

Japanese Girls Resign Positions In City Schools

Group Declares 'No Ill Will' Felt Toward Petitioners of Gatewood District

The 23 Japanese girls employed as clerks in Seattle's elementary schools all resigned today.

The girls, all American citizens, asked the Seattle School Board to accept the resignations immediately, but school officials indicated it probably would not be done until later in the week.

The resignation, signed by all the girls, was submitted to the board two days after a delegation of mothers from West Seattle's Gatewood district had circulated a petition, protesting employment of the Japanese clerks.

The girls said they bear no "ill will" to the petitioners, and hope that the welfare of the schools will be served by their resignations. But, they pointed out, they did not take their action in any "spirit of defeat."

The two Japanese girl clerks employed at Broadway and Franklin High Schools have not yet resigned, but it was expected they would take the same action as their sister workers.

Mrs. Esther M. Sekor, chairman of the Gatewood mothers' delegation, expressed approval of the action of the Japanese girls.

"I think that's very white of those girls," said Mrs. Sekor. "They have our appreciation and thanks. We want to assure them all that we really feel this is best, at least for the duration. When we started this thing, it was not from any grudge against the American Japanese, but only for the safety of the school children. I really feel that they've done the right thing."

Samuel E. Fleming, assistant school superintendent, said:

"The letter of resignation of our Japanese clerks speaks for itself. I am sure that our principals and teachers would want to join me in words of highest appreciation of the courtesy, industry, efficiency and loyalty of the girls."