

"Americans of Japanese ancestry, like those of many other ancestries, have shown that they can, and want to, accept our institutions and work loyally with the rest of us, making their own valuable contribution to the national wealth and well-being. In vindication of the very ideals for which we are fighting this war it is important to us to maintain a high standard of fair, considerate, and equal treatment for the people of this minority as of all other minorities." (President Roosevelt in a message to the Senate, September 14, 1943.)

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#### MR. JUSTICE MURPHY

"No more lethal blow could be struck against our democracy than to have our fighting men return to find part of our people free; others hated and despised.--- There is something beautiful about standing in defense of a minority group. ---Here in America there is not one of us but belongs to a minority group. We are a people of minority groups. --- May I say that even the Japanese should not be discriminated against because of their blood." (Biltmore Hotel speech in Los Angeles, September 13, 1944.)

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#### VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

"The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, by virtue of its constitution, insists that all provisions of the Bill of Rights be extended to all people who are entitled to the benefits of the Bill of Rights. As an organization sworn to uphold the government of the United States, its laws, and its institutions, any action taken by the government in the matter of relocation of persons of Japanese ancestry, must not only be tolerated, but must be supported." (M. C. Hermann, State Quartermaster-Adjutant, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Department of California.)

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#### DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

"The eligibility rules of the Disabled American Veterans are set by Congress. Every member takes an oath to uphold and maintain the constitution of the United States. This includes the principle that we shall protect the rights of all citizens regardless of race, color, nationality, or creed." (Alfred Aram, Judge-Advocate, Disabled American Veterans, Department of California.)

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#### CALIFORNIA AMERICAN LEGION

"If there be any among you who would bring shame and disgrace on the American Legion by violating the principles of the Legion by denying to a citizen the rights which are his, then you forfeit your right to be considered a good Legionnaire." (From statement issued by California Department of the American Legion in support of Gov. Earl Warren's position on the rescission of the order banning all persons of Japanese ancestry from the Pacific Coast.)

(More)

#### 4 - Pertinent Facts

"There is no room in the American Legion for racial hatreds or animosities... The American Legion has gone on record concerning the Japanese removal from coastal areas because of military necessity. It opposed the return of these Japanese until the war with Japan was finished but, like every other law-abiding organization, the American Legion is pledged to serve both God and country and see that under our Constitution the rights of every individual citizen is preserved..... (Edward N. Scheiberling, National Commander of the American Legion.)

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#### CALIFORNIA'S GOVERNOR

"It is the most important function of citizenship as well as government to protect constitutional rights and to maintain order.....We must cooperate to the fullest extent with the military order and carry out the edict in a loyal manner." (Governor Earl Warren of California.)

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#### THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF CALIFORNIA

"The responsibility for the protection of these people (Japanese Americans) does not stop with the prevention of shootings. The protection of their basic rights - freedom from fear, freedom to earn their living, freedom to live as peaceful citizens - must also be maintained." (Attorney General Robert W. Kenny to the Sheriff's Meeting at Sacramento, March 16, 1945.)

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#### LABOR SPEAKS

".....WHEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That this 64th convention of the American Federation of Labor in session in New Orleans, in reaffirmation of our great tradition of struggle against intolerance and oppression, strongly condemns the unwarranted persecution and discrimination against American citizens of Japanese ancestry." (New Orleans, A.F.L. Convention, Dec. 1944.)

"We have laws to take care of any citizens who are disloyal to our country, and we should not violate our Constitution by denying privileges given by it to any group, regardless of race, creed or color." (From the A.F.L. Oregon Labor Press, Portland, Oregon.)

Among other unions and union councils who hailed the rescission of the ban were the San Diego CIO Council, the National Maritime Union and the International Longshoremen and Warehousemen's Union. A spokesman for the latter group said:

"Our brother Americans of Japanese descent have shown their patriotism the hard way as evidenced by our members on the battlefronts. It has been their unfortunate lot to have to prove themselves by doing an even better job, on the home front and on the battlefront, than anybody else. The order is to be welcomed as proof that America will not accept either Nazi or Japanese imperialist theories of superior race."

(More)

## 5 - Pertinent Facts

We insist that all the rights and privileges due the Japanese Americans as citizens be religiously adhered to and we shall oppose all attempts to infringe on these rights.....It would be well for these people who advocate these anti-Christian and unAmerican ideas to show some of the patriotism exhibited by the Japanese Americans fighting for the democracy these people are ignorantly trying to destroy." (Stanley Earl, secretary of the Oregon State CIO Council.)

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### DETAINÉES

Any person of Japanese ancestry, citizen or alien, whose loyalty is unquestioned is free to relocate to any part of the country he desires. Those whose loyalty is questioned are detained, either by order of the Army or Department of Justice, under individual exclusion order or through incarceration in a Department of Justice Camp.

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### SMALL SEGMENT

Persons of Japanese ancestry living in the United States in 1940 numbered 126,947, less than one-tenth of one per cent of the total population of the U. S. Of that number 112,353 lived on the Pacific Coast, 93,717 in California, 14,565 in Washington and 4,071 in Oregon.

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### IN AGRICULTURE

In 1940, prior to evacuation, 45 per cent of the Japanese workers in the three West Coast states were employed in agriculture. Their agricultural activities included the operation, as farm owners, tenants, and managers, of 6,116 farms, consisting of 258,074 acres of farm land. These farms represented 2.2 per cent of the number and value of all farms in the three states, only 0.4 per cent of all land in farms and only 1.5 per cent of all croplands harvested.

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### TWO-THIRDS ARE CITIZENS

Two-thirds of the people of Japanese descent who were evacuated to relocation centers were American citizens -- 72,000 citizens in all.

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### MAJORITY NEVER VISITED JAPAN

Approximately 72 per cent of the American citizens in relocation centers have never visited Japan.

### NOT CONCENTRATION CAMPS

The relocation centers are NOT concentration or internment camps. Residents of the centers are NOT internees. They are a dislocated people charged with no crime, but were detained temporarily because of the necessities of war.

(More)

#### RATIONING RESTRICTIONS

Relocation center residents are subject to the same rationing restrictions which apply to other civilians. Actual cost of food in centers has averaged less than 40¢ per person per day.

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#### AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS

Such typically American organizations as the USO, the Red Cross, the PTA, the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Camp Fire Girls, YMCA, YWCA and others were carried over into relocation centers by the evacuees.

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#### HOME FRONT ACTIVITIES

War Bond, Red Cross, War Chest and similar drives are carried on by residents of relocation centers. In many cases the centers have greatly exceeded the established quotas. Japanese American soldiers at Camp Shelby bought \$100,000 in war bonds in two days after the announcement of the execution of American flyers in Japan.

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#### BOY SCOUTS PRAISED

Stanley Harris, the National Director of Interracial Activities, Boy Scouts of America, stated: "Probably the best Boy Scout work in the entire country is being done at Heart Mountain Relocation Center."

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#### EAST OF THE WEST COAST

Shortly after the creation of the War Relocation Authority, the policy was established of permanently resettling loyal American citizens and law abiding aliens outside the Western Military area. Before the military ban was lifted, more than 40,000 residents of relocation centers had been resettled into normal American communities, where their manpower contributed to the war effort in agriculture and industry.

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#### CROPS HARVESTED

Nearly 10,000 residents of Relocation centers volunteered to help harvest the sugar beet crop in the fall of 1942. They harvested enough beets to produce a year's sugar allowance for 10,000,000 people. Last year more than 5,000 from Relocation Centers assisted in harvesting crops throughout the midwest.

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## BIRTH RATE NOT HIGH

The birth rate of Americans of Japanese ancestry in 1940 was at the same level as the birth rate throughout the country. In California, the census shows that the number of births to Japanese parents dropped from the high of 5,275 in 1921, to 2,220 in 1930 and to 1,479 in 1940. Concerning their birth rate the Tolson Committee's report says:

"Contrary to alarmist predictions about the reproductive tendencies of the American Japanese, their birth rate during the past decade has been insufficient to balance mortality and emigration."

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## NO SABOTAGE IN HAWAII

There was not a single act of sabotage by Hawaiian residents of Japanese ancestry at the time of the Pearl Harbor attack and all reports to the contrary have been officially denied by W. A. Gabrielson, Honolulu chief of police, Colonel Fielder, assistant chief of staff for military intelligence, Central Pacific area, the late Secretary of the Navy, Frank C. Knox, Secretary of War Stimson, and Director Hoover of F.B.I.

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## THEY ALSO SERVE THEIR COUNTRY

There are approximately 20,529 young men of Japanese ancestry, as of July, 1945, — roughly half of them volunteers — serving in the United States Army. More than half of these are now serving on foreign soil. Nearly half have parents, wives and children, or other close relatives in relocation centers.

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## FIGHTING NISEI

The 100th Infantry Battalion, composed entirely of Americans of Japanese ancestry, has fought throughout the Italian campaign. It is one of the most decorated units in the United States Army. This unit, made up of a total of 1315 men, has received the following decorations:

Over 1,000 Purple Hearts	57 Bronze Stars
16 Distinguished Service Crosses	3 Legion of Merit Decorations
61 Silver Stars	1 War Department Unit Citation for Outstanding Service in Battle.

In addition, there have been 15 field promotions to commissioned ranks.

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## FAMED COMBAT TEAM

Since June 26, 1944, the 100th Infantry Battalion has been incorporated into the 442nd Combat Team made up entirely of Japanese Americans who received their training at Camp Shelby, Mississippi. The 442nd was organized in the spring of 1943 with volunteers from Hawaii and the continental United States, including approximately 1,200 from war relocation centers. The two together now compose a regiment.

(More)

## 8 - Pertinent Facts

complete with engineers and artillery and were fighting on the Italian front. By October 1, 1944, this new regiment had received 400 Purple Hearts, had liberated 11 towns, and was the first to penetrate into the pivotal city of Pisa.

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## PACIFIC VICTORIES

Because of their knowledge of the Japanese language, Nisei soldiers have played a vital and dramatic role in our succession of victories over the Japanese in the Pacific theatre of operations.

They have served with Merrill's Marauders in Burma, and with the U. S. Army on Saipan, Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

"Americans of Japanese ancestry who are serving with the Pacific assault forces have proven their loyalty to the United States through heroism that has won the praise of all who have seen them in action.

"Many have paid with their lives, and many more have been wounded. They have done an outstanding job for the allied cause and their heroism should be recognized. It has been recognized by the Marine commanders at Guam, Peleliu and Iwo."  
(Associated Press Photographer Joe Rosenthal in an interview printed in the Chicago Tribune, April 25, 1945.)

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## PRESIDENTIAL CITATION

In presenting the 100th with the Presidential citation on behalf of President Roosevelt, Lieut. Gen. Mark W. Clark, Commanding the Fifth Army, stated:

"The 100th Infantry Battalion is cited for outstanding performance of duty in action on June 26 and 27, 1944 in the vicinity of Belvedere and Sassetta, Italy.... Assigned the mission of neutralizing a strongly defended German center of resistance, the battalion maneuvered to a point where a large and determined force of German infantry and field artillery, including self-propelled guns and tanks was encountered.... All three companies went into action, boldly facing murderous fire from all types of weapons and tanks and at times fighting without artillery support. Doggedly the members of the 100th Infantry Battalion fought their way into the strongly defended positions. The stubborn desire of the men to close with a numerically superior enemy enabled the 100th Infantry Battalion to destroy completely the right flank positions of a German army, killing at least 173 Germans, wounding approximately 20, capturing 73 and forcing surrender approximately of 10 kilometers of ground....

"The fortitude and intrepidity displayed by the officers and men of the 100th Infantry Battalion reflect the finest traditions of the Army of the United States."

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### NISEI RESCUED "LOST BATTALION"

Clinton B. Conger, United Press Staff Writer with the Seventh Army in France on November 6 (1944) reported:

"A combat unit made up of Japanese American fighting men who already had distinguished themselves in the bitter Italian campaign was disclosed today to have led the drive which resulted in the rescue of the "Lost Battalion" behind the German lines in France.

"These Japanese Americans, members of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, had been in action in the central area of the Seventh Army front for only three weeks when they launched an attack on October 15 through a forest three miles west of Bruyeres where the "Lost Battalion" — 270 infantrymen of the 36th (Texas) Division— had been trapped for more than a week. For five days the Texans had been without food until rations and medical supplies were dropped by low-flying Thunderbolts, and they had all but given up hope when the 442nd unit and other American groups broke through Nazi lines to capture Bruyeres and reach the encircled infantrymen."

One rescued Lieutenant said to Conger later: "After seven days of isolation, one of our outposts sighted the first American to reach them — Pfc Mutt Sakumoto — the rest of the 442nd behind him. These Japanese Americans had been hauled from a dark area to effect the rescue but they seemed as happy over the rescue as our men. I bet that was the gladdest any Americans ever were to see some Japs. They came working through the brush so quiet! They sure cleaned out the undergrowth as they went and boy, oh boy, how those guys can fight!"

Conger reported that the Lieutenant's sentiments were echoed by Germans with whom the 442nd came in contact during the fighting in Italy.

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#### A FEW QUOTES FROM NOTABLE PERSONS

"As for the persecution of the Nisei here, they (Boys on the Pacific fighting fronts) think it's terrible. They think it's horrible. I know. I've had a number of round-table discussions with them on that subject alone.....It doesn't make sense. Look at Eisenhower, for example. He's of German ancestry. Why should we discriminate against people of Japanese ancestry if we don't against the German?.....I think the only thing that can stop war is not all the papers that are signed, but better understanding." (Joe E. Brown to the Commonwealth Club of San Francisco, February 23, 1945.)

"I am proud of the record of the 100th Infantry Battalion and I am proud of the individuals who made that record possible. I do not ask special privileges but I do ask that the democratic principles which they fought to preserve be practised without discrimination or prejudice." (U. S. Army Captain George H. Grandstaff, three times wounded officer of the 100th Infantry Battalion, before the Commonwealth Club of San Francisco, July 27, 1945.)

"The Army promised Japanese Americans they could return to the West Coast and it is so unfair to deny these people their right to return that I don't think it is American. (Marshal Field III to a Los Angeles press conference, July 16, 1945.)

(More)

A FEW QUOTES FROM NOTABLE PERSONS (Cont'd.)

"I have found the Japanese American soldier is as American as a hamburger sandwich." (Bob Hope in his column, July 12, 1945.)

"Suppression of minorities, no matter how slight or isolated cannot be ignored. These are the small scorns from which the diseased oak of fascism can grow. The Japanese of today will become the Negro of tomorrow, the Jew of the next day, the Catholic of the next and the Italian-American, Irish-American, and so on." "Private First Class Richard Naito, wounded U. S. Army veteran, upon being denied admission to Post 51, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Spokane, Washington. A petition for reconsideration was signed by 500 wounded Veterans of World War II hospitalized at Bexter Army Hospital)

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DUAL CITIZENSHIP

Best estimate is that not more than 20 per cent of the Japanese Americans in - 1942 were dual citizens. The decline in dual citizenship has been so sharp that it has been estimated dual citizenship will be entirely wiped out in another generation. Dual citizenship was established only when parents made application within two weeks of the birth of their children. Hundreds who were thus listed are wearing the United States Army Uniform and are fighting for this country. Twenty-four countries claim the same dual citizenship of the descendants of their nationals.

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EDUCATORS SPEAK

"We don't control, nor do we attempt to control the attitudes of people....When those desiring to study at the University will be accepted as students in accordance with the regulations governing the admission of any students." (Pres. L. P. Sieg of the University of Washington on December 19, 1944.)

"Students of Japanese ancestry who have been properly certified by Federal authorities will be received by the University in a friendly and cooperative manner." (Dr. Robert Gordon Sproul, President, U. of Calif.)

At a recent conference of State educators, Dr. Walter F. Dexter, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, reminded school officials that they are pledged to support the Constitution and that both Federal and state constitutions require them to admit the children of any ancestry to classes.

"We judge people by words and deeds and so we must judge the Japanese. It was not so long ago the West Coast was demanding the Chinese must go...They had lived here for years. They had become Americans in spirit." (Dr. Monroe E. Deutsch, Vice President of the University of California.)

\* \* \* \* \*

AND A NISEI SAID

"I am a Japanese by ancestry and by physical features; but my heart, mind and spirit are with America because this is my home. There is no love of Japan in me, no spiritual, no mental ties. I can feel a oneness with other Americans of foreign ancestry -- German, Irish, Swedish, Italian, Chinese, or Greek Americans -- in saying that my blood will never flow for the land of my ancestors." (From "I TOO, AM AN AMERICAN," written by Kiyoko Kasal, a senior student at Sequoia High School, Redwood City, Calif., who was one of those uprooted by the evacuation order.)

(End)