forth, write in your reaction. If the comment is unfavorable, present your side of the picture. If favorable, express appreciation or furnish additional information. Not only should you write, but have your friends do the same thing. And if you can meet these persons, it would be far more effective.

b. Send National Headquarters Clippings and Reports. If you run across a newspaper or magazine article, send it to us or give us the name of the magazine if it is a national publication. If you hear a radio commentator, let us know his name, the station and the time of the broadcast.

c. Pass the Pamphlets Along. Many worthwhile pamphlets have been published. Galen Fisher's "Balance Sheet on Evacuation" and Caleb Foote's "Outcasts" are the best to date. Purchase them and have your friends and employers read them. This is a task each one of you should and must do in the campaign to disseminate correct information.

d. Try to Get Pacific Citizen Subscriptions. Our official publication collects news from all parts of the country. Your friends should be persuad-

ed to read it weekly. It is the best source for studying the trend of developments.

e. Get One New Member for 1944. After paying your 1944 dues, you can be of service to the JAACL by getting at least one new member. If every member did this, our membership would double.

f. Become a Member of the Credit Union.

g. Let Us Know about Employment Opportunities. When you know of job openings, let national headquarters know about them. There are many members still in the relocation centers who are planning to come out next spring. We are hoping to knit our membership into a closer unit this coming year through more frequent correspondence.

h. Get Ads for Pacific Citizen. If the members will obtain advertisements for the Pacific Citizen, it will help us considerably. Be on the alert to help out in this manner.

JOIN THE "BUCK A MONTH CLUB"

When Japan attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, national headquarters had only a few thousand dollars and one full-time staff member. It was in August of that same year that a budget of \$5,000 for a full time national secretary was proposed at the emergency national board meeting held in San Francisco, California. Mike Masaoka started his duties in September. Many of the chapters had not paid their assessments when war broke out.

Most of the members still recall the arguments we used to have at district and national council meetings about \$500 appropriations or 25c assessments and so forth. If we had been able to work on a \$5,000 budget or had the \$26,000 appropriated at the national council meeting in March, 1942, one or two years earlier, things might have been different.

Lack of funds and a paid staff was our handicap. Even today, national headquarters is not certain of the following year's budget. Apparently, everyone expected us to perform a miracle with a one-man staff and a small sum at our disposal. And the severest critics of the JAACL have been those who have not supported the JAACL prior to the critical days after the outbreak of war.

Shall it be a repetition of the same story — too little and too late? In order to place national headquarters on a sounder basis, we have contemplated the formation of a "buck a month club." Those who subscribe to this club will receive all the latest pamphlets which we purchase, and other information made available to us. We hope to have a large membership and thereby raise a substantial portion of the necessary funds in the years to come.

In combating any organized effort to destroy us, we must unite. There is no substitute for directed, concerted movement. We thought, "it can't happen here." But it did. Therefore, we should not be indifferent when the venomous snipers are working

day and night with powerful press support to undermine public confidence in us. We must carry on our share of the burden instead of relying entirely upon our friends.

Your strengthening the JACL through your membership and financial support is your best investment to insure a better future for all of us. Through our united effort we can stage a comeback and prove to the race-baiters that we have the recuperative power and the will to rebuild our future.

Whenever you hear or read about the attacks against the JACL by the anti-Japanese groups, you must not forget that all persons of Japanese ancestry in this country are under fire. We are the only Nisei organization now functioning to defend as well as advance the welfare of the group as a whole. If we are destroyed or forced to cease our activities, it will mean that the Nisei will have to depend entirely upon their Caucasian friends.

Our work has been chiefly to present the problems, the Nisei viewpoints, and suggest programs. This is what happened when the Stewart Bill, which would have given the military commander the discretionary power to place all Japanese in concentration camps, was on the Senate floor. Our friends took steps to protest such an un-American measure, but we were the ones who called their attention to such a dangerous bill.

Our representatives pleaded with the church groups to launch the Christmas gift program for the children of the relocation centers. This year there was even a bigger party than last year for children and elderly Issei in the centers.

The JACL also helped in the formation of the Japanese-American Resettlement Committee by appealing to the various church boards and keeping up interest until such time as the WRA program for resettlement became a reality.

Let us all join hands and make 1944 a bigger and better year for all.

Fraternally yours,

SABURO KIDO

National President
Japanese American Citizens League

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