

# *Japanese American Citizens League*

## **ANTI-AXIS COMMITTEE**

*of the Southern District Council*

### **PURPOSE:**

We pledge the facilities of our entire organization and our individual services to our government in this great crisis.

We pledge our unequivocal repudiation of Japan and bend our energies to the common objective of an American victory and the defeat of the Axis powers.

### **OBJECTIVE:**

1. To cooperate with all national, state, and local government agencies in their program in this emergency.
2. To coordinate the activities of all citizens and alien residents in the successful prosecution of this war.
3. To secure National unity by fair treatment of loyal Americans.

### **PROGRAM:**

1. To take charge of all press releases.
2. To send mimeographed programs to all government agencies and nisei and alien residents organizations.
3. To inform and instruct nisei and resident aliens as to their course of conduct as groups and as individuals and how they may serve for the best interest of our government.

### **STATEMENT BY CHAIRMAN FRED TAYAMA**

The United States is at war with the Axis. We shall do all in our power to help wipe-out vicious totalitarian enemies. Every man is either friend or foe. We shall investigate and turn over to authorities all who by word or act consort with the enemies.

We must and will mobilize our maximum energies to facilitate America's War Program.

We must not play into enemy hands.

Every loyal American must be permitted to render his services. The enemy will try to sabotage our usefulness by inciting race hysteria. Let us be vigilant.

The Die is cast. We face the issue with grim determination.  
America we are ready!

A copy of this bulletin is being sent to the following: F.B.I., Naval Intelligence Bureau, Army Intelligence Bureau, Office of the Governor, Office of the Mayor, United States Attorney, District Attorney, Postmaster, Sheriff's Office, County Supervisors, Los Angeles City Council, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Sons and Daughters of the Golden West, Americanism Educational League, United States Special Agent.





## The Japanese American Creed

I AM proud that I am an American citizen of Japanese ancestry, for my very background makes me appreciate more fully the wonderful advantages of this nation. I believe in her institutions, ideals, and traditions; I glory in her heritage; I boast of her history; I trust in her future. She has granted me liberties and opportunities such as no individual enjoys in this world today. She has given me an education befitting kings. She has entrusted me with the responsibilities of the franchise. She has permitted me to build a home, to earn a livelihood, to worship, think, speak, and act as I please—as a free man equal to every other man.

Although some individuals may discriminate against me, I shall never become bitter or lose faith, for I know that such persons are not representative of the majority of the American people. True, I shall do all in my power to discourage such practices, but I shall do it in the American way: above-board, in the open, through courts of law, by education, by proving myself to be worthy of equal treatment and consideration. I am firm in my belief that American sportsmanship and attitude of fair play will judge citizenship and patriotism on the basis of action and achievement, and not on the basis of physical characteristics.

Because I believe in America, and I trust she believes in me, and because I have received innumerable benefits from her, I pledge myself to do honor to her at all times and in all places: to support her constitution; to obey her laws; to respect her flag; to defend her against all enemies, foreign or domestic; to actively assume my duties and obligations as a citizen, cheerfully and without any reservations whatsoever, in the hope that I may become a better American in a greater America.

—Mike Masaoka

*First read before the United States Senate and printed in the Congressional Record, May 9, 1941*

**JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE**  
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS  
1759 SUTTER STREET, SAN FRANCISCO 15, CALIFORNIA





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ANTI-AXIS COMMITTEE MEETING  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT COUNCIL  
JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE  
DECEMBER 8, 1941  
UNION CHURCH

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Fred Tayama at 8:15 p.m. The Assembly took part in saluting the Flag.

The Chapters present were: Bay District, Gardena, Orange County, Los Angeles, San Pedro, Long Beach, San Gabriel, Santa Maria, Ventura County, Venice, Pasadena, and San Diego.

As the primary purpose of the meeting was to present the newly-formed Anti-Axis Committee, the Chairman read the following:

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EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

The chairman announced that the following members are serving on the Executive Board: Kay Sugahara, Executive Secretary, John Ando, Dr. Ishimaru, Frank Ishii, George Inagaki, Ken Matsumoto, Masao Satow, Togo Tanaka, and Fred Tayama, Chairman.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Executive Secretary, Kay Sugahara, stated that no sacrifice is too great for this Committee. Since the formation of this Committee December 7, today several members visited Honorable Fletcher Bowron, Postmaster Mary D. Briggs, and United States Attorney William Fleet Palmer at which time they were treated with utmost courtesy.

The Committee will keep in touch with all the government authorities, notifying them of our progress. Members will visit the Board of Education and Police asking that the Nisei School Children be given fair treatment.

Notices will be sent to all Issei organizations notifying them of the newly-created Anti-Axis Committee. Its purpose, objective and program will also be broadcasted over the radio and also correctly informing and advising Issei and Nisei.

The Committee is asking that Nisei do their part in volunteering their services in whatever way possible.

(Reports were made by the following Committees):

LEGAL COMMITTEE

As many of the people are being picked up under cast of suspicion, Chairman Frank Kito, asked that if at any time Nisei are treated unjustly, to contact the League Office and the Committee will look into the matter.



PRESS COMMITTEE

Dr. Ishimaru, Chairman, reported that today the newspaper presses in Little Tokyo have been stopped due to the present crisis, and any treasonable act will be reported to the authorities.

Members of this Committee are: Dr. T. G. Ishimaru, Chairman, Eugene Gondo, Tekuo Kurosaka, and James Oda.

FINANCIAL COMMITTEE

Chairman, Seichi Nobe, chose the following to serve on his Committee: Harris Shioya, Robbin Kaneko, Dr. Ishimaru, and George Inagaki.

The following members were appointed to be responsible within their respective areas:

Flower Market, George Inagaki; City Market, Ted Igasaki and Seichi Nobe; 7th Mkt., Robbin Kaneko, and Frank Kito; Downtown, Dr. Ishimaru and Harris Shioya; Retail Produce, Bob Sato.

A drive will be made for funds to carry on this Committee through means of contributions. Lt. Commander Ringle, approved of Issei contributions, but he was very emphatic that all donations be made individually and not through any organization and the maximum amount be designated.

Comments made from the floor:

Bob Sato, executive secretary of the Retail Produce Workers Union, Local 1510 (AFL) reported that approximately 50% of its membership of 1200 are now unemployed.

Seichi Nobe, finance chairman reported that all Commission Merchant Produce houses have been closed by the Dept. of Treasury, and unless something is done to reopen these places a very serious food shortage will be felt throughout this area.

Dr. Mike Horii, recommended that the Committee go on record of buying Defense Bonds as our faith in America will depend upon our Defense Bonds.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The following were introduced and said a few words:

Dr. George Gleason made a few suggestions that we get statements in the papers that are being made tonight; help the FBI and other government authorities; go on record of joining in making a new Japan. Dr. Gleason is the Executive Secretary of Committee for Church and Community Cooperation.

Mr. Karl Holton, Head of County Probation Office and Chairman, Public Welfare Section of County Defense Council, stated that it was the unanimous vote of the Council to open a channel whereby the Nisei may go to confer with them and it is their wish to help in every way possible.

Mr. George Hjelte, Superintendent of Playground Recreation and Representative of Mayor Bowron said that one way to show your loyalty is to offer your service by volunteering at the State Guard, Auxiliary Police and Fire Departments.

Dr. Tillingham, Assistant County Superintendent of Schools, assured the members that the Nisei children in school will be taken care of and if any mistreatments are heard within the schools, the Board will see to it that it be remedied.

Mr. James McCandless, General Secretary of the Los Angeles Young Mens Christian Association, offered every cooperation within their power. He complimented the members on the most inspiring meeting and foresight in undertaking such a program.

Honorable Fletcher Bowron, Mayor, City of Los Angeles, made an appearance about 10 p.m. He expressed that he didn't doubt the Nisei's sincerity and patriotism and that Nisei's did stand for American ideals and assured us that local administration and local government will give us all the knowledge and protection accorded any other citizen.

Mr. Ken Matsumoto, National Vice-President, J.C.C.L., reported that many homes have been approached by members of the League informing both Issei and Nisei not to do anything that would create any suspicion.



AMERICAN LEGION

A statement submitted by Mr. John Hartsook, County Council Commander of the American Legion, and Mr. Louis Greenbaum, Chairman of the Public Relations Committee was read by Chairman Fred Tayama.

"The County Council of the American Legion, Dep't of California, commending the true Americanism record of the citizens of Japanese ancestry and Japanese alien residents of this community, endorse the program of Justice and fair play and shall give our fullest protection and cooperation to them in this emergency. We heartily commend their spirit in forming the Anti-Axis Committee. We highly commend their unselfish volunteering of service to the Armed Forces and to other departments of our Government in this emergency."

Dr. Takeyama, Commander of the Commodore Perry Post, invited all Nisei to attend the Patriotic Rally to be held Friday, December 12, 8:00 p.m. at the Patriotic Hall.

Mr. Sam Robertson, Chairman of the 17th District Public Relation Committee stated that this present chaos is our problem and it is up to us to solve it with the help of the members of the American Legion.

Other members introduced were: Mr. Ben Berry, Vice-Chairman, Public Relations Department of the County; Mr. Hunter, Assistant County Superintendent of Schools, and Mr. Hunter, Representative of Sheriff Biscailuz.

TELEGRAM SENT

The telegram sent to President Roosevelt and Mayor La Guardia, National Coordinator of the Civilian Defense was read by the Chairman.

"The Anti-Axis Committee of the Japanese American Citizens League has mobilized all American Citizens of Japanese extraction numbering 40,000 in Southern California to aid in the war program against Japan. May we be advised as to what steps are necessary so that we may insure the ultimate victory of our Country".

RADIO BROADCAST

The following statement has been handed to the County Committee for Church and Community Cooperation by the Japanese American Citizens League of Southern California representing 40,000 American Citizens of Japanese ancestry.

Statement released December 7, 1941

Broadcast by Mr. Togo Tanaka over KMTR, December 7, at 11 p.m.

"We are all Americans pledged to the defense of the United States. Any disloyal act or word by any Japanese or American citizen of Japanese descent harms the United States. The Military Espionage of 1918 provides that any word or act detrimental to the United States is duly punishable. As Americans we now function as counterespionage. Any act or word prejudicial to the United States committed by any Japanese must be warned and reported to the F.B.I., Naval Intelligence, Sheriff's Office, and local police. Any menace to the security of our country must be thoroughly and completely wiped out.

Signed,

Joe Masacka, Chairman  
Coordinating Committee for  
National Defense of the  
Southern District Council

LT. COMMANDER KENNETH RINGLE

Lt. Commander Kenneth Ringle, of the 11th Naval District said: "With sincerity and friendliness, the American people waits your action and deed to prove yourselves all Americans. I have faith in your abilities, and I know you won't let me down.