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NISEI STUDENTS SPEAK

Dave Okada and Kenji Okada who are now attending Oberlin College, spoke recently to a group of fellow students concerning the Japanese-American relocation problem. Dave spoke on the topic, "The Antecedents of Evacuation." He drew a vivid historical background picture tracing the Japanese-American problem back to its origin-1882 when people on the Pacific Coast "welcomed the Japanese laborers and workers." Dissatisfaction with these people became increasingly acute as they became independent and were able to compete with established enterprises. This resulted in anti-democratic legislation being passed-Anti-Asian Land Act of California and the Oriental Exclusion Act (1924). This feeling of animosity reached its climax with Pearl Harbor and the Evacuation.

In closing Dave Okada said: "If military necessity and protective custody were the actual reasons for evacuation, why were certain legislators and powerful organizations so active at this moment in attempting to secure legislation to deprive the Nisei of their citizenship? Their position is based on the evacuation as evidence of the Nisei's

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NEW RURAL SCHOOL OPENS AT HEART MT.

A diversified program of intensive study is under way at the Heart Mountain Relocation Center with the purpose of training those interested to take a real active part in rural life. This training will make it possible for the young to adapt himself more readily to farm life.

PEN AND INK AT HAND

According to the Heart Mountain Sentinel (Mar. 27, '48), the high school students of the Center are going to "exchange news" with high school pupils of St. Cloud, Minn.

If any students at any of the centers desire to do the same with high school young people here in Seattle we of the Cable staff would be glad to cooperate. Just drop us a card telling of your interest and we will do the rest.

"...in the church the only appropriate symbols are universal symbols."

Living a full life: have no fear, be aware of your guilt-be creative, work softly-keep love at the core of life.

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CHANGE FOR "THE BATTER"

These past six months have seen some changes in government policy toward the Japanese-Americans, changes, we believe, for the better. Many Nisei have been accepted into the armed forces, others are acting as instructors of the Japanese language and now Senators McNicoll and Chandler have voiced their opinion that all loyal Japanese-Americans should be allowed their full freedom. Indications now point to the fact that the majority of these people will be resettled within twelve months. We sincerely hope that this will prove to be the case.

Citizens of the East and Middle West can do much to aid these people by helping to create within their respective communities a spirit of good-will and fellowship toward these

neighbors of ours. We of the West can hope that you will do this, for we have lived with these people and know what fine friends they make.

NON VOYAGE

With this issue of the Pacific Cable my term as Editor must come to an end. It has been of deep satisfaction to me to know that thru the medium of the printed page I have been of some service to my many unseen friends in the various relocation centers.

I know that as we face life together it will be with a deep desire to leave things a little bit better than when we found them.

The fine spirit with which you have faced the vicissitudes of life has been an inspiration to all of us. I pray that each one of you will strive to maintain your faith and courage not only toward yourself but toward all mankind.

President Roosevelt has said:-
"...No loyal citizen of the United States should be denied the democratic right to exercise the responsibilities of his citizenship, regardless of his ancestry. The principle on which this country was founded and by which it has always been governed is that Americanism is a matter of the mind and heart; Americanism is not, & never was, a matter of race or ancestry

REACTION TO VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Nisei Attitude--

Why should we fight for a government that has taken away our homes, our jobs, our freedom, and put us into concentration camps without proof of any sort of guilt?

Why should the Japanese-Americans be forced to prove their loyalty? Other Americans do not have to prove theirs.

Why should we be made to volunteer when the rest of the country is now on selective service? This is just another example of discrimination. Months ago when we were to be drafted, the government classified us as aliens ineligible for army service. Now the government expects us to forget our hurt and our pride and volunteer.

Nisei soldiers in the U.S. Army uniform are considered loyal enough to die for their country and to carry a gun, but not loyal enough to return to their homes on the Pacific Coast. A Nisei soldier walking on the streets of Seattle would be jailed. In some Relocation Centers, soldiers are not allowed to visit their parents.

Why aren't Japanese-Americans allowed to enter the air force?

The segregated combat unit is not good. Why should we be set apart from others? We would do more good scattered through the whole army. In that way we could come in personal contact with many hundreds of Caucasians and through that contact show them we are just as

they are.

A Japanese-American combat unit might be used as advanced shock troops in most forward areas of battle. Used as a suicide regiment.

After the last war, aliens who had been promised their citizenship if they would fight for the U.S., did not get their citizenship for 14 years, and then only because the JACL put a lot of money into the campaign, and applied pressure at Washington. Those same World War veterans are now in concentration camps with us, and they are saying, "Look at us now, no better off than we were before we fought in the last war. That is what will happen to you." What guarantee have the Japanese-Americans and aliens today that they will fare any better from the government after this war?

What will happen to our parents? Will the government give them freedom? What if we should die? They have no means of support now; they are penniless. It is one thing to leave your parents in homes of their own, with their own means of support; another thing to leave them in concentration camps, wards of the government.

Our parents don't want us to go. We want to go, but we don't want to hurt them.

Issei Attitude--

The government has taken everything we prized most dearly from us --our freedom, our homes, our job, our pride. We who thought it a disaster (Over)

place to ask the government for help, and have worked for many decades to provide for our families and to help create a more prosperous America, have been made paupers by our government. Now we are being asked to give up our sons also. Why should we be sacrificed to our sons to go out and get killed for a country that has treated us so?

What will become of us if our sons go? No more money, no homes, no strength left. We are old, too old to earn a place for ourselves in the world. We cannot be relocated. We are depending on our sons to find jobs on the outside and take care of us.

The father said to his son, "If you submit I will submit also."

One old man, known to me according to the ancient Japanese code, said, "I am ashamed of my people. They forget that the finest Japanese have always believed that the greatest honor one can obtain is to give one's life for the country of one's birth. Look at the way the Hawaiians have volunteered. Not of course, they were not evacuated."

Caucasian Staff and JACL Attitude:

You are on the spot. The whole future of the Japanese in this country is hanging on your decision. You must look forward, and not backward. For your own sakes you can't let the bitterness and hurt in your hearts blind you to the tremendous implications of your refusal to volunteer. The people on

the outside will not know your reasons for refusing. They will simply think, "There, that proves it. The evacuation was necessary and right. Those people are disloyal. Look, they won't even join our sons to fight for democracy."

Your friends need the club that a successful volunteering will place in their hands. They can turn then and say to the scoffers, "Look, this proves it; what greater proof do you need of the loyalty of these people?"

We on the staff do not need proof of your loyalty. To live with you, work with you, know you. But the people who don't know you need that proof.

It is significant that to date those who have volunteered are chiefly married men with children. They are thinking of their children's future. They want to give them the opportunity to walk the streets of America usually with all other Americans. They refuse to prejudice their future. Instead of looking backward, they are looking ahead for their children's sakes.

You've got to cut the apron strings and think for yourselves. The future lies in your hands. It may well be that future Japanese-Americans; looking back on your decision will say, in the words of Churchill, "Never before have so many been indebted to the services of so few."

You've got to decide what you really want. Life here in this camp, or freedom to live and work in the world outside.

Everything that could be done to any people has been done to you. But you have taken it with clings up. We

have marveled at your ability to make the most of the little given you. Now the greatest test of all of your courage and ability to take it has arisen. We believe you will rise above your very natural feelings of hurt and resentment and once more show the people of this country that you are leaving no stone unturned to prove your loyalty to the United States.

The government in this action is saying in effect, "We made a mistake; we are sorry. Now we are trying to make amends by again opening the army to Americans of Japanese ancestry."

The army designated a separate combat unit so that the greatest publicity would attach to that unit if you are all scattered through an army of 11,000,000 men no one would know you were there and the public would have no indication of your contribution to the war effort. Once you are in the army your abilities only will limit your advancement. The rumor is utterly false that this Japanese-American combat unit will be used as a suicide squad. The indications are now that this unit will be used in the European sector of the war rather than in the South Pacific. If the volunteering is unsuccessful there is every reason to think no selective service will be inaugurated.

Nothing that happens can hurt me, whether I win or lose, though life may be changed on the surface, I do my main living within." (p. 8)

A Boeing Worker Comments:-

"...I've just read an article in the

March Readers Digest referring to the Japanese. It certainly seems that they have been handled very stupidly--and what expense! To maintain the relocation centers next year will take around \$40,000,000. And then we have caused so much unhappiness and discontent, to say nothing of the wasted manpower. The writer says that for a fraction of that amount they could all be investigated and the disloyal ones weeded out."

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YOU WERE MISSED

To young people now living at the relocation centers and who have attended the United Christian Youth Conference at Washington in past years might be interested to know that we missed them as we convened at Yakima, March 5, 6, 7.

As friends together in our search for the great truths of life, we extend a hand of fellowship. We know that mere distance cannot break the unity that binds our hearts to the things of the Spirit.

WHICH WAY FOR ME?

Each day of our lives we are called upon to make far reaching decisions. So often the issues confronting us present such a confused pattern that we we hardly know which way to turn. Usually in our search for an adequate answer we think only of ourselves and our pet desires. Self has

FACTS OF INTEREST

Former residents of Bainbridge Island have been transferred to Minidoka Center.

According to a letter written to the Pacific Citizen, "There is no such thing as Dual-citizenship". On July 15, 1924 the Japanese gov't disowned all people of Japanese ancestry born in "countries where birth gives nationality, as it does in the United States." These people lose their Japanese nationality from birth. (3/4/43).

"Alexander Hamilton, a Founding Father, would be committing a felony today if he married blueblooded Elizabeth Schuyler in the state of Georgia, which bare the marriage of whites with 'all Negroes, mulattoes mestizos, and their descendants, having any ascertainable trace of either Negro or African, West Indian or Asiatic Indian blood in their veins.' Hamilton was a native of the West Indies."

"Sixteen states still bar marriage between whites and Asiatics, including Chinese."

Arizona specifically prohibits the marriage of 'whites' and Hindus—aberrant-Hindu signifies a religion not a race. Also, Hindus are Aryans withstanding their darker skin.

See to something worthwhile.

C-A-B-L-E L-I-N-K-S

Shhh—Don't say anything but I'm going to copy this just as Jackie passed it to me.

"Chuck, here's some for "Cable Links"

Ruth Nishino and Vernon Shimo-Takahara were married Feb. 28 (Sunday) in Social Hall 28 at Hunt. The couple have left for Kaslo, B.C., the home of the groom's parents. I met Ruth and Vernon at Hunt and they are cute.

Minnie Yokoyama and Henry Itoi, formerly of the U. of W., were married at the home of Rev. Mr. Thompson in Twin Falls, Idaho. Minnie and Henry both went to U. as I stated; Minnie is a very good singer. Both kids are from Seattle.

Oh! Some more news, if it hasn't already been printed: Stella Yorozu attended a Girl Reserve conference in Denver and also visited her sisters Lily and Helen while there."

Ajakiko Kawakami has left Hunt to work in a Denver office.

Fred Kosaka, Grad. of U. of W. has received his 2nd lieutenants commission in the medical corps.

The discipline necessary to the fulfillment of a task will be accepted cheerfully if we have a real passion.

WE WERE MISINFORMED

Last month the Pacific Cable published the fact that Sho Koneko was the first person to be placed through the American Friends Service Committee. The statement should have read that Sho was the first person placed thru the New Relocation Hostel in Chicago which had just opened a few days previous. Although Floyd Schmoer has no accurate records on hand more than a hundred people have been helped to relocate thru the AFSC during the past year. Approximately ten each week are being placed now thru the Chicago Hostel alone. Those wishing particulars concerning this newly opened center should write to Edwin Morgenroth, 189 West Madison Street, Chicago.

Just Returned

Floyd Schmoer has just returned to his Seattle office from another five weeks in the field. Gordon Hirabayashi who accompanied Floyd on this trip and who according to Floyd was "very useful to him as "an extra pair of legs and a distinct aid to the memory" has stopped off for a short visit with his parents, recently relocated from Tulalake to a farm near Weiser, Idaho. It is expected that Gordy will continue with the Service Committee in relocation work.

"...it is the ultimate wisdom of the mountains that a man is never more a man than when he is striving for what is beyond his grasp, and that there is

no conquest worth the win...
save that over his own weakness and ignorance and fear.

It is not the summit that matters, but the fight for the summit; not the victory; but the gore itself."

High Conquest J.R. Sullivan

FIRE PROTECTION CREW

The U.S. Forestry Service and the U.S. Grazing Service are organizing a volunteer group of some fifty young men at Wickenburg Relocation Center to fight grass and brush fires.

A Heart Mountain resident thinks:-

"From the top of the hill the gate is small and insignificant in the distance, but it is symbolic. For beyond its tough mesh and the barbed wire on each side, there is that intangible known as liberty." Heart Mt. Sep. 3/27

ANOTHER PROBLEM ON JAP??

There is a good possibility that negroes from the Bahama Islands will be imported in the near future in order to relieve the labor shortage in the southern states. If there is a labor shortage in the South one might well ask why? Would racial discrimination have anything to do with it? Let us think twice before importing a new labor supply unless we are ready to give them equal status with other citizens of the U.S.

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Nisei Students Speaks

unassimilability and disloyalty. There are some things worth more than physical safety and one of them is the right of every citizen, regardless of race or color, to be given the opportunity to prove himself to his fellow-citizens without bias and discrimination."

Next, Kenji Okada spoke on the subject Living in a Relocation Center. First, he drew a picture of the physical aspects of the Relocation Center in Colo. telling how the people are fed and how the camp is administered.

"As the days in these centers stretch into months, one wonders how the people are reacting, just what effect this experience has had upon these Americans." He goes on to tell how insecure the Nisei feel themselves to be and find it hard to relax or to fight off indifference. Life in these centers is not challenging enough for those who like to think for themselves. Therefore, the Nisei are finding it increasingly difficult to maintain the higher values of life. "Only as the Nisei are allowed to be re-assimilated into American life will this trend toward lethargy stop. They are anxious to do something worthwhile."

The last speaker on this program was Florence Herber who spoke on the subject Post-war Solutions. She offered the following four points as possible solutions to the Japanese-American problem.

1. Return all Issei and Nisei to California and its little Tokios...
2. Deportation of all Japanese to Japan. Would deporting our own citizens

be in keeping with our democratic ideals?

3. Japanese-Americans might be confined to relocation centers after the war. What about individual freedom for citizens?

4. Distribution and relocation of families in friendly communities throughout the country.

"We have not faced the total problem as it exists. The crux to this problem is the attitude of the majority...to all colored peoples."

Never yet has law formed a great man; 'tis liberty that breeds giants and heroes." Scyller

"...the world is ruled by deeds, not by good intentions, and... the efficient sinner is worth ten futile saints and martyrs." Shaw

PLEASE NOTE:-

Due to labor difficulties the Pacific Cable has not been able to come out on time. Please be patient with us as we endeavor to do our best under the circumstances.

Wendell Willkie says in his new book One World, "...little can be won after the war that is not won during the war itself."

Think in terms of mountains and you shall climb.