



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

HR:LP

July 3, 1943

- Mr. Tolson _____
- Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
- Mr. Clegg _____
- Mr. Glavin _____
- Mr. Ladd _____
- Mr. Nichols _____
- Mr. Rosen _____
- Mr. Tracy _____
- Mr. Carson _____
- Mr. Coffey _____
- Mr. Hendon _____
- Mr. Kramer _____
- Mr. McGuire _____
- Mr. Harbo _____
- Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Mr. Nease _____
- Miss Beahm _____
- Miss Gandy _____

MEMORANDUM FOR

Re: DIES SUB-COMMITTEE
JAPANESE HEARINGS

E. A. Tamm

mem
New Relocation Authority
(b)(7)(c)

Special Agent was instructed to attend the hearing of the Dies Sub-Committee, which is examining the operation of War Relocation Centers, on the afternoon of the second instant, as we had been advised that Tokie Slocum would testify about 2:30 p.m., at which time, he would correct previous testimony in which he had stated that he had furnished certain information to the FBI and that the FBI had merely laughed at him. It is understood that Slocum would testify that he furnished this information to the Office of Naval Intelligence rather than the FBI.

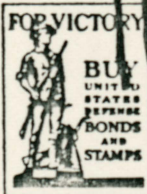
Special Agent attended the hearing of the Sub-Committee at Room 1301, New House Office Building, from approximately 2:55 p.m., until 4:10 p.m., when the Sub-Committee adjourned. During all of this time, the Sub-Committee was questioning Mike Masaoka.

From the testimony of Masaoka, Special Agent inferred that he, Masaoka, had previously held a high position in the Japanese-American Citizens League and is presently a member of the special combat unit of the Army made up of Americans of Japanese descent.

The questioning of Masaoka revolved almost exclusively about certain reports which he had made from time to time in the past, evidently to the Japanese-American Citizens League, although this point was not specifically brought out in Agent presence. From the questioning, it appeared that Masaoka had made numerous statements in his reports indicating that he had had access to numerous confidential letters and records of various Government agencies, and that he also had access to other confidential information. On a number of occasions, Masaoka was compelled to admit that he had made these statements for the purpose of impressing the Japanese-American Citizens League with his own importance and the excellence of his contacts.

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Among other things, Mr. Masaoka stated in one of his reports that he had just made the best of all his contacts in that he had just



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succeeded in making a contact with Mr. Ennis, Director, Alien Enemy Control Unit of the Department of Justice. He further stated in the report that Mr. Ennis had permitted him to attend a conference at which various officials of the Government discussed the Government's brief in a certain law suit. Agent [redacted] was unable to determine from the testimony the exact law suit which was referred to, but believes it may have been one of those ^{decisions} decided by the Supreme Court. In the report, Mazaoka also stated that he had been told that the Japanese-Americans had a good chance of winning a certain law suit in the event of certain contingencies. On being questioned, Mazaoka was compelled to admit that he did not in fact attend the conference of Government officials which he had claimed to have attended. He stated on questioning that Mr. Ennis had told him about this conference and that he had not actually attended it. He also testified that the source from which he received ^{the information} about the Japanese-Americans having a good chance in a certain case was Mr. Ennis.

(b)(7)(C) Incidentally, Mr. John Burling of the Alien Enemy Control Unit of the Department of Justice was observed by Agent [redacted] as being in attendance at the hearings of the Sub-Committee. He was accompanied by another individual, who was unknown to Agent [redacted] but was apparently another employee of the Alien Enemy Control Unit.

Another interesting point in the testimony of Mazaoka revolved about the question as to whether gasoline rations should be increased for Japanese-Americans, apparently those who were to work in the sugar beet fields. In a report to the Japanese-American Citizens League, Mazaoka stated that he did not feel that much could be done about this and that probably it would be a bad thing, in a way, to increase the rations for Japanese-Americans, as this would make it appear that they were being favored and might result in the War Relocation Authority being subjected to an investigation to determine the identity of the Jap pressure group that was dictating the policy of the War Relocation Authority. Mr. Mazaoka was questioned quite vigorously concerning this phraseology, and the Chairman made it clear that only one construction could be placed upon it and that it could not be construed as merely meaning that Japanese-American group were asserting their influence on the War Relocation Authority.

Mazaoka, in one of his reports to the Japanese-American Citizens League, also told of a conference he had attended at which there were present Roger Nash Baldwin of the American Civil Liberties Union, Mr. Dillon S. Myer, another person associated with Mr. Baldwin, and some person from the Department of Justice, whose identity Mazaoka either could not or would not disclose. Mazaoka's report to the Japanese-American Citizens League on this conference was very confusing as was his testimony concerning it, but it was noted that he stated in his report that ^{the} man from the Department of Justice apparently

Memorandum for the Director

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had a good time refereeing the ^{legal} ~~local~~ jousts between Myer and Roger Baldwin.

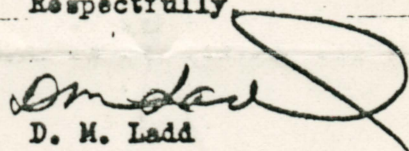
Agent [redacted] has advised me that the Sub-Committee meetings were open and it was not necessary for him to identify himself to gain admittance. Mr. Burling, although he looked directly at Agent [redacted] did not give any sign of having recognized him.

The Chairman indicated that Kasaoka's testimony will be resumed at 10:30, Tuesday morning, July 6. He indicated however that the Sub-Committee might hold a meeting at 10:30, Monday morning, but did not disclose the nature of the business at that time.

(b)(7)(c)

Incidentally, in one of his reports, Kasaoka stated that he had received highly confidential information concerning a rift between the military and the civil elements of the War Department. A Captain John H. Hall (Agent [redacted] believes this to be his name) was in attendance representing the War Department, and, in connection with this statement, he made a statement to the Sub-Committee advising them that he had been in a position to know the facts and that there was no such rift within the War Department. He also suggested that the Sub-Committee might desire to call competent witnesses on this point from the War Department.

Respectfully


D. M. Ladd

ADDENDUM It is not believed that Tokio Slocum testified on July 3. The hearings on July 5 and 6 will be covered to determine if he testifies then.

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Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

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HR:fp

July 7, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. E. A. TAMM

Re: Dies Subcommittee Hearings on
Japanese Activities;
Testimony of Mike Masaoka

Special Agent [redacted] attended the session of the

Dies Subcommittee on Japanese Activities held on the morning of July 6, 1943, at which time Mike Masaoka continued his testimony. Agent [redacted] was not required to identify himself in gaining admittance to the hearing which was open to the public. In order to appear as an ordinary spectator, he did not take any notes, and the following summary is from his recollection. *Tokie Slocum did not testify at any time on July 6, 1943.

In Masaoka's testimony, it was brought out that he was aware that one Uyemo (phonetic), while in a train with other evacuees being evacuated from the West Coast, had made the statement that "we ought to have enough guts to kill President Roosevelt. He is a damn fool." It was also brought out that later on this individual had made a very disloyal speech while an evacuee at the Manzanar Relocation Center. Masaoka was asked whether he had informed the FBI or anybody else about the statement which was made on the train. Masaoka replied that he had advised the FBI. Mr. Stripling, investigator for the Committee, then brought out that about five months elapsed between the time when the statement was made on the train and the time when this same individual made a disloyal speech at Manzanar, and intimated that somebody was lax in not taking care of this individual in the meantime.

The incident referred to in this testimony has previously been summarized for the Director in the Summary of Information Concerning the War Relocation Authority and Japanese Relocation Centers, prepared on July 1, 1943, beginning on page eighty-eight. It appears that the individual, who made the statement on the train and the speech at Manzanar, was [redacted]. The information regarding [redacted] was contained in the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated September 13, 1942, at Los Angeles. A copy of this report was furnished to Mr. Wendell Berge who on November 10, 1942, advised that the facts disclosed in the report did not warrant prosecution.

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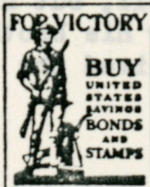
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It was brought out by questioning that, among the documents of the Japanese-American Citizens League obtained by subpoena, there was included what

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July 7, 1943

appears to be a complete file of copies of administrative material issued by the War Relocation Authority. Mr. Masaoka denied that he had received this material from the WRA and stated that it might have been received by Joseph Kanazawa, also a prior official of the Japanese-American Citizens League. The background of Joseph Tooru Kanazawa has previously been set out in the Summary of Information Concerning the War Relocation Authority and Japanese Relocation Centers, prepared on July 1, 1943, and transmitted to the Director by memorandum dated on that date. Kanazawa is mentioned on pages eighty-two and eighty-nine of the Summary.

Masaoka was next questioned about the lobbying activities of the JACL against the Stewart Bill. Information in the files of the JACL indicated that the head of the Civil Liberties Division of the Department of Justice intended to request Biddle to appeal to Stewart against the Stewart Bill. The nature or purpose of the Stewart Bill was not brought out by the testimony.

In one of his reports to the JACL, Masaoka stated that he had ascertained from sources in the Department of Justice that Mr. Ennis and Mr. Biddle had stated that it might be just as well if the Government lost the cases which were then pending in the Supreme Court. The cases referred to were the two cases recently decided by the Supreme Court concerning the curfew imposed on Japanese on the West Coast and the evacuation of Japanese from the West Coast. On being questioned, Masaoka stated that he could not recall which official or officials of the Department of Justice had furnished him this information.

Masaoka was asked whether he had ever tried to get the FBI check of applicants for release from war relocation centers eliminated. He testified that he may have done so in order to speed up the process of relocation because he felt that the check by the FBI was a bottleneck in that the FBI had so much other work to do that they did not make the check particularly quickly. The Committee investigator then brought out that Masaoka's reports to the JACL show that he made efforts to have the check of the FBI records eliminated.

The name of some individual, which Agent [redacted] was unable to hear, was mentioned in the testimony and Masaoka was questioned concerning his having stated that this individual was a good man and had bucked the FBI. Masaoka explained that on one occasion this individual had opposed some action which the FBI desired to take.

The Committee investigator produced a letter written by one Inagaki (phonetic) to Masaoka, in which Inagaki intimated that Mrs. Roosevelt, and not Mr. Myer, was formulating the policy of the WRA.

The testimony brought out that the files of the JACL contained about thirty reports of the history of relocation centers and the developments in such centers. Agent [redacted] was unable to hear the testimony in this regard very well, but he believes that Mr. Masaoka testified that these reports were prepared by his brother who was an employee in one of the relocation centers and that he received the copies

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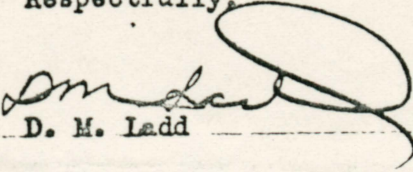
July 7, 1943

of the reports from his brother. The reports were, of course, Government property.

0 At the conclusion of his testimony, Mr. Masaoka was asked whether he had
1 anything additional to say. At that time, he made a statement defending the pol-
2 icies of the WRA as a whole. He stated that he felt that, on the whole, the WRA had
done a very good job, although he admitted that it had made some mistakes.

During the morning, Masaoka made a stirring and impassioned appeal for naturalization or, at least, the status of friendly alien for the Isseis in this country who could prove themselves loyal to the United States. He told about his own family, pointing out that he and four brothers are now in the armed forces of the United States. He stated that his father is dead, but that his mother had always insisted that the children be good Americans. He stated that he felt that she and thousands of others like her are entitled to citizenship through naturalization or, at the very least, the status of friendly aliens. Masaoka impressed Agent Ranstad as being exceptionally intelligent, shrewd, wily, quick-witted, persuasive, and not altogether scrupulous.

Respectfully,


D. M. Ladd

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July 9, 1943

THE DIRECTOR

Re: DIES COMMITTEE HEARINGS CONCERNING
THE WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

(b)(7)(C)

125-7588-1257

On July 7, 1943, Special Agent [redacted] acting upon my instructions, attended the hearings presently being held in Washington, D. C., by the Dies Committee concerning the War Relocation Authority. The only person testifying at the hearings on July 7 was Mr. Dillon E. Myer, Director of the WRA. It should be noted that the questions directed to Mr. Myer came almost entirely from members of the Dies Committee, whereas previous witnesses had been questioned to a great extent by the Dies Committee investigators.

The members of the Dies Committee who were present at the hearing displayed a markedly hostile attitude to Mr. Myer and also to the WRA. This attitude was shown particularly by Representative Thomas, who at one point in the session stated that he considered the WRA and its program a silly social experiment, and he further stated that he thought the entire program ought to be placed in the hands of the Army. In this connection, it was later brought out that the Army had previously indicated to the Senate Military Affairs Committee that it did not approve of any plan to place the Japanese relocation program under Army jurisdiction.

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Mr. Myer began his testimony by explaining that all of the WRA directives were available to the public and had never been considered confidential. He admitted that the Japanese-American Citizens League and the Pacific Citizen (Japanese newspaper) had secured copies of any of the directives which they desired, but he stated that anyone else who might have obtained these directives would likewise have received them. He pointed out, however, that these directives which had to do primarily with policy to be adopted and followed by the WRA were of more interest to the Japanese-American Citizens League than to perhaps any other organization in the country, since the Japanese themselves were to be directly affected by the policies set out in the directives.

Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen Myer was questioned with respect to certain statements made by one Mike Kasacka, the representative of the Japanese-American Citizens League in Washington, in his reports to his superiors. Some of these reports contained statements by Kasacka to the effect that he and the Japanese-American Citizens League were enjoying considerable authority and exerting considerable influence in the formulation of policy of the WRA. Mr. Myer said that these statements were overly expansive and were the results of wishful thinking on Kasacka's part. He did admit having conferred with Kasacka and other members of the Japanese-American Citizens League on numerous occasions.

- Mr. Piper
- Mr. Quinn Tamm
- Mr. Nease
- Miss Gandy

Memo to the Director
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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
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At this point, Mr. Myer introduced a treatise prepared by the War Relocation Authority's solicitor and dealing with the constitutionality of holding American citizens of Japanese ancestry in WRA camps indefinitely. He pointed out that in a recent decision (the Hirabayashi case), the Supreme Court had upheld the legality of applying curfew regulations to American citizens of Japanese ancestry within certain areas of the Western Defense Command but had not applied its decision in any way to the legality of evacuation or detention of such individuals. Myer stated that in his opinion the WRA was on very shaky ground in holding American citizens of Japanese ancestry, and he said that for this reason the WRA was trying to release the Japanese people as quickly as possible.

In defense of the relocation program in general, Myer claimed that this program had been approved by the War Department and by the Department of Justice. He introduced a letter written on September 18, 1943, by the Attorney General, which stated that if certain safeguards were taken, the relocation program would appear to be basically sound from an internal security standpoint. The safeguards of which the Attorney General spoke included a check of the FBI's files concerning each prospective individual to be released and also included additional investigation of each of these individuals by the WRA.

At this point, it was brought out that in May, 1943, the Attorney General had sent a request through the WRA for a Japanese houseboy for his cousin in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania. Representative Thomas wanted to know whether there was any connection between this request and the Attorney General's previous indorsement of the relocation program. He also wondered whether all of the Cabinet officers were going to secure Japanese servants and employees, and alluded to the Japanese who had previously been hired by Mr. Iskes. Mr. Myer said that he could see no connection between the Attorney General's request for a Japanese houseboy for his cousin and his previous indorsement of the relocation program. He also said that so far as he knew, the remaining Cabinet officers did not intend to secure Japanese servants.

Mr. Myer was asked whether any additional investigation was made of Japanese individuals who were to be released if no information concerning them appeared in the files of the FBI. He stated that he had originally requested the FBI to make active investigations of all Japanese to be released from the WRA camps but said that the FBI had asked to be relieved of this request because of the great amount of other war and internal security work and investigations which it already was charged with carrying out. Accordingly, said Myer, the only other investigations made of Japanese to be released consists of checks of existing records - police, employment, etc.

In this connection, Mr. Myer again alluded to the press release previously made by Robert Stripling, Dies Committee investigator, to the effect that numerous Japanese who were potential spies and saboteurs had been released by the WRA. Myer said that he had not been furnished with the names and pertinent information concerning these individuals. He was asked whether he had not been given a list at the close of the hearings on July 6, 1943, and he answered that he had received such a list but that it contained only names and addresses and was, therefore, insufficient basis for him to bring back the Japanese whose names appeared on it.

(b)(7)(c)
It is recalled by Special Agent [redacted] who attended the hearings on July 6, that Myer was furnished a list at the close of those hearings, but it is Special Agent [redacted] recollection that this list was never tied up with the potential spies and saboteurs spoken of by Stripling, and that it was only given to Myer with the request that the Dies Committee be advised of the present whereabouts and any information available relative to the individuals whose names appeared on it.

Myer repeated that he thought it the duty of the Dies Committee to give him all pertinent information concerning subversive Japanese who have been or are to be released by the WRA, and he again demanded a list of the Japanese referred to as potential spies and saboteurs by Stripling. The Committee members finally put him off in this demand by stating that the files of the Dies Committee were open to the FBI at all times and that since the names of all Japanese individuals released by the WRA had been searched through the FBI files, any information appearing in the Dies Committee's files had quite probably been furnished the WRA already. Myer expressed relief at this and stated that he would write the Director a letter and inquire whether or not the WRA had been furnished with the names and all pertinent information concerning those Japanese spies and saboteurs who were the subjects of Robert Stripling's previous press release.

A considerable amount of time during the hearings was taken up in the discussion of problems of the WRA such as the location of its camps, physical facilities, the adequacy of police forces, the necessity for firmer authority in the camps, and the necessity for some sound policy whereby the Japanese would be Americanized. In this connection, considerable interest was shown by members of the Committee in the fact that money was spent to teach the Japanese judo and Japanese checkers, while no money had been spent to teach them such things as baseball or penny ante poker. Myer admitted that many mistakes had been made and said that mistakes would probably continue to be made. He claimed, however, that the entire relocation program was now developing satisfactorily. He stated that the FBI had been of great help in aiding the WRA to determine the identity of certain trouble makers, and claimed that all riots (or "strikes", as he put it) had ceased.

Myer disclosed the fact that a policy had been established by the WRA in May, 1943, whereby certain Japanese were to be segregated from the other Japanese known to be loyal to this country. Those to be segregated, according to Myer, included Japanese who had expressed a desire to return to Japan; those who refused to acknowledge loyalty to the United States; those whose records with the FBI or other intelligence agencies showed disloyalty to this country or possible subversive tendencies; and, those who were known to be trouble makers in the various WRA camps. Myer said that this segregation would cost the Government approximately \$1,000,000 and stated that the WRA would need the help of the Army in putting the plan into effect. He said that it was only because of a lack of transportation and of adequate housing facilities that the segregation plan had not already been carried out. He said that this segregation should begin by September, 1943.

It should be noted that throughout his testimony, Mr. Myer was very careful not to say anything which would reflect criticism of the FBI. He mentioned on several

occasions that the FBI had received splendid cooperation from the Bureau. Furthermore, some of the members of the Dies Committee itself made any statements which would indicate that they felt that the FBI was in any way involved in the difficulties which had been experienced in carrying out the Japanese relocation program.

There are attached copies of newspaper articles concerning the testimony heard before the Dies Sub-Committee on July 7, 1943.

Respectfully,

D. H. Ladd

Attachment