

# JAPANESE AIDES AT SCHOOLS HIT

More than a third of the clerks employed in Seattle elementary schools are Japanese, school officials said today after a delegation of mothers from West Seattle's Gatewood district circulated a petition yesterday in protest of Japanese clerks working with or for smaller American children.

Four women circulating the petition said today they have more than 200 signatures on the document, and hope for more than 1,000 by the end of the week, when the petition will be turned over either to the 2nd Interceptor Command, the Seattle School Board or some other agency as yet undecided.

## 23 Japanese Girl Clerks

School officials said today that 23 Japanese girls are among 60 girl clerks employed in the city's 64 elementary schools. Japanese girls are employed at two of the city's nine high schools, Broadway and Franklin. No Japanese are employed at the four junior high schools. All the Japanese clerks are American citizens, however.

Although the protesting petition complains only against the possibility of Japanese clerks diverting emergency telephone calls, Mrs. Esther M. Sekor, chairman of the delegation, said today that mothers of younger children also are fearful of what might result if Japanese were free to work in or near school cafeterias, or were deliberately negligent in first-aid work.

## Text of Petition

The petition read:

"We, the undersigned citizens and patrons of the City of Seattle, herewith voice our disapproval concerning the Japanese office help in the education system of the City of Seattle, for the security of our children. There are Japanese girls employed in twenty Seattle schools who could easily divert emergency telephone calls.

Mrs. Sekor declared that in times of war "we don't know who's all right and who's not."

"We are at war," Mrs. Sekor said. "I don't know if anyone knows it, but we are. I don't know when we'll have a bombing, either, but we'll have one, and maybe more. I just don't believe that Japanese clerks should be in responsible positions or should administer to smaller children who don't know what's going on. They shot up California last night, so 'it can happen here'."

## 'Swamped' With Calls

Mrs. Sekor said she and others working with her were "swamped" with telephone calls today, approving the action of the Gatewood School children's mothers. With Mrs. Sekor yesterday were Mrs. Dale Smith, Mrs. Maude E. Anderson and Mrs. Ingman Sturm, all of whom have youngsters in the Gatewood School.

There are no Japanese children attending the school, Mrs. Sekor pointed out, saying that mothers there felt there was no reason for a Japanese girl being employed at the school.

Worth McClure, superintendent of Seattle schools, was attending an educational conference in California and was unavailable for comment. Other school officials pointed out, however, that Japanese clerks do not handle emergency telephone calls.

## Teachers Handle Drills

"We've arranged for all that," said one school official. "We don't work through any Japanese in our gas drills, bomb drills or fire drills. They are handled either through the principal or some specifically designated teacher."

Officials admitted privately they had hoped such a situation as this soon might be clarified by the Federal Bureau of Investigation or other government agency. They said they also had considered the possibility that the Japanese clerks might resign before official action.

The low cost of Japanese help was given by school officials as the reason for their employment. Such Japanese clerks are paid 30 cents an hour for the first year; 35 cents an hour the second year; and 40 cents an hour the third year.