

MASAOKA for Friday, June 28
years. He died Wednesday, in a Washington, D.C.

A controversial figure in Japanese American history passed away this week. Depending on where one stands, Mike Masaoka was either a statesman who saved his people from extermination in World War 2, or a Quisling who sold his people into American concentration camps.

1 CERTAINLY I FEEL VERY HEAVILY ABOUT IT AND THE ONLY WAY "lot of good" :13

I'm FA with OV.

Mike Masaoka was field secretary of a fledgling group called the Japanese American Citizens League, when the attack on Pearl Harbor roused racial suspicions and fears of all Japanese Americans on the West Coast, 7-thousand of them in the Puget Sound region.

In a 1988 interview in Seattle, Masaoka told KIRO NEWSRADIO he collaborated with the government in herding his people into camp, as a means of proving their loyalty to the U.S.

2 WHEN YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE Q"at war" :19

Civil libertarian and Seattle native Gordon Hirabayashi said he apparently valued his constitutional rights more than Masaoka.

3 THESE PEOPLE'S RESPONSE WAS TO Q"rationalize that"
:09

Hirabayashi said in 1988 he would have had more respect for Masaoka and the JACL had they instead urged a policy of compliance under protest.

4 I FELT THAT'S WHAT THEY Q"duress" :11

Masaoka never spent a night in camp, but he did persuade the government to reinstitute the draft for young men in camp, again, to quell doubts.

5 THE ONLY REAL TEST OF LOYALTY Q"any other group"
:14

But Masaoka also led the suppression of Japanese American resisters who refused induction until their constitutional rights were first restored and their parents released from camp.

Masaoka, playing the government's tune, called them troublemakers.

6 I'VE MELLOWED ENOUGH Q"the suckers" :17

President Truman pardoned the resisters after the war, saying they had a legitimate beef.

I MAY HAVE TRUSTED Q"said to us" :07

120-thousand people suffered as a result of that trust.

Mike Masaoka's health has been failing in recent years. He died Wednesday, in a Washington, D.C. hospital, at the age of 75.

OV, I'm FA, KN71