



## Considerable Delay Expected Before Stranded Nisei Can Be Repatriated From Nippon

**Clarify Procedures Necessary for Nisei To Establish American Citizenship, Arrange For Return Passage to United States**

NEW YORK—Considerable time will elapse before Nisei stranded in Japan during the war can establish their American citizenship and return to their native country, Frank L. Auerbach of the Common Council for American Unity reported this week.

Auerbach estimated there are about 5,000 American-born persons of Japanese ancestry in Japan who went there before the attack on Pearl Harbor.

"Their families, in many cases are in the United States," he added. "Some of them had been sent by their parents or relatives in this country to be educated in Japan.

"Ever since the end of hostilities relatives of these Nisei have been inquiring about what steps can be taken to effect their repatriation to the United States."

Mr. Auerbach's report stated that Americans of Japanese ancestry who wish to return to the United States must file applications for American passports with the Consular Service in Tokyo. This service still is understaffed and can handle only a limited number of such applications a day.

The "relatively slow rate" at which applications for passports can be handled also was attributed to the fact that those American-born persons of Japanese ancestry who are children of a parent or parents born in Japan will have to overcome the presumption of expatriation as they have remained more than six months in the country of their parents or parents' nativity according to Section 402 of the Nationality Act of 1940.

It was also pointed out that some may have lost American citizenship by committing one or more of the acts enumerated in section 401 of the Nationality Act as grounds for the loss of nationality by native citizens, such as acquisition of the nationality of a foreign state upon application or through serving in its armed forces, or by performing duties under a foreign state for which only nationals of such state are eligible.

"Since most of these acts would have been committed in Japan itself, applications for American passports will have to be carefully investigated in Japan before they are referred to the Passport Division of the Department of State in Washington for a final decision," Mr. Auerbach's report added. "It is understood that every applicant will also have to be cleared by Army intelligence. Since most of them have now lived in Japan for a number of years, these investigations will be extensive and time-consuming."

If a Nisei in Japan eventually is found not to have expatriated himself and is issued an American passport for repatriation, a further delay must be expected in view of the still limited shipping facilities between Japan and the United States. No regular passenger service has yet been resumed between the two countries. All shipping from and to Japan is still under the jurisdiction of the U. S. Maritime Commission. Whenever

## Chuman Heads New JACL Unit In Los Angeles

**New President Says Group Will Be Largest In United States**

LOS ANGELES — Reactivation of the Los Angeles chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League was completed on Jan. 7 and Frank Chuman, local attorney, was elected president of the unit at the election meeting.

Chuman declared that the Los Angeles chapter is destined to become "the largest JACL group in the country" and asked for the cooperation of the membership in the league's expansion program.

The following cabinet was announced following the election:

Ken Utsunomiya, first v. p.; Noboru Ishitani, 2nd v. p.; John (Ty) Saito, 3rd v. p.; June Tokuyama, rec. sec.; Hana Uno, corres. sec.; Dick Fujioka, treas.; Dr. Masayoshi Itatani, auditor; and Kiyoshi Kagawa, sergeant-at-arms.

Army or Navy transports which call on Japanese ports on their way to the United States have space available for civilian passengers the representative of the American President Lines in Tokyo, who acts as agent for the U. S. Maritime Commission, will be informed. Prospective passengers therefore will have to register with the office of the American President Lines in Tokyo. They will be notified when accommodations become available.

The report noted that the cost of passage from Japan to a West Coast port amounts to \$325 for passengers over 12 years of age. Passage can be bought in Japan from unblocked currency. If the passenger does not have the necessary funds at hand and therefore wishes friends or relatives in the United States to advance his fare, instructions can be sent by the American President Lines in Tokyo to their office in the United States to collect the fare. It will be only on such direct instructions from Japan that the American President Lines in this country will accept funds for transportation. Relatives or friends here cannot initiate travel arrangements by prepaying passage.

## National JACL Will File Brief In Restrictive Covenants Suit

Extending its interest in the problems of other minorities, the Japanese American Citizens League this week announced that it will cooperate in filing a brief amicus curiae in a New York City restrictive covenant case.

The suit involves two signers of a restrictive covenant in Queens county, New York, who seek to prevent a third from selling her property to a Negro and to enjoin the latter from purchasing or occupying the property.

The JACL will join the American Jewish Congress and the Urban League of Greater New York in filing briefs for the defendants, Sophie Rubin and Samuel Richard. The three organizations will urge setting aside of the restrictive cov-

enant on grounds that such pacts are contrary to both public policy and the state and federal constitution.

The case is now before the Supreme Court of the state of New York, Queens county division.

In announcing that it will cooperate in filing of the brief, the JACL stated that "a racial restrictive covenant imputes inferiority to the members of the racial or ethnic minority groups covenanted against and that an attempt to obtain what is in effect legal recognition of that imputation by suit for judicial enforcement of the covenant is of grave concern to all minorities, and particularly to Japanese Americans who themselves have frequently been the victims of such covenants."

## 442nd Veterans In Hawaii Plan Italy Relief Drive

HONOLULU — Two organizations of Japanese American veterans of fighting in Italy, the 442nd Veterans club and the Club 100, will sponsor a financial drive this month for funds to support a relief project in Italy.

The Rev. Hiro Higuchi, former regimental chaplain with the 442nd Combat Team, said it has not been decided definitely whether the project will be an orphanage or some other agency but it will be intended for the assistance of a people whom the Japanese Americans came to know well during the war.

"It will be a gesture of goodwill and a hope for world peace," Rev. Higuchi said.

## NISEI IS FIRST TRAFFIC FATALTY OF NEW YEAR

SAN FRANCISCO—George S. Nakashima, 28, was listed as San Francisco's first traffic fatality of 1947 when he died on New Year's day after driving his auto into a parked car at 2 a. m.

Nakashima was rushed to Mission emergency hospital, but died later in the day.

Police said they believe he fell asleep at the wheel.

Nakashima was a graduate of the UC College of Pharmacy.

## Vancouver Sun Asks Ban on Evacuee Return

**Powell Street Must Remain White, Says Brown in Article**

VANCOUVER, B. C. — The Canadian government was asked last week by Roy Brown, editorial director of the Vancouver Sun, to make a firm declaration that "no large scale return to the Pacific Coast area" by evacuated Japanese Canadians "will be tolerated."

Brown declared in an article in the Sun that the government's position should be made clear to the Japanese Canadians "that if they are to live in peace in Canada they must not revive any idea of reestablishment of a Pacific Coast colony."

The government ought to continue in full operation the six placement officers it now maintains, so that Japanese looking for jobs can have no excuse of lack of opportunity to work," Brown said. "These offices could easily lead off any attempt of the Japanese to head westward again."

Brown noted that Eastern Canadians considered British Columbians as "intolerant" on the Japanese Canadian issue.

"If the East expects tolerance, then we must have ample assurances from the government that Powell Street (former center of Japanese Canadians in Vancouver) and Steveston are to remain white," Brown said.

"It is to our interest that other parts of Canada shall not regard us as excessively intolerant and we can gain nothing by pursuing them (the Japanese Canadians) to the coasts of Labrador," Brown said.

## Disabled Veterans Return to Hawaii

HONOLULU — Six disabled American soldiers of Japanese ancestry, wounded in combat with the 442nd Combat Team in Europe, returned to their native Hawaii for the holiday season, arriving in Honolulu on Dec. 23 on the General Patrick.

The men were identified as Master Sgt. Kikumi Kishi, Pvt. Shinsuke Shimabukuro, Pvt. Howard T. Shigeta, Pfc. Amaso Tamura, Pvt. Teiko Nohara and Pvt. Kumio Katsaka.

Relatives of the men were on hand to greet them at the dock and to accompany them to the 147th general hospital.

## Anti-Discrimination Committee Of JACL Will Stress Fight Against Bias in Naturalization

**Issei Now Barred From Ninety-Three Professions, Business, Employment Opportunities as Result Of Discrimination in United States Statutes**

Primary aim of the Anti-Discrimination Committee during 1947 will be passage of a bill by the 80th Congress to wipe out racial and national origin restrictions in naturalization and immigration statutes, according to a statement issued this week by Mike Masaoka, executive secretary and director of the ADC.

The immediate effect of such legislation, as far as persons of Japanese ancestry are concerned, would be to make aliens eligible to citizenship on the same basis as other aliens and to permit entry of Japanese nationals on the same basis as nationals of other "favored nations," the statement said.

## Masaoka Will Leave for ADC Work in East

**Will Back Bills to Allow Wives of Nisei GIs to Enter U. S.**

Mike Masaoka, national secretary of the JACL, will leave for Washington, D. C., and New York City Saturday to take up his new work as head of the JACL's Anti-Discrimination Committee.

Now on leave to the ADC, Masaoka's duties have been taken over by Mas Satow, former eastern representative.

Masaoka's work in the east will be concerned mainly with pressing of bills for evacuation claims and citizenship rights for persons of Japanese ancestry.

The ADC will also back special bills to allow Japanese wives of American servicemen to enter the United States and to prohibit deportation of loyal aliens who aided in the winning of the war by serving the United States as translators, draftsmen and in other capacities.

"As matters stand, such aliens as those who drew maps used by B-29s in their missions over Japan could be deported to Japan," Masaoka said.

He stressed that the ADC will act not only in behalf of persons of Japanese ancestry, but will also act in cases of discrimination involving persons of other minority groups.

## Voluntary Repatriation Program Completed by Canada Government

VANCOUVER, B. C. — Four hundred persons of Japanese ancestry, the final group to leave Canada under the voluntary repatriation program, sailed from Vancouver on Dec. 24 for Japan aboard the Marine Falcon.

The departures constituted the fifth boatload of Japanese and Japanese Canadians to leave for Japan and brought the number of voluntary repatriates to 4074. The group included Japanese aliens and Canadian-born children.

Many of the repatriates had been waiting in the Vancouver immigration building for several weeks.

Among those "repatriated" was a Japanese Canadian girl who was a stretcher case.

## Nisei Mother, Child Killed As Truck Plunges Off Highway

DENVER, Colo.—Mrs. Toshiye Shibata, 27, and her one-year-old child were killed instantly on Jan. 5 when the truck in which they were riding plunged 500 feet down the west side of Bethoud Pass.

Mrs. Shibata's husband, Paul, 30, was injured critically and their other child, a four-year-old girl, was injured less seriously.

The Shibatas, residents of Fort Lupton, were westbound on U. S. highway 40, which crosses the Continental Divide at Bethoud Pass at an elevation of 11,000 feet.

The statement from the ADC also pointed out that such legislation would make ineffective discriminatory alien land laws now operative in 12 western states, and that it would in addition make inoperative restrictions on business licenses now denied because of ancestry.

The ADC head pointed out that there are 93 distinct professions, businesses and employment opportunities from which Japanese nationals are barred in the various states. New York has the largest number of occupations closed to Japanese nationals with 27 restrictions, it was pointed out, while Indiana and Maryland have the fewest with four each.

It was pointed out that similar restrictions are imposed by municipalities as a prerequisite for issuance of business licenses for certain businesses, trades and occupations.

Further restrictions are imposed upon employment in public works and civil service and by federal, state, county and municipal governments for employment by departments and boards.

The wiping out of citizenship and immigration ineligibility would also bring an end to discrimination in such matters as relief and welfare aid, old age pensions, escheat cases, labor unions, certain civil service positions and deportation cases, it was reported.

Second major concern of the Anti-Discrimination Committee during 1947 will be passage of an evacuation claims bill which would provide "an automatic lump sum payment for every voluntary and WRA-processed adult evacuee" and which would create an evacuation claims commission or open the regular court of claims for those evacuees who suffered larger economic losses.

The ADC also announced it would work for general legislation to prevent deportation of persons involved in hardship and treaty merchant cases as well as prevent the deportation of Japanese aliens who aided the war effort of the United States.

## New Japanese Bill Will Be Sponsored To Ease Expatriation

TOKYO—Persons with dual citizenship may relinquish Japanese nationality merely by formally expressing a desire to do so, according to a bill to revise the Japanese nationality law which will be introduced by the government at the 92nd Diet session, according to information here this week.

Shibata was rushed to Colorado General hospital by the state highway patrol. Physicians said he suffered leg and head injuries and a possible skull fracture. The injured child was taken to Granby, where she was given medical aid.

The enclosed truck apparently skidded on ice and plunged off the highway about two miles west of the summit of the pass. The bodies of the mother and child were hurled from the truck as it rolled down the mountainside, Sheriff Dale Clark of Grand County reported.



## Chinese Americans Greet Wounded Nisei



LOS ANGELES—Chinese American Legionnaires of Post No. 628 in Los Angeles visited Birmingham general hospital on Dec. 29 to present a portable washing machine to a wounded American soldier of Japanese ancestry, Pfc. Rokuro Moriguchi of 614-A Captain Cook Ave., Honolulu.

Those who participated in the presentation were Adjutant Betty Berg of the Legion's Navy Women's Post; Henry Mori, editor of the Rafu Shimpo; Daniel Wong, service officer of the Chinese American post; Jim Howe, entertainment officer; W. J. Dea, sergeant-at-arms; and Shock Fong, chaplain. —Photo by Toyo Miyatake.

## Plan Campaign To Raise Fund For ADC Drive

Four Chapters Set To Be Reactivated in South California

LOS ANGELES—Campaigns to raise funds for the Anti-Discrimination Committee and the Legal Defense Fund of the Japanese American Citizens League will be initiated this week at a meeting of Issei supporters in Los Angeles, the southern California regional office of this JACL announced.

Four chapters in the southern California area are scheduled to reopen activity this month, the office also reported. The chapters and their reactivation dates have been tentatively set as follows:

Oxnard, Jan. 13-14; Long Beach, Jan. 15-16; Pasadena, Jan. 2-21; and West Los Angeles, Jan. 22-23.

Other important events taking place during January have been announced as follows:

Jan. 7—Counting of ballots in election of new Los Angeles JACL cabinet.

Jan. 8—Meeting of former CRDU representatives to discuss new finance committee and the Legal Defense Fund.

Jan. 9—Organization of Anti-Discrimination Committee.

Scotty Tsuchiya, special headquarters representative, will go to San Diego Jan. 10 to organize a campaign for the Anti-Discrimination Committee in that city.

## Kawano Participates In Negotiations on Longshore Contract

HONOLULU—Jack Kawano, recently reelected as president of the Honolulu Longshore local 137 of the CIO's ILWU, was one of three negotiators who were successful in obtaining a new wage contract for Honolulu longshoremen which is expected to embody a wage increase of 30 cents an hour.

The new wage rate of \$1.30 an hour is retroactive to Nov. 25.

Harry Bridges, ILWU president, and Henry Schmidt, member of the Pacific Coast longshore labor relations committee, and Kawano were the labor delegates at the negotiations.

## Portland JACL Will Open New Office

PORTLAND, Ore. — The Portland JACL has established an office in the Kraemer Bldg. at 206 S. W. Washington street.

The JACL office will be operated by a volunteer staff for the present, according to league officials.

## Distinguished Service Cross Given Posthumously to Nisei

FORT ORD, Calif.—The Distinguished Service Cross, the Army's second highest combat award, was presented posthumously last week to Pfc. Joe M. Nishimoto of the 442nd Combat Team for extraordinary heroism in action at La Houssiere, France on Nov. 7, 1944.

The presentation was made to the parents of the Nisei hero, Mr. and Mrs. Gijichi Nishimoto of Rt. 6, Box 572, Bowles, Calif. in a ceremony at Fort Ord.

Posthumous awards of the Silver Star for heroism and the Purple Heart were previously made to Nishimoto while his parents were still in an Arkansas relocation center.

The Distinguished Service Cross was conferred on Pfc. Nishimoto for his action in crawling through heavily-mined and booby-trapped terrain near La Houssiere on Nov. 7, 1944, to silence German machine gun nests.

Nishimoto was killed in action a week later.

The La Houssiere action occurred just after Nishimoto had participated in the liberation of the "lost battalion" of the 36th (Texas) Division by the Japanese American Combat Team in the Vosges Mountains.

Nashimoto's brother, Frank, a World War II veteran, and his sister, Maria, were with the parents at the presentation ceremony.

## Interned Enemy Aliens May Be Shipped Soon as Circuit Court Upholds Deportation Program

Decision in New York Case Will Affect 400 Japanese Aliens

NEW YORK—All interned enemy aliens in the United States, 305 Germans and 410 Japanese, face deportation to their homelands as a result of a decision on Jan. 2 by the United States Circuit Court of Appeals.

In upholding a ruling of Judge Simon H. Rifkind, the Court of Appeals for the 2nd Judicial District decided that only executive action was required to deport enemy aliens.

Stanley H. Lowell, Assistant United States Attorney, promptly announced that the government would fight any further effort to halt the mass deportations. The Immigration Service, he said, would be asked to arrange for shipping space "as efficaciously as possible."

The Japanese aliens now are interned at San Francisco pending shipment.

Mr. Lowell said that the government had made no effort to push the deportations while awaiting the Circuit Court decision. But with the unanimous decision of Justice Jerome N. Frank, Harrie B. Chase and Learned Hand in support of executive action, the United States, Lowell added, would delay no further in removing the citizens of nations with which it is still technically at war.

In announcing the government's decision to oppose a delay, Mr. Lowell reported that ample legal precedent existed for the Supreme Court to refuse a review. In a comparable case the court held, ac-

ording to Mr. Lowell, that the President and the Attorney General had full power to deport enemy aliens.

In the original decision last Aug. 6, Judge Rifkind contended that a government at war "is subject to few restrictions when dealing with enemy aliens." He traced this judicial interpretation back to 1798, and he said the Congress had bestowed on the President in time of war full power to remove enemy aliens without restriction.

This interpretation received the unanimous approval of the three Court of Appeals justices.

Mr. Lowell said deportation orders already had been issued on a large majority of enemy aliens. Others will be sifted through the repatriation boards. If a Supreme Court review is denied the last resort will be an attempt to appeal through executive channels.

The court test was brought by Herman Fred Schleuter, 31, New York City, through his attorney, David S. Kumble. Schleuter, a German alien, has been interned at Ellis Island.

Kumble is expected to ask the Supreme Court for a stay of deportation pending review.

Mr. Lowell indicated that the government's next step would be to turn over the deportation orders to the Immigration Service for action.

"We will do everything possible to ship them out right away," he said. All German nationals will clear through the Port of New York while the Japanese are expected to leave from San Francisco.

## Fighting Record of Nisei GIs Hailed by Gen. Cranston at Hood River Testimonial Fete

Mid-Columbia JACL Sponsors Dinner Dedicated To Memory of Frank Haychiya; People of Hood River Valley Join in Tribute to Nisei

HOOD RIVER, Ore.—The glorious fighting record of Japanese American servicemen in the European and Pacific theaters of war was retold by Brig. Gen. Joseph A. Cranston, assistant division commander at Fort Lewis, Wash., at the Mid-Columbia Japanese American Citizens League veterans testimonial banquet on Dec. 28.

The dinner was dedicated to the memory of Frank Hachiya, Nisei war hero, who died on Leyte in the Pacific campaign. The banquet also honored 84 Nisei from Hood River who served in the armed forces. Sixty-three of the men have since returned to the valley.

In a stirring message to the 150 guests present, Gen. Cranston told of the Nisei's war record. The first Nisei to serve in World War II fought on Dec. 7, 1941, at Pearl Harbor, Gen. Cranston said, and captured the first Japanese prisoner of war.

The answer to the question, "Can they be trusted?" was answered when over 20,000 Nisei volunteered before the draft was open to them, and the highest percentage came from the Pacific northwest, the army officer related.

Pointing out that the Nisei served courageously in the war against the Japanese, Gen. Cranston said, "Without their help it would have been impossible to get vital information. Not many Americans know it was these Nisei who broke the Japanese code. They were just as eager to fight the Japanese as they were to fight the Germans. There was Horizontal Hank (Sgt. Goshu), one of the great machine gunners of the war. It was General Kendall who said, 'I am proud to have served in command of Nisei units.'"

"The 442nd combat unit was superb in its training period," Gen. Cranston said, "and when it went into action in Italy in August, 1944, its performance was so outstanding that when General Montgomery expressed a desire to see the outstanding unit of the Arno river, it was the 442nd which was demonstrated and brought high praise from the British leader."

"At Salerno," Gen. Cranston said, "the 100th battalion fought a series of bitter actions under heavy German fire, and drove the enemy back across two rivers. It was the first unit to take German prisoners in that area, to capture a German tank and to put the Germans to flight in a bayonet charge. The 442nd finally fought its way up to Rome under extremely heavy fire and with heavy losses to themselves, but they won through."

Gen. Cranston noted the rescue of the "Lost Battalion" by units of the 442nd, and added that the men were later made "honorary Texans" for their courageous action. He concluded his speech with the statement: "These boys are home and they will make a great contribution to civil life. I am certain they will show the same fine de-

votion to the United States that they did in war. There should be no distinction between the Nisei and any other Americans who serve in the army of the United States. They have every right to say, 'I have fought a good fight; I have finished my course; I have kept the faith!'"

Ray Yasui served as toastmaster for the dinner, which was arranged by the following committee: Yukio Okimoto, general chairman; Kiyo Ogawa, decorations; Eiko Morikado, program; Bessie Watanabe, general details.

Among the guests present were Bob Barker, treasurer of the Apple Growers' Association, and Mrs. Barker; Hugh Ball, editor of the Hood River News; Mr. and Mrs. Henry Rodamer, whose home was the scene of Frank Hachiya's boyhood; Gordon Brown, USDA agent; Mr. and Mrs. Max Moore and Mr. and Mrs. Avon Sutton.

Veterans honored at the reception were Tsutomu Akita, George Akiyama, Noboru Akiyama, Saburo Akiyama, Gene Asai, Masaaki Asai, Taro Asai, Sho Endow II, Tatsuo Fujii, Hifumi Fukui, Kay Fukui, Minoru Hamada, Noboru Hamada, Shiro Hori, Hitoshi Imai, Shige Imai, Shiro Imai, Harry Inukai, Brooks Iwakiri, Iland Iwakiri, Harry Iwatsuki, Bob Kageyama, Hideo Kajikawa, Kinichi Kajita, Ted Kawachi, Fred Kinoshita, George Kinoshita.

Mam Kiyokawa, Janus Kurahara, Harry Morioka, Paul Morita, Isami Nakagawa, Kiyoshi Nakagawa, Manabu Nakagawa, Tetsu Nakamura, Isao Namba, Sagie Nishiooka, Koe Nishimoto, Mamoru Noji, Satoru Noji, Henry Norimatsu, Masao Ogawa, Harold Okimoto, Katsumi Sato, Victor Sato, George Shitara, Setsu Shitara, Hiroshi Sumida, Harry Takagi, Nobuo Takasumi, Yori Tambara, George Tameno.

Harry Tamura, Taylor Tomita, Harry Toda, Eichi Wakamatsu, Johnny Wakamatsu, George Watanabe, Bill Yamaki, Shig Yamaki, Roky Yasui, Masami Yoshinari and Kay Yumibe.

Men in service: Henry Akiyama, Masami Asai, Toru Hasegawa, Takeshi Hori, Sigeo Kiyokawa, Hugh Kumasawa, Claude Morita, Clifford Nakamura, Mark Namba, Willie Norimatsu, Bob Okamura, Tomio Sumoge, Robert Takagi, Fred Takasumi, Ned Takasumi, Yoshi Takasumi, Shoji Tamiyasu, Oscar Tamura, George Tsutsumi, James Wakamatsu and Toshio Yumibe.

## Kenny Objects to Legal Action By JACL, ACLU on Schools

LOS ANGELES—Attorney General Robert W. Kenny last week sharply criticized the American Civil Liberties Union and the Japanese American Citizens League for naming him in a school segregation suit.

Kenny said he was the only attorney general in the United States who had filed a brief defending a suit against segregation in Orange County schools.

"I think it is a completely outrageous and preposterous thing," Kenny said. "It puts me in an entirely false light. I object to being named personally in a suit of this type because it contends I am in favor of segregation in the schools. My filing of a brief in the Orange county schools case makes it clear I hold such segregation completely unconstitutional."

These statutes in question were passed by the California legislature in 1943 and permit school boards to establish separate schools for children of Japanese, Chinese, Mongolian and American Indian descent.

Attorney Fred Okrand of Los Angeles, representing the organizations which had filed the suit in behalf of Takeo Aratani, son of Mr. and Mrs. Shigemitsu Aratani, declared no personal offense was meant against Kenny, but that the suit was directed against the office of the attorney general.

Okrand and A. L. Wirin, special counsel for the JACL, dismissed the suit, declaring that the "immediate purpose of the case has been achieved." In dismissing the suit, Wirin noted that Attorney General Kenny had expressed his official opinion that the law is unconstitutional.

## Portland, Hood River Joint Meet Planned

PORTLAND, Ore. — Plans are being made by the Portland JACL for a joint social meeting with members of the Mid-Columbia (Hood River) chapter of the JACL later this month in conjunction with the "March of Dimes" drive.

# PACIFIC CITIZEN



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LARRY TAJIRI ..... EDITOR

## EDITORIALS:

### Western Command

The War Department's repudiation of the racial theories of Lieut. Gen. John L. DeWitt, commander of the military defense of the Pacific Coast at the time of the outbreak of war, was evident in the appointment in 1945 of General Joseph Stilwell to the post once held by Gen. DeWitt.

The sweeping measures taken by Gen. DeWitt early in 1942 in the name of military security, the evacuation and incarceration of American citizens on the basis of race and ancestry without trial or hearing, are now regarded in many quarters as the worst mistake in the conduct of the war at home.

Gen. DeWitt's public statements ascribed disloyal traits to persons of Japanese ancestry in the United States on the basis of race and ancestry, rather than on fact and evidence. His statements on Japanese Americans were such as "to encourage racist organizations in their campaigns to prevent the return of the evacuees to the West Coast."

It is a significant expression of a change in the War Department's attitude that Gen. Delos C. Emmons, who was in command in Hawaii following the attack on Pearl Harbor and who did not evacuate the territory's population of Japanese ancestry, was appointed as a successor to Gen. DeWitt on the West Coast. Later Gen. Stilwell was appointed and his presence was an important factor in insuring the safe return of the evacuees to the evacuated areas.

This week the War Department announced the appointment of Gen. Mark W. Clark, commander of United States occupation forces in Austria, as commander of the military forces on the Pacific Coast. Although Gen. Clark's appointment obviously had nothing to do with his attitude on Japanese Americans, it does provide a thumbnail sketch on the change in the War Department's attitude. The man who is credited with saying "a Jap's a Jap" in reference to the Nisei now has as a successor a man who said regarding Japanese Americans while commanding the Fifth Army:

"You are always thinking of your country before yourselves. You have never complained through your long periods in the line. You have written a brilliant chapter in the history of the fighting men of America. The 34th Division is proud of you, the Fifth Army is proud of you, and the whole United States is proud of you."

### Discrimination by Law

In the state of California a man cannot, if he be of Japanese birth, engage in fishing, either commercially or for sports. In the state of Utah he can fish, but he cannot buy agricultural property. In the state of New York the same person cannot be a chauffeur, and in Illinois or Ohio he cannot sell insurance as a regular insurance agent.

These discrepancies and inequities of the law are all based upon lack of citizenship, or ineligibility to citizenship. Thus, while some states deny certain rights to aliens, most persons of other than Japanese ancestry can apply for citizenship and become naturalized according to the laws of this country. But aliens of Japanese ancestry are specifically denied the right of naturalization.

The right to make a living in the occupation for which one is trained, however, is not the only thing denied aliens of Japanese descent. Because of exclusion laws passed

against persons of Oriental ancestry, such discrimination as the following come to pass:

An American soldier of Japanese descent, if he marry a Japanese woman, cannot bring her to this country under regular immigration quotas. An American soldier of Japanese descent in the European theater, however, may bring home a German or French or Italian bride.

A Japanese national, though he has served for the past four years for the United States government in work directly concerned with the defeat of the Japanese, can be deported to Japan as an "undesirable alien," and because of his Japanese race he has no recourse to deportation stays provided for persons of other ancestry.

Discriminatory citizenship and immigration statutes in the past have made it possible for the state of California to escheat valuable farm property from American soldiers of Japanese ancestry on the grounds such property was acquired by alien parents; have denied welfare and relief aid to persons of Japanese birth, despite the fact that through taxation they have helped provide such funds; have closed many professions and businesses to aliens and citizens of Japanese ancestry; have permitted discrimination in civil service and public works projects.

These varied discriminations are all contingent upon our laws on immigration and naturalization. They can be wiped out only by a sweeping revision in such statutes as to permit the naturalization and immigration of persons of Japanese birth on the same basis as other persons.

### Hawaiian Statehood

This may be the year in which the Territory of Hawaii will realize its long-coveted ambition to become the 49th state. As the 80th Congress sessions were opened eight bills were introduced in the House of Representatives alone to grant statehood to Hawaii. The first one was offered by Hawaii's own Delegate Farrington and was appropriately given No. 49 by House clerks. In the Senate a companion bill to the Farrington measure was introduced by Senator William Knowland of California.

Hawaiian statehood is of particular interest to Japanese Americans because of the fact that, in previous years, the discussion of the question has revolved around two issues, the territory's non-contiguity to the mainland and the subject of the Japanese American population. Much of the opposition against Hawaiian statehood traditionally has come from such white supremacist groups as the Native Sons and Daughters of the Golden West, who have sought to make an issue of the Japanese American question.

Hawaii's Japanese Americans, because of their conduct during the war, no longer are a subject for debate. The visit of the Larcade subcommittee of the House of Representatives in January, 1946, laid the Japanese American issue to rest, once and for all.

Hawaii's Japanese Americans, the San Francisco Chronicle editorialized last week, "gave proof of loyalty which may be measured by its blind, armless and legless veterans as well as by the high contribution of life." The Chronicle's advocacy of Hawaii's ambitions is representative of prevailing opinion on the West Coast, whose people, with the exception of such racist diehards as represented by the Native Sons, have been shown to favor statehood.

Because of the fact that the Japanese issue has been raised in the past in Congress to block Hawaiian statehood, the Larcade subcommittee paid special attention to the question and found that "the people of Hawaii have demonstrated beyond question their loyalty and patriotism to the government of the United States."

"In the record of their behavior and their participation in the war, American citizens of Japanese ancestry can be little criticized," the Larcade report added. The committee said that fears among some people that persons of Japanese ancestry might form a "bloc" under statehood were to be discounted.

"Such evidence of 'bloc voting' as exists among Americans of Japanese ancestry is not likely to assume serious proportions in our opinion, because they, like all other peoples, are divided amongst themselves by differences political, social and economic," the report said.

Bi-partisan Congressional interest this year indicates that the people of Hawaii may attain finally the status of statehood, for which the territory long has been worthy.

# Nisei USA

by LARRY TAJIRI

## Man With the Laughing Heart

The talk got around to premature anti-fascists the other night. A premature anti-fascist is one who foresaw the menace of fascist aggression, both European and Japanese, long before Dec. 7, 1941; when anti-fascism became, for a time, the official policy of our nation.

FDR was a premature anti-fascist and he will be remembered in history.

There were also a lot of anonymous premature anti-fascists. Some of them were killed in battles which were fought and forgotten months and years before the world war against fascism became an official war.

More than 600 Americans of Japanese ancestry are listed in the records of the War Department among the 100,000 American war dead of World War II. The name of Jack Shirai will not be listed among these Nisei dead; but he died in the same war, a war which did not end with V-E day and V-J day, but which goes on wherever people fight for liberty.

Jack Shirai was a premature anti-fascist.

The bullet which drilled Jack Shirai in the head and killed him instantly on a burning July day at Brunete in Spain in 1937 was a fascist bullet, fired by a Franco gunner with the blessings of Hitler and Mussolini.

Jack Shirai was one of some 3000 Americans who fought for the Spanish Loyalists as members of the Abraham Lincoln Battalion and the International Brigade. Few Nisei have heard of him, but the Nisei can be proud.

Jack Shirai was a common, ordinary guy, working in a New York restaurant and active in the affairs of his trade union. He liked to laugh and drink beer with his friends. Sometimes on those summer nights when the heat would lie like an oppressive blanket on the city, he would quarrel with his wife, but they would be quickly reconciled. If he had a political philosophy it was an exceedingly simple one—that all men should be free.

He was just an ordinary American, living in a fateful year, 1936, when the shape of things to come was being resolved in Europe where Hitler and Mussolini were flexing their muscles and in Japan where the warmakers were making their plans for the domination of Asia. In the United States, however, the 100,000 men and women who would be dead within ten years as a direct result of fascist aggression and the ten million others who were to play an important role in the defeat of international fascism were living the ordinary lives of ordinary people. Some were still in school, many still in the elementary grades. Others, like Jack Shirai, were working for a living in a country which had just weathered an economic depression and were getting ready to give President Roosevelt a tremendous vote of confidence, only Maine and Vermont dissenting.

The news of the fascist revolt in Spain on July 17, 1936, made little impression on the everyday lives of the American people. Spain was far away. But soon more and more Americans began to see the issues more clearly. The fascist-monarchist revolt against the democratic government of the Spanish people was led by Gen. Francisco Franco and was supported by German and Italian arms and planes and later by German and Italian military personnel. Spain was to be the dress rehearsal for World War II, the fascist drive for world domination.

Jack Shirai learned that Americans quietly were being recruited to fight as members of an international brigade of anti-fascists for democratic Spain. The International Brigade, when finally organized, included anti-fascist Germans, Poles, Italians, Czechs, Canadians, Frenchmen, Belgians and Englishmen besides Americans of all races, colors and creeds. The American volunteers included men from all fields and professions. The first commander of the Abraham Lincoln Battalion was a young economics instructor from the University of California named Robert Hale Merriman, who had once played end on the University of Nevada's football team. Major Merriman, who led his men in

house-to-house and hand-to-hand fighting, was one of the first Americans to die.

Jack Shirai was accepted and shipped to Europe on a freighter with other volunteers. The official American stand on Spain was one of absolute neutrality, a policy which weakened the Spanish Republic since the fascist rebels were getting open assistance from Germany and Italy. The American volunteers were forced to reach Spain by roundabout and devious routes, Jack Shirai's group arrived in Spain late in 1936.

Jack Shirai was in besieged Madrid on Christmas day. He took part in a Christmas day broadcast from Madrid to the free peoples of the world, asking their assistance in the fight for Spanish democracy. Jack Shirai is reported to have said on the radio that he represented men of Japanese ancestry who hated fascism and that he was fighting in their name.

The Abraham Lincoln battalion was trained and organized at Albacete in the early spring of 1937. Jack Shirai, who wanted to be a machine-gunner, was ordered to become the quartermaster's assistant because of his experience in restaurant work. He helped set up the field mess for the battalion. The Lincoln Battalion went into action in the bloody fighting in the Jarama Valley. Several times Jack Shirai went AWOL from kitchen duty to fight at the front and each time he was ordered back with the admonition that his job was as important as that of any man in the battalion.

Ready to laugh or fight, Jack Shirai became known as "the man with the laughing heart." He became one of the most popular members of the battalion.

In the early summer of 1937 there still was hope of intervention by the United States, Britain and France on the side of the Spanish Loyalists and there was a realization in the ranks of the Lincoln Battalion, rested from a long siege in the Jarama trenches, that the Brunete offensive might be the "tomb of European fascism." The Brunete offensive was launched by Loyalist units, including the Abraham Lincoln and Washington battalions, on July 6. The Americans suffered heavy losses and the two battalions soon lost half their men and were consolidated. The Loyalists could not cope with the fascist control of the air, Franco's forces utilizing the latest German and Italian developments in air power.

Jack Shirai, who had said that he had come to Spain to fight and not to cook, got his chance to go to the front. He became a machine gunner and a good one. And he was killed in action by a bullet through the head, his arms full of his machine gun.

Today, ten years later, Franco the fascist is still the dictator of Spain, although his friends, Hitler and Mussolini, are dead and unmourned. Franco is now making noises like a democrat, but Jack Shirai would not have been fooled. Six years after Jack Shirai's death another Nisei saw the insides of a Franco prison camp. His name is Ben Kuroki and he was a gunner on an American Liberator. The war against fascism was officially on then, but Spain and Sgt. Kuroki saw Italian and German planes being fueled at a Franco airport with American gasoline. Sgt. Kuroki got away from Spain to fight against the fascists in Europe and in the Pacific and later against native fascists in his own United States. But Jack Shirai remains behind in Spain.

The name of Jack Shirai is remembered by all the men who fought with him in the Lincoln Battalion and lived to come home. They hope that the Nisei will learn the story of Jack Shirai and will remember the name.

### Red Cross Messages

Messages from Japan for seven former residents of Topaz and Salt Lake City are now being held at the Red Cross, Beason bldg., Salt Lake City.

The messages are for Kitosozo Kobo, Sumi Kozaki Kozo Nishibata, Shigeo Tokunaga, Harue Tanabe, Tetsuo Henry Yamaguchi and Kanichi.







