



## MAS HIRONAKA RE-ELECTED HEAD OF PSW DISTRICT

EDC-MDC Proposal  
or Civil Rights Fund  
Approved 'In Principle'

CULVER CITY — Masaaki Hironaka of San Diego, a route supervisor for the Post Office Department, was elected to his third consecutive term as chairman of the Pacific Southwest District Council here Sunday.

With him, the rest of his cabinet members were re-elected: Ronald Shiozaki (Gardena), v.c.; Mike H. Shimizu (Venice-Culver), treas.; and Frances Ishii (Long Beach), sec. Appointment of other district board members to various committee chairmanships will follow.

Elected to two-year terms on the board were Miss Ishii, Mrs. Mable Yoshizaki (East L.A.), Clarence Nishizu (Orange County), Akira Ohno (West L.A.), Mas Shimatsu (Southwest L.A.), Kats Arimoto (San Fernando), and Alan Kumamoto (Downtown L.A.). The first four named were re-elected to the board. Outgoing board members were Mark Kiguchi (SWLA), Sam Ueyehara (SFV) and Katsuma Mukae (DTLA).

Holdover members serving one more year are Mike Hida (Santa Barbara), Fred Taomae (Hollywood), Henry Kanegae (Orange County), Ken Dyo (Pasadena), Shimizu, Hironaka and Shiozaki.

### 1964 Meeting Dates

The district also set the 1964 calendar of meeting dates. Arizona JACL will host the first quarterly at Ramada Inn, Feb. 8-9, at Phoenix. The Chapter of the Year award will be presented at this session.

The May session at San Diego will be a pre-convention rally at which time the district oratorical contest will be conducted. The winner will be sent to the finals at Detroit. The PSWDC Hi-Co will assist in the oratoricals, the theme being "JACL and Civil Rights". The same theme was announced for the National JACL essay contest.

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## INTERMOUNTAIN YOUTH PREPARE FOR SECOND BIENNIAL CONVENTION

BY GEORGIA SAIBARA

BOISE, Idaho. — Intermountain District Youth Council will stage its second biennial convention here Nov. 29-30 at the Owyhee Hotel in conjunction with the IDC convention.

The Jr. JACL delegates will elect new IDYC officers, present a fashion show, a talent show and special meetings for the youth. Boise Valley Jr. JACL is hosting the youth assembly with Iris Ogasawa, president, in charge.

Further discussion on the organization of a national Jr. JACL, its program and projects for the coming year for IDYC is on the business agenda.

Package plan for IDYC delegates costs \$17.50, which includes admission to the events listed above, plus the Opening Ceremony luncheon and gala Sayonara Ball and Banquet.

### Speaks on civil rights

NEW YORK. — National JACL Legal Counsel and 3rd vice-president William M. Marutani of Philadelphia addressed the women's fellowship and business & professional club of the Japanese American United Church of Christ last week discussing "Civil Rights and the Nisei". It was the first local public expression by a Nisei on the subject.

### Holiday Issue

Deadline for the 1963 Holiday Issue for all stories, chapter reports, contributions from youth, display advertising and one-line greetings is Nov. 30.

In some instances, chapters have asked for an extension until Dec. 7 and this has been allowed. We want the chapters to have whatever time is necessary to make certain those who extended their greetings in previous years have been contacted to renew their advertising in the 1963 Holiday Issue, which will come off the press Dec. 20.

Cooperation of the chapters in making this year's Holiday Issue another successful venture by turning in their stories and advertising by the end of this month — and by Dec. 7 if requested — is highly appreciated by the staff.

## West Coast Nisei leaders hear grievances, but don't make any, at regional conference of Equal Employment Opportunity



ROBERT TAYLOR, JR. (CENTER), EXECUTIVE vice-chairman of President's Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity, and John Yoshino (right), deputy director, field service for PCEEO, confer with Art Takei, Wilbur Sato and Tak Kubota on job problems confronting minorities based on race at an all-day conference. Kubota is the chairman of the JACL committee on equal employment opportunity. Rafu Shimpo Photo

LOS ANGELES. — If the 30 or more Japanese American leaders of the state who were invited to the regional conference of the President's Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity were expected to air any grievances of job discrimination, it was not made apparent.

The conference, held at the Ambassador Hotel Nov. 14, was attended by more than 1,000 from the five south western states.

The Negro and Mexican Americans were most vocal during the morning session panel workshops on specific topics.

Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson, chairman of the President's Committee, told the overflow luncheon that the answer to job discrimination is not to promote minority groups but to make everyone a member of a huge majority group.

"What we really seek," the Vice

President said, "... and I believe what really lies in all our hearts—is a system where all of us from the standpoint of opportunity are in the majority, and there is no doubt in my mind that when artificial barriers are removed, we will find that all of us are in the majority after all—as Americans."

### No Nisei Questioners

Frank Chuman, chairman of the Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission, reported there were no questions posed by the Nisei to his panel on business and industry. He himself did not touch upon the Nisei, but John Anson Ford, California FEPC chairman, did pay high tribute to the Nisei, touching on their record in wartime, employment and in government. Ford mentioned the 442nd and added that many Nisei are in high government posts.

Another reference to the Nisei

was made on the same panel when Carlos F. Borja, Jr., president of the Council of Mexican American Affairs, stated that the equal employment fight was for all persons, including the Orientals.

Art Takei, executive board member of Local 770's Retail Clerks International, on the panel discussing the role of unions reported there were no Nisei questioners, but told of the subtle forms of bias against Japanese Americans.

### Supermarket Picture

Of the Nisei employed in supermarket chains, more than 90 per cent are confined to produce departments and have no chance for advancement. There are very few Nisei managers, supervisors or executives in the supermarkets, he said.

Floyd Pierce, Intergroup Relations coordinator of the State Div. of Apprentices Training, said there is an increase of Orientals taking apprenticeship training for various trades.

The Rev. William Shinto, Evergreen Baptist Church pastor, on the community group responsibility panel, noted there were many Nisei attending the workshop but none stood up to ask questions. He himself did not touch on the Japanese community either.

His topic, he said, was on the role of churches and he did not touch on Nisei churches. Though the Japanese have problems, they do not have any specific problems which cry for immediate attention, he added.

And this was apparent in the other panels covering housing, education, government as an employer and international affairs.

### Segregated Housing

In the workshop on housing, panelist Wilbur Sato, Gardena attorney, noted that Japanese Americans have integrated well in Gardena, belonging to the service clubs and active in civic and community affairs.

A Negro questioner charged that having done so, the Japanese Americans in Gardena are vitally working to keep the Negroes out. Sato replied that it was dangerous to make generalizations. It is true any group as its good and the bad, but there are many Japanese

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## WASEDA HIKERS COMPLETE CROSS-COUNTRY TOUR

NEW YORK. — The five Waseda University students hiking cross country from San Francisco arrived here "safe and sound" on Nov. 14—their 21st day since leaving the Golden Gate city on foot Mar. 18.

During their eight-month journey, they visit over 200 cities, towns and communities, many in areas rarely visited by Japanese. The hikers got to New York almost a month ahead of schedule they had planned before leaving Tokyo.

They now plan to motor back to Los Angeles.

## Linc Shimidzu heads Chicago JACL

CHICAGO. — Lincoln Shimidzu was elected chairman of the Chicago JACL board and will be installed at the gala 19th annual Inaugural dinner-dance Nov. 30, 6:30 p.m. at the Belden Stratford Hotel. Mark Yoshizumi is the outgoing chairman.

Shimidzu will head a 20-member board, MDC Chairman Dr. H. James Takao of Cincinnati will install the officers. Joining the ceremonies will be the new Chicago Jr. JACL cabinet headed by Diana Yamada.

Elected for a three-year term as Chicago JACL Reserve Fund trustees were Sat Takemoto and Hiro Mayeda.

Fuki Odanaka, in charge of arrangements, will be assisted by Esther Hagiwara, Masako Inouye, Tomomi Kakita, Chive Tomihira, Sumi Miyaki and Mark Yoshizumi.

WATSONVILLE. — Tak Higuchi was elected 1964 president of the Watsonville JACL. The chapter will install the new cabinet Dec. 1, 6 p.m., at a dinner-dance to be held at the Elks Lodge here. Mas Taudama is general chairman.

NEW YORK. — Marion Glaeser was elected to serve the unexpired portion of Roy Kurahara's term as president of the New York JACL at a chapter board meeting held at Suehiro's Nov. 8.

Four new members elected to the board for a two-year term and four additional members will be selected by the board to bring the total board membership to 12.

## CIVIL RIGHTS CHIEF TOPIC FOR CCDC CONVENTION

Okura, Chuman, Satow  
To Discuss JACL  
Policy on Question

FRESNO. — An agenda worked out for the forthcoming convention here of the Central California District Council of the Japanese American Citizens League indicates civil rights will be a major topic.

At least three top JACL officers are expected to discuss the civil rights issue during the Dec. 7-8 sessions here.

They are K. Patrick Okura of Omaha, Neb., national JACL president; Los Angeles Attorney Frank Chuman, immediate past president, and National Director Masao Satow of San Francisco.

Officers point out the JACL is divided on its position and that some members feel the organization should no longer continue as a minority group.

### Council's Position

The CCDC's official position is that "equal civil rights can be legislated, and should be obtained for all Americans, regardless of color or creed, in conformity with the basic principle upon which our country exists."

"On the other hand, social or community acceptance cannot be legislated for any group or segment of the American population. This is an individual matter. Color or creed cannot, and should not, protect an individual from his own failing, nor should it endow him with virtues he does not possess."

Satow will speak at the Saturday afternoon sessions. The council's nominating committee also will announce candidates for 1964.

Chuman and Okura are to speak Sunday, when the officers also will be elected.

### Fashion Show Planned

Mrs. Cora Goshiki, a member of the Fresno chapter, will direct a fashion show Sunday afternoon.

Superior Judge John F. Aiso of Los Angeles will be the principal speaker at the concluding dinner session Sunday night. A mass installation of the council officers and officers of the district's 10 chapters also will be part of the

(Continued on Page 2)

## Inferiority feelings among white, Negroes viewed as root of racial discrimination

SAN DIEGO. — Racial discrimination stems from inferiority feeling among both whites and Negroes, a psychiatrist and a psychologist told the Southern California Psychiatric convention here last week.

"Caucasians who have a basic feeling of inferiority cope with it by projecting the Negro into a false position of inferiority," Dr. Bernard Teitel, chief of the psychiatric section of Long Beach Memorial Hospital, and Dr. George Demos, Long Beach State College Dean of Counseling and Testing, declared in a joint paper.

The Caucasian sets up an emotional defense so he doesn't have to face up to his own sense of inferiority, which may result from having been subjected to severe emotional deprivations in childhood, they said.

Those gripped with feelings of inadequacy are likely to use as scapegoats others who are different in some way, according to Drs. Teitel and Demos.

"In certain cultures, as in the South, racial myths of Negro inferiority have become institutionalized to reinforce the social economic and political system and to maintain the status-quo," they contended.

"The resultant paradox is that the Negro raised in this system consciously or unconsciously accepts this myth of inferiority, resulting in an Uncle Tomism under which the Negro often gives up his struggle and accepts this role for security while deep within him an underlying rage is going on."

Actually, the Negro possesses the same potentialities and capacities as whites, and experiences the same basic emotional needs and reactions, Drs. Teitel and Demos said.

## Sacramento organizations to honor Judge Sakuma

SACRAMENTO. — Newly-appointed Judge Mamoru Sakuma of the Sacramento Municipal Court will be honored by the VFW Post 8985, Hiroshima Kenjinkai and the Sacramento JACL at a testimonial dinner Dec. 5, 6:30 p.m., at the Wakanoura.

As seating will be limited, friends were advised by Ralph Nishimi, Sacramento JACL president, to secure reservations early. Tickets may be secured at \$5 per person from:

Maaki Realty, 1404 Fourth St. (GI 1-2108), G.T. Sakai Co. 220 Q St. (HI 6-2908), Senator Fish Market, 2215 Tenth St. (443-5042).

## Japan Air Lines to buy U.S. supersonic planes

TOKYO. — Japan Air Lines announced this week their plans to purchase five American-made supersonic transports, the SST, and will shortly deposit \$500,000 with the U.S. Federal Aviation Agency.

Price of the SST with a top speed of Mach 2.2 will be about \$15,000,000. Delivery is expected by 1972.



HARRY G. MATOBA, Mille-Hi JACL Board member, and 20-year supporter of the JACL and Kika Kisei Domei, at extreme left, receives citation for meritorious service in teaching citizenship for 12 years to various Nisei classes, from Robert Long, secretary of the United Veterans Council of the Denver metropolitan area. Cathy Post 185, American Legion, members looking on are Yosh Arai, Tom Hikiida, Ben Murakami, and George J. Sakato, all past commanders of the local post.

—Tom T. Masamori Photo.

## Harry Matoba, Americanization instructor for past 12 years in Denver, honored

(Special to Pacific Citizen)

DENVER. — Harry G. Matoba, of 162 S. Stuart St., Denver, was honored by the United Veterans Council, and presented with a Certificate of Community Service, for conducting citizenship classes among the Japanese during the past 12 years in Denver.

Matoba, a native of Japan, came to the U.S. in 1914 at the age of 17, and resided in Seattle and Portland until evacuation in 1942. He attended schools in Seattle and Portland, and became an accountant prior to World War II. During evacuation, he and his family were sent to the Minidoka WRA Center in Idaho, from which he relocated to Brigham, Utah, where he was employed as a bookkeeper in a canning factory.

Shortly after the cessation of hostilities in the Pacific, his eldest son, Michio Matoba, was invalided back home from active service with the U.S. Army and was hospitalized at Fitzsimons General Hospital in Denver, Colo. During the long illness of his son, Matoba and his family moved to Denver. Michio passed away in October, 1947.

Thereafter, Matoba established a bookkeeping and accounting of-

fice and travel bureau in Denver, Colo. Inasmuch as he had suffered inequities because of his lack of United States citizenship and because he had given a son to America, Matoba joined the JACL drive to gain citizenship for Japanese Issei, and faithfully assisted the Kika Kisei Domei in the Rocky Mountain region in the drive for a naturalization law.

During this period he was active in supporting JACL programs. After the enactment of the 1952 Immigration and Nationality Law, Matoba applied for naturalization when the question of service in the U.S. Army during World War was administratively ruled by INS officials to constitute a bar against naturalization by Japanese Issei.

Matoba carried a test case into the U.S. District Court in Denver, and together with a companion case arising in San Francisco, was successful in obtaining a declaration of the U.S. court ruling that failure of active service during World War I did not constitute a bar against naturalization as a United States citizen, so far as it pertained to Japanese Issei.

### 500 Issei Aided

Thereafter, Matoba was active in assisting and organizing classes for citizenship among the Japanese Issei in the Denver area. During the past 12 years, it is estimated that he has assisted more than 500 Issei in this region to become United States citizens.

In recognition of his public service, the United Veterans Council, an organization of all veteran organizations in the metropolitan Denver area, presented Harry G. Matoba with its citation of outstanding community service, as a highlight of the annual Veteran's Day parade, Nov. 11, in front of the Municipal Building. Governor John A. Love of Colorado and Denver Mayor Tom Curran joined in the presentation ceremonies.

Diplomat Confirmed: U.S.-born Satoru Takahashi, 30, was confirmed by the Japanese cabinet to be its ambassador to South Vietnam, replacing Tokichi Tokano, the Kyodo News Agency reported recently.



JOHN YASUMOTO (left) receives the gavel from James Murakami (right) after being elected NC-WNDC Chairman at the Fourth Quarterly meeting hosted by the San Mateo Chapter on Nov. 3. Yasumoto was the secretary of the District during the past year and served as the president of the San Francisco Chapter for two years in 1960-61. He is an engineer at the local Naval Shipyard and originally hailed from Sanger, Calif. An outstanding athlete during his college days, John is now presently active in many civic organizations and is a leader in his Buddhist Church and a past president of the YBA, Murakami, an architect by profession, has also been president of the Sonoma County Chapter before assuming the post of Chairman of the NC-WNDC for the past year.

—Steve Doi Photo.

## JACL MEMBERSHIP TOPS 17,500; SAN JOSE LEADS

1963 Figures Higher  
Than 1962 Despite  
Increase in Dues

SAN FRANCISCO. — The 1963 national JACL membership, as of Nov. 1, was 17,508 — nearly 300 more than the 1962 total despite \$1 increase in national dues from \$2 to \$3 this year.

(Mas Satow's column this week reports current membership to be 17,525 with prospects of an even greater sum after 1969 Club memberships are credited.)

San Jose JACL paces the chapters with 1,905, topping San Francisco JACL by one. San Francisco has been topping the 1,000 mark for the past five years. Last year San Jose had 950.

Dr. Tom Taketa, San Jose chapter president, credited the chapter's excellent Blue Cross health insurance plan as a major reason for increasing membership. The chapter also attempts to meet its quota on regular membership rather than 1969 Club contributions.

Watsonville JACL, which also started a Blue Cross plan, more than doubled its membership this year with 350.

### 1964 Drive Started

As the 1964 membership drive has started, the current 1963 figure will be about the total for the year. Outside of late reports from some chapters, only additions will be for 1969 Club renewals through December.

According to Jack Mayeda, JACL administrative assistant at National Headquarters, 45 chapters have received shipments of 1964 membership cards. These were sent to chapters which have designated their 1964 membership chairman.

## Tacoma housing law certified for March referendum

TACOMA. — Opponents of Tacoma's tough new open housing ordinance last week submitted enough valid signatures to force a referendum on the measure.

City Clerk Josephine Melton said the referendum would be certified to the City Council at its regular meeting Tuesday.

Local attorney Jack Tanner, northwest president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), said he would "definitely take some sort of legal action to keep that ordinance on the books."

Mrs. Melton said that her staff verified about 4,500 of the more than 16,000 signatures on referendum petitions. Only 4,257 valid signatures were necessary to validate the referendum.

The rest of the names will not be checked, Mrs. Melton said, because "the city charter only requires us to show that there are sufficient signatures."

Under the provisions of the city charter, the council will be required to either repeal the ordinance outright or place it on the city election ballot next March.

The ordinance, one of the most strict in the nation, prohibits all forms of racial discrimination in the sale and rental of housing. Violators could be sent to jail.

The Puyallup Valley JACL is on record in support of the new ordinance.

### Membership Chairman

Even though chapters may not elect new officers before this year is up, the immediate appointment of a 1964 membership chairman is requested so that necessary membership campaign material may be dispatched without delay.

The name and address of the 1964 membership chairman should be forwarded to National Headquarters, 1634 Post St., San Francisco 15, as soon as possible. The new JACL membership cards are ready.

DR. DAVID MIURA  
National Chairman  
Membership Committee

## NOTICES

### Early deadline next issue

Because of Thanksgiving Day next week, the Pacific Citizen will be printed one day earlier (Tuesday afternoon) and mailed on Wednesday. Deadline for all material will be Nov. 25.



**PACIFIC CITIZEN**  
PUBLISHED WEEKLY EXCEPT THE LAST WEEK OF THE YEAR.  
125 Weller St., Rm. 302, Los Angeles 12, Calif., MA 6-4471

JACL Headquarters: 1024 Post St., San Francisco 15, Calif.  
Washington Office: 918 - 14th St. NW, Washington 5, D.C.  
Except for the Director's Report, opinions expressed by columnists do not necessarily reflect JACL policy.

Subscription Rate: \$4 per year (payable in advance).  
(If of JACL membership dues is for a year's subscription to PC.)  
Airmail: \$10 additional per year. Foreign: \$16 per year.  
Entered as 2nd Class Matter in Post Office, Los Angeles, Calif.

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## Ye Editor's Desk

### EQUAL EMPLOYMENT

Though the Nisei attending the regional conference of the President's Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity were quiet observers by not airing any specific grievances of job discrimination, it does not mean that Nisei have a clean bill of health when it comes to job opportunities.

The fact that Nisei community leaders invited to the regional conference were not moved to "sound off," or were even prepared to do so, indicates the subtlety of discrimination against the Nisei in general. Undoubtedly, many a Nisei knows of personal instances of a Nisei who should have been promoted "upstairs," but factors other than merit came into play. It may not appear to the Nisei as "open" discrimination because of race—but the Nisei or the African American would have sensed it.

Perhaps too many of us believe we're part of the Anglo majority. Or is it that the Nisei feel too humble about themselves and their ability?

But those Nisei attending were grateful to the President's Committee for the opportunity to meet with other minority group leaders and hear their problems first hand—and we certainly got an earful.

JACL has established a national committee on equal employment opportunities with Tak Kubota, national 2nd vice-president, of Seattle as chairman. It is ready to gather whatever information there is of job discrimination against a Nisei.

### MANY HAPPY RETURNS

Friends of Dr. and Mrs. Thomas T. Yatabe gathered in Chicago last Sunday to celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary. A new generation of JACLers has come on the scene and may not know that "Doc" is the elder statesman and the "grand-daddy" of JACL—but perhaps they will join those of us who know Tom and his wife (nee Mary Tomura of Santa Rosa) in wishing them "many happy returns" on their anniversary after realizing the significance of Dr. Yatabe's leadership in weld the emerging Nisei Americans of his time.

### EEO confab -

(Continued from Front Page)

Americans who are working for civil rights. And he named the JACL as one group.

Among the Nisei attending were Tak Kubota of Seattle, National JACL chairman of the equal employment opportunities committee; Dr. Scott Miyakawa, Japanese History Project director; PSWDC chairman Mas Hironaka, immediate past NC-WNDC chairman James Murakami; PC Board chairman Dr. Roy Nishikawa; many JACL chapter presidents, attorneys and ministers.

Born in San Francisco, Doc remembers the attempt of the city fathers to force all Orientals to attend segregated schools in 1907. Unlike the Chinese, the Japanese were scattered all over the city. The Issei refused to send their children to a segregated school and eventually it became an international issue before it was settled at the intervention of President Theodore Roosevelt.

The story of Dr. Yatabe's contribution toward formation of the American Loyalty League, forerunner of the Japanese American Citizens League, started in 1919—a year after he finished Dental College and was among the meager handful of "older" Nisei in the Bay Area who were already bumping against discrimination and sought to remedy the situation.

This group soon realized that the American public had to be educated. They knew the political value of the vote.

Three years later, Dr. Yatabe was established with a growing dental practice in Fresno. There he found the Issei faced with a rising number of discriminatory acts and ordinances. The alien land law was in effect. The "yellow peril" movement stirred furiously.

Sensing the need for a united effort, Dr. Yatabe plunged into action by organizing the young Nisei in the area with the helpful support of their Issei parents. This compelling force on Doc's part was to become a lifetime of devotion and sacrifice to the purposes, ideals and traditions of JACL.

In due time, Nisei leaders in other communities were contacted and a statewide meeting of all Nisei groups was called in San Francisco in May, 1923. This historic meeting resulted in the formation of 15 chapters throughout northern and central California. Doc himself became the first president of the Fresno American Loyalty League—a title still retained by the JACL chapter there today.

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## State Reapportionment

WASHINGTON.—Is it constitutional for one member of a state legislature to represent more than five million people in an exploding metropolis, while his next desk colleague represents miles of mountains, lakes, and forests, with only a few thousand human beings?

This is the situation in California, where only one Senator represents the whole of Los Angeles County in the 40-member State Senate. Indeed, in that State, eleven percent of the electorate can elect a majority in its Senate, while 45 percent would be required to elect a majority in its House.

Must both Houses of a State Legislature be based on population? If one is based on population, may the other be based on some other standard, such as political subdivision or area?

To answer these and other equally controversial questions, the Supreme Court of the United States this week and last heard oral arguments in a series of so-called reapportionment cases that will affect American politics for many years to come.

Legislative districting in New York, Alabama, Maryland, Virginia, and Georgia was argued these past two weeks, with another case, involving Delaware, to be heard in December.

The nation's highest tribunal is being asked to determine what the applicable words of the Federal Constitution — the Fourteenth Amendment's guarantee of "the equal protection of the laws"—require of legislative districting in the several States of the Union.

### Power of Rural Areas

It is a well acknowledged fact that the rural areas have controlled the State Legislatures, with the rural politicians who control the Legislatures refusing to redistrict to reflect the population changes, as more and more of the people moved away from the farms into the cities.

In many States, there had been no redistricting for 30 to 50 years, or longer. Rural control reached such extremes as the situation in Florida, for example, where 12 percent of the State's population elected the majority of the State's Senators and 15 percent a majority of the House members.

Over the years, the courts have refused to accept jurisdiction in these matters of reapportionment. As the Supreme Court itself declared in 1946, it would not enter the "political thicket" of legislative districting.

Then, on March 26, 1962, in the now historic Baker v. Carr case, the nation's top Court declared that the Federal Courts could examine the constitutionality of state legislative districts.

### Baker v. Carr

In this particular case, the State of Tennessee, which had not redistricted since 1901, was involved.

But the Supreme Court did not then give any hint of what standards would decide whether districts were constitutional or not. This, incidentally, is the basic issue now before the high tribunal.

The lower courts, however, both

Federal and State, were immediately appealed to by discontented citizens, mostly from urban areas, who claimed that they were discriminated against in their respective State Legislatures.

This reaction has not been confined to any geographical area, but has been national in scope. In Mississippi, a State Court forced the first redistricting since 1916. In Vermont, an apportionment that has not changed since 1793 is now before the courts. Altogether, a total of 44 cases have been filed, 30 in Federal Courts and 14 in state courts.

### Legislature and the Court

The Tennessee experience may be illustrative of the interplay between the state legislatures and the judiciary on this question.

Shortly after the Supreme Court decided that the courts had the right to look into legislative malapportionment, the State Legislature passed a reapportionment act which made some concessions to urban voters but still gave them fewer representatives in each House than their numbers would indicate.

A three-judge Federal District Court ruled that the Legislature could, constitutionally, deviate somewhat from strict population representation in the House, but it found the Senate districts invalid. The Legislature had given Tennessee's five urban counties, with 46 percent of the State's population, 12 of the 33 Senate seats. In 1963, after the Court's judgment, the Legislature passed a new law, giving the urban counties one more seat, a total of 13.

The urban voters went back to court. Last October 10, the judges approved a plan giving the urban counties the 16 seats they were demanding. The Court said that it would issue a final order on February 3, 1964, making this the new Tennessee apportionment unless something happened to change the situation before then.

### Final Decision

A New York Times correspondent drew this moral from the Tennessee record:

"The refusal of rural legislators to give up some of their power led to the present litigation and court orders. Many people regret that the final decision on apportionment seems now to have passed permanently from the legislative to the judicial branch."

"But the rural bloc has demonstrated that it will seek every means of avoiding compliance—or cheating, even by a few seats—in an effort to preserve as much of its authority as possible."

The correspondent noted that the rural legislators had set up a convention to revise the Tennessee Constitution in 1965. Of the 99 delegates authorized, only nine will be from urban areas, unless the courts intervene again.

### Widespread Effect

This question of legislative apportionment is not an academic one; it is a very real and important one, going beyond state boundaries in that State Legislatures also establish the congressional districts for the election of

### representatives to the National Congress.

The State and national political structure may well be charted for the indefinite future by what the Supreme Court decides in these cases, for districting goes to the heart of whether a State Legislature and the National House of Representatives will be liberal, middle-of-the-road, or conservative in outlook, urban or rural in its orientation, Republican or Democratic, moderate or intransigent on, for instance, the race problem in the South, etc.

Whether civil rights, fair housing, equal employment, Social Security, public works, minimum wages, union, and other "forward" legislation are passed or not will be determined not so much on the intrinsic merits of the bills but on the constituency and the philosophy of the lawmakers.

This is why what the United States Supreme Court does in this series of cases is so important to every individual citizen.

### 'Japanese' Angle

Of interest may be that it was from the "farm" counties that most of the repressive and discriminatory legislation against those of Japanese ancestry, such as the alien land laws, of the past were introduced and forced through the legislatures of the western states.

And, the real impetus for the mass evacuation of all persons of Japanese ancestry, citizens and alien alike, in the spring of 1942 came out of the rural counties in Central California.

When the exclusion orders were lifted, again it was the rural areas that were the last to accept the returning evacuees.

And, as late as last year, when an effort was made in the State of Washington to repeal its constitutional prohibition against alien ownership of land, it was the so-called "cow counties" that rolled up substantial majorities for retaining this last vestige of the outdated, unconstitutional alien land law.

So, for persons of Japanese ancestry, there is a much of a personal nature at stake in this important constitutional question that is now before the United States Supreme Court.

Next week, we shall report on the arguments advanced these past two weeks before the highest court in the land on this crucial issue.

## PSWDC-

(Continued from Front Page)

The August meeting will be hosted by San Fernando Valley JACL and East Los Angeles JACL will host the November chapter clinic.

### EDC-MDC Proposal

The PSWDC approved "in principle" the EDC-MDC proposal (see Nov. 1 PC) to establish a National JACL civil rights fund, "subject to the approval of purposes" for which the fund would be used.

During the floor debate, the Orange County delegate had asked that Points 3, 4 and 5 be dropped (3—participation in rallies, demonstrations and other direction action programs; 4—intervention in litigation to test the constitutionality of certain laws; 5—posting of bonds and bail, providing counsel).

Points 1 and 2, describing how the fund would be used to further implement the JACL Civil Rights statement of July 21, cover (1) attendance at civil rights meetings and (2) contributions to specific organizations for civil rights activities on a project-by-project basis.

The proposal is being presented to all district councils for comment and action. The Pacific Northwest District has approved while the Northern California-Western Nevada District has approved "in principle."

Contributions to the fund, as proposed by the EDC-MDC, would be voluntary in nature, that no chapter quotas would be assessed and that contributions would not be tax deductible.

### Other Action

The district council—Deferred discussion on a proposed group hospitalization insurance plan.

Announced the winners of Operation Kozuka:

1. Mrs. S. Shirakawa (DTLA), 2. Dick Takemoto (SFV), 3. Harris Oza-wa (Pas.), 4. Betty Kobayashi (OC), 5. Dr. Lindy Kowahara (Gard.), 6. Eugene S. Uno (Gard.), 7. Tom & Don Levine (SFV).

Heard reports on youth & Hi-Co from Alan Kumamoto, Richard Kawasaki (1964 Hi-Co chmn.), and Clarence Nishizaki, on Pacific Citizen from Fred Thomae and Harry Honda; on 1000 Club from Ronald Shiozaki; on the regional office and membership from Isaac Matsushige.

Discussed the question of "uniform chapter dues."

### Chapter Clinic

The chapter clinic began during the luncheon with National Director Mas Satow issuing the challenges for new officers in his talk



## PC LETTERBOX: MDC Chairman's Parting Remarks

Dear Editor:

As I step off the rostrum as Midwest District Council chairman, I would like to say thanks to those who taught me and inspired me, and to those who certainly worked hard during my tenure of office, which was climaxed with a highly successful joint EDC-MDC Convention held in Cleveland over the Labor Day weekend.

The joint convention with the theme "The Wider World of JACL" was certainly appropriate, when in these times within our midst, fellow Negro Americans are struggling for their rights and human dignity. Only 20 some years ago, we, as persons of Japanese ancestry suffered unprecedented deprivation of civil rights and loss of property solely on the basis of our ancestry. I would like to report to the JACL membership that all the eight Midwest Chapters voted wholeheartedly in support of the JACL civil rights statement.

The Midwest Chapters are at present a bit ashamed of not being able to meet its quota. But all the Midwest Chapters assured me that somehow or another, they will meet the deficit by the end of the year. The Chicago Chapter, under the chairmanship of Mark Yoshizumi, submitted a check of \$700 and assured us that the Chicago Chapter will come through with its quota which is somewhere in the tune of \$7,800—the heaviest of all the chapters.

I would like to say thanks to my fellow Cabinet members. They certainly were a grand group. Of course, I would like to thank the Chicago Chapter for nominating me for the Sapphire Pin.

### Recognitions

As my duty as Chairman of the Midwest District Council now expires, and the roll of the MDC Recognitions comes upon my shoulders, I would like to call upon the Chapter Presidents to look for members worthy of recognition. I notice by the minutes of the first MDC Convention meetings, there are delegates coming from various chapters who I'm sure have never been recognized for their hard work since the inception of the MDC. From my visitations to the various chapters, I noticed that Past Chapter Presidents have not received recognitions. I believe that this is the only chance for making public recognition of these hard working chairmen.

As I write this article, there are names like Mrs. Kay Kushino, of Minneapolis, who I understand was a strong JACLer for many years; also Miss Sumi Teramoto; Mrs. Mutsu Takao, wife of our present MDC Chairman and many more. As I think back, every chapter has one or two in their membership who were active even before the war and who have never been recognized. So may I ask all Chapter presidents to look into their membership and give public recognitions to our staunch JACLers.

### Pre-Registrations

The registration committee, co-chaired by Tom Toyama of Fowler and Alan Masumoto of Selma, reminded pre-registration and reservations for the banquet are due Nov. 30.

The package deal covering fashion show, banquet and registration for members is \$6.50. Those planning to participate in the golf tournament have a \$10 package plan, which includes golfing fee. Individual fees are \$2, registration; \$4.50, banquet; and \$1.50, fashion show. Checks may be made payable to the CCDC-JACL and pre-registration forms are available from chapter presidents.

Presidents were reminded to submit their respective guest lists to the committee by Nov. 30.

on "Leadership". The PSWDC commended Venice-Culver JACL and its president, Jack Nomura, for successfully staging the chapter clinic at the Veterans Memorial Bldg.

The five discussion groups met in separate rooms. Close to 100 persons attended.

During the luncheon, Dr. Roy Nishikawa, PC Board chairman, awarded the Jimmie Sakamoto Memorial Award plaques to Orange County JACL, Downtown L.A. JACL and Orange County JACL for outstanding newsletters.

Jack Mayeda, new administrative assistant at National Headquarters, was introduced. He is also No. Calif. regional director, Isaac Matsushige, So. Calif. regional director, installed the new PSWDC board members Alan Kumamoto was toastmaster.

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By Larry Tajiri

# Vagaries

The Japanese American Story

ONE OF THE most dramatic stories of this American generation concerns the wartime experience of Americans of Japanese ancestry—mass expulsion from the coastal areas of the Pacific coast, mass detention in concentration centers rimmed by barbed wire and punctuated with watchtowers, and the eventual return and reintegration into the mainstream of the nation's life. It is the drama of wartime loyalty and heroism, and the less dramatic but heartwarming story of reacceptance.

The Japanese American story, however, has been told only obliquely in novels, on the theatrical stage, in films and in television. No Nisei writer, for example, has succeeded in telling it and the reason may be that the experience is too painful and subjective for a Japanese American to detail. From him, the anger is too real and what he may say may sound like special pleading.

But the story is getting told, and one of the better examples occurred two weeks ago on television's "Dr. Kildare" show in a drama entitled "It Was a Fine, Clear Thursday Morning." The guest stars for Richard Chamberlain, who plays Kildare, and Raymond Massey, who is Dr. Gillespie, were James Shigeta and Miyoshi Umeki. The drama revolved around a Nisei doctor on a research project in the hospital and his Japan-born wife whose pregnancy was threatened with leukemia.

The story elements—a doctor worried about his ailing wife, and the fight to save the unborn child—are familiar these days on television, thanks to such medically-oriented shows as "Kildare," "Ben Casey," "The Nurses," "Medic" and the like. What took the drama out of the ordinary were the additional personality elements. The writers had woven the Nisei story into the drama.

It seemed as if the writers of this show had decided to demolish each of the various stereotypes which have become familiar in entertainments concerning persons of Japanese ancestry. Shigeta's doctor was no bowing, hissing Japanese with a perpetually silly smile. He was brusque (it was explained that he was too worried about his sick wife to worry about the amenities) and articulate when he chose to speak. Shigeta's character used the best of the King's English without an obvious accent and he spoke in the American idiom.

The plot later revealed that Shigeta was a veteran of the U.S. Army in World War II and that his wife was a girl from Japan. But when the cameras moved in on Miss Umeki, it showed her in high heels and a high fashion dress, rather than in a kimono which would have been the cliché of handling it.

When Shigeta invites Chamberlain to dinner at home, the camera showed a tastefully furnished apartment and the guest was treated, not to a sukiyaki dinner, but to chicken cacciatore. The effort to break the Japanese stereotype was almost too obvious, since Shigeta explains that his wife also makes a fine Hungarian goulash.

Then the mother of the Nisei doctor was introduced, but she refuses to come into the room to meet Chamberlain. It developed that she had been sent to a war relocation camp during the war with her husband and that he had died in detention. The Japanese woman had renounced the United States and had returned to Japan. She had come back only to help care for her daughter-in-law during the latter's pregnancy.

The mother is bitter against the United States and its people for the treatment accorded her and her family during the war.

When it becomes apparent that the wife is gravely ill and may not survive the birth of her child, the mother insists on taking the baby back to Japan. The drama then shows how the doctor's mother comes to change her mind and decides to permit her grandchild to remain in the United States.

A FEW books have been written about the relocation story, among them Karen Kehoe's "Island in the Sun," as well as Monica Sone's "Nisei Daughter." Artist Mine Okubo used her considerable talent to depict in picture and text her personal experience in relocation camp (Topaz) in "Citizen 13669." But the subject has not challenged any of the country's major writers.

The evacuation-relocation drama has intrigued many writers and playwrights, obviously, but the works have not been produced. An example was "Some of the Sky," a play about a 442nd Combat Team veteran which Joseph Anthony, now one of the top directors in films and TV, wrote from wartime experience. "Some of the Sky" was optioned for Broadway but never produced.

On the other hand James Clavell, who spent most of his war years as a prisoner in the Japanese POW camp, and is now one of Hollywood's top writer-directors, produced and directed a film in Vancouver a year ago called "The Sweet and the Bitter." But because of technical problems, the film has not been released and no release date is set for it.

Perhaps the first time the Nisei wartime story was mentioned in a film was in 20th Century Fox's "Daisy Kenyon," in which one of the main characters, played by Dana Andrews, goes off to defend a Nisei in a land law case in California. Then Samuel Fuller made "The Steel Helmet," in which one of the GIs in the war in Korea, a 442nd Combat Team veteran, explains to a taunting North Korean prisoner-of-war why he is an American soldier despite expulsion and ostracism at home.

In 1952 Dore Schary produced and Robert Pirosh directed, from his own script, a film about the 442nd, "Go for Broke!" This MGM film, which starred Van Johnson as an officer assigned to the Japanese American Combat Team, found a wide audience but the picture which appeared on the screen was not all that Producer Schary and writer Pirosh intended. They wanted to tell the whole Nisei story, from wartime evacuation to wartime heroism, but were given to understand that if the evacuation (which was carried out by the War Department) was shown, the film-makers would be denied Army cooperation in the filming of war sequences. The War Department's reason was that such a scene would be used as anti-American propaganda.

THERE is still time for the Nisei story to be told, in a major novel and in a major film. James Michener made it a part of a larger story in "Hawaii" and the Japanese American wartime experience, as recounted in the novel, may become an important part of the picture which won't go into production for at least a year. Dalton Trumbo, the screenwriter assigned to Hawaii, does not lack for knowledge on the Nisei.

PERHAPS the JACL History Project, which should result in at least one book on Japanese Americans, may provide the documentation which will inspire a novel and later a film.

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## Civil rights task force organized for No. Calif.

SAN FRANCISCO — Mas Yone-mura was named to the Democratic State Central Committee's civil rights task force in northern California by Roger Kent, northern section party chairman, this past week. Assemblyman Byron Rumford heads this 11-member group.

## Christmas Cheer passes one-third mark of goal

LOS ANGELES.—The 1963 Christmas Cheer campaign aiming for \$3,000 has passed its one-third mark with \$1,152.62 on hand as of Nov. 15, it was announced this week by the JACL Regional Office. The summaries of the past two weeks follow:

Week of Nov. 12-15, inclusive  
 \$23 — Mr. and Mrs. Haseki Ochi,  
 Century Japanese Methodist Church,  
 Higashi Hongwanji, C. Zeno  
 \$20 — Mrs. George Kolde  
 \$15 — Japanese Christian Church Women's Federation of So. California  
 \$10 — Dr. Robert Ochi, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Hikiido, Dr. and Mrs. L.S.G. Miller, Southern Valley Young Adult Buddhist Assn., Yuzo Sogano, Nanka Yamanashi, Tom I. Ito, Council for Supplementary Cultural Workers, Gardeners Assn. of Pasadena, Dr. Y. Yoshimura, JACL - Pasadena Chapter  
 \$5 — Mr. and Mrs. George Tsuchi, Mrs. Kikuhayashi, Ken's Jewelry, Kozo Mitani, K. Saneto, Mr. and Mrs. Lee H. Teguro, T. Wihida, T. Jolla Hotel, Mrs. C. Nakatani, Anonymous, M. Naruse, Ichio Egashira, Elko Matsui, Chi Akio, Delta, Mr. and Mrs. Nobuharu Tsunimoto  
 \$3 — May Yamamoto, Anonymous  
 \$2 — S. Ishitani, Ken Morikawa  
**CHEER FUND RECAPITULATION**  
 Total Previously Reported . . . \$ 757.62  
 Total This Report . . . 395.00  
 Cash On Hand . . . \$1,152.62

Week of Nov. 5 - 8  
 \$50 — Nisei Pioneers  
 \$30 — Maryknoll Church  
 \$25 — Nanka Fukuoka Kenjin Kai  
 \$15 — Chumani & Mokkido, Funsters, Mrs. Dixie Hunt (San Francisco), Takai Realty (Roy Takai), B.T. Sakai  
 \$13 — Mrs. Naomi Kashiwabara (San Diego)  
 \$10 — Hirohata General Insurance, Central X-Ray Lab (Dr. Tom Watanabe), Seinan Realty (San Miyashiro), Dr. George Kambara, Dr. James Hara, Mrs. Kiku Nakao, T. Wihida, T. Mitomo, Albert D. Bonus (Seattle), Lillian Y. Kuwata, Century Methodist Loyal WSCS, Richard T. Kuna-shiro, Parents Club of Long Beach, San Kow Low  
 \$5 — Araki Y. Cafe, Mr. Harry Ozuwa, Mrs. Frank Kawasaki, Radio L.I. Tokyo, Mr. Ted Igasaki, Ben Hanakawa, Dr. Kiyomasa, Tetsuo Yata, Tom Yamamoto, Mrs. Chieko Tada, Kazuo Suto, Salario Taketa, K. Arai, Mrs. T. Takeuchi, Rose Ikeda, Mr. and Mrs. Daiji Horita, Yoko Julia Akio, Mr. and Mrs. Toru Iura, Mas Kiyomura, Frank T. Ougi, Kai Sakihara, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kato, Joe S. Kinoshita, Kayo Ito, A.J. Shiga, William K. Yamamoto, New York Hotel (Tom K. Taira), Maki Yoda  
 \$3 — Dr. Shokichi Kato, Dr. Kitchi Saito, Harry K. Fujikawa, T. Suehiro, F. Sako  
 \$2 — Harry Hayashisawa, Yonetaro Kazezawa, Far East Cafe, Kyodo Grill  
**CHEER FUND RECAPITULATION**  
 Total Previously Reported . . . \$256.62  
 Total This Report . . . 491.00  
 Cash On Hand . . . \$757.62

## Hayasaka's successor at Jackson St. CC appointed

SEATTLE — William A. Bishop, former Seattle resident who is executive director of the Oakland Boys Club, was appointed executive secretary of the Jackson St. Community Council this past week by William E. Derry, president. Bishop, a Navy veteran and one-time football pro, succeeds Y. Phil Hayasaka, who has become the director of the Seattle Human Rights Commission.

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GIVING UCLA GRADS and newsmen the UNI-MAC story is W. Thomas, president of the UCLA Alumni Association (center) while (left to right) Hiro Hishiki of the Kashu Mainichi, Dr. Tom Watanabe, Mrs. Mabel Ota, Ty Saito, Akira Komai of the Rafu Shimpo, and Fred Taomae of the New Japanese American News listen. All are UCLA grads except Taomae. Saito and Dr. Watanabe are co-chairmen of the UCLA Japanese American Alumni Committee for UNI-MAC, with Dr. Bob Watanabe.

## Nisei alumni of UCLA beckoned to help build activities center

LOS ANGELES.—UCLA's Nisei and Samsel alumni, well over 2,000 since the first class in 1923, are being called upon for the first time for funds in the construction of a \$5 million activities center on campus.

The appeal is being made by a committee headed by Tom T. Watanabe, M.D.; John T. Saito, and Robert Watanabe, M.D., co-chairmen. National JACL President K. Patrick Okura of Omaha is a member of the National Committee of Sponsors.

The State of California is contributing \$2,000,000; the present student body of 21,000 another \$1,000,000 and the alumni and friends the remaining \$2,000,000. Regent Edwin W. Pauley has agreed to match dollar for dollar of the alumni contribution up to a million dollars, provided it is made by Dec. 31, 1963. Special and major donors comprised of

## New Buddhist church dedicated in Fowler

FOWLER.—A new \$80,000 Buddhist church was dedicated here Sunday with 400 attending the ceremonies. The Oriental structure was designed by Akira Nishio-ka of Fresno. Larry Ashida of Fowler was the contractor.

Fowler JACL president Ken Hirose presented a new American flag to the church. Mikio Uchiyama accepted it in behalf of the church. Fowler Mayor John Panzak extended greetings. George Teraoka was program chairman. Principal addresses were made by Rinban Gimbun Kimura and the Rev. Akira Hata of Fresno.

## Christmas Savings

SAN FRANCISCO.—Both the Bank of Tokyo and the Sumitomo Bank have issued Christmas Club checks on Nov. 15, under terms of agreement with local banks in the San Francisco Clearing House Association. Depositors who do not receive these checks within a few days after issuance, should notify their banks without delay.

business firms and wealthier alumni are expected to raise at least \$4-million, so that the balance must be raised by the approximate 120,000 alumni, the committee explain.

The UCLA Memorial Activities center will seat 13,000 under one

roof and be used for cultural and sporting events, student activities and auditorium. It will be located on the athletic field between the Student Union and Residence halls on the westside of the campus.

Contributions are tax deductible.

## Salt Lake women tour new Detention Home

SALT LAKE CITY.—An informative tour of the recently completed Juvenile Detention Home at 3463 S. 6th West was made by Salt Lake JACL Auxiliary members and friends on Nov. 10.

The home was completed this spring at a cost of over \$1,000,000. Claude C. Dean, social worker at the Home, accompanied the group, explaining the functions of the institution and the care of the young people who passed through its doors. The Home is complete in every detail from feeding and teaching and after care of its occupants.

Adjoining the Home are the Second and Third Juvenile District Courts and its functions were explained by Raymond Uno, presently Referee for the two district courts.

Following the tour, a group discussion was held with Nobuo Mori, Salt Lake County Child Welfare Dept. director, who explained the correlation of his department with the Home and Courts. The welfare program includes foster children care, Mori explained. Both he and Uno stated while very few children of Japanese ancestry appear

at the Home, nevertheless the Nisei parents should always be concerned about their children as well as other children as it is a community problem.

Uno further stated that it has been a point of interest among social welfare workers the absence of delinquency among Japanese young people as well as the Jewish group.

The group later met at the home of Mrs. Florence Lillendahl for refreshments. Co-hostesses were Mrs. Lillendahl, Alice Kasai, Sue Kaneko and Smiley Amano.

## Li'l Tokio fire strikes

### Chinese restaurant

LOS ANGELES.—Fire starting in the grease vent Tuesday morning will keep Lem's Cafe, long-time PC advertisers featuring Chinese cuisine in Li'l Tokio, closed for several days at least. No one was injured. Walter and Arthur Lem operate the restaurant.

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## Yoshino presents alumnus award to SNCC chairman

CHICAGO.—John Y. Yoshino, former Chicagoan who is now residing in Washington, D.C. where he is a staff member of the President's Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity, was a visitor here earlier this month. He presented Roosevelt University's "Alumnus of the Year" award to James Forman, head of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee. Yoshino, who graduated from Roosevelt University with the class of 1948, won the award last year. Forman was in the class of 1957.

## GOV. BROWN OPPOSES BRACERO LAW EXTENSION AFTER DEC. 31, 1964

LOS ANGELES.—Governor Brown, in an address before the Mexican American Political Assn. convention at the Biltmore Nov. 8-9, said he would oppose extension of the Mexican bracero program next year—although he had reluctantly given his support to the successful move to continue it through 1964.

Earlier, Rep. Edward Roybal (D-Calif.) charged that Mexican Americans were being discriminated against in California education and charged the Kennedy administration for neglecting the Spanish-speaking people in the Southwest.

"We congressmen who worked hard to kill the bracero program did not see the support from Mexican Americans that we should have gotten," Roybal declared. "Let's do a better job on civil rights."

Roybal contends that the bracero program is taking jobs away from Mexican Americans and hindering civil rights of the Spanish-speaking people of the Southwest.

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# The Idemitsu Story

By Tamotsu Murayama

(Printed from the Asahi Evening News)

**IN THE** late summer of 1945, Tokyo and every other major city in Japan lay in ruins. People walked the streets in rags, lived in huts roofed with rusty corrugated iron, and ate spiced, starchy, rationed rice, foul-smelling fish and withered vegetables.

Lake Tokyo, oil tycoon Sazo Idemitsu was apparently washed up. He was through. His only consolation might have been that he could look back on a brilliant past. Only yesterday he was counted among Japan's wealthiest taxpayers, and, as such was chosen a member of the Upper House, whose membership was confined to titled personages and high taxpayers.

Unlike the Krupps and Thyssens of Germany and the Mitsui and Iwasaki of Japan, whose industrial and commercial operations were conducted mainly in their respective homelands, the bulk of Idemitsu's business was overseas. In China, Korea, Taiwan, Manchuria, the Philippines, Malaya, Burma, the East Indies and New Guinea.

In all of these areas the Japanese had been reduced almost overnight from rulers to unwanted ruffians, and their property confiscated. Gone with the wind was the Japanese empire and with it Idemitsu's overseas enterprises.

Then in his 60th year, Idemitsu was five years beyond the normal retirement age of Japanese employed by the government and the larger commercial concerns.

**No More Oil in Japan**  
With the war's end, the oil business in Japan went piffit. There was not a drop of oil outside that which was parsimoniously rationed by the Occupation Forces. All of Idemitsu's sales offices came to a dead standstill, and the question which now faced the harassed tycoon was how to keep his employees from starving.

On a day in the early fall of 1945, Idemitsu called a meeting of his board of directors. Only Idemitsu himself, besides himself, they were Kouke Yamada, Anpei Hayashi, Ryuma Harada and Heihachiro Yamamoto.

The four men came to the meeting convinced that there was only one way out, which was to have Mr. Idemitsu preside over the liquidation of his empire.

The Idemitsu headquarters were in an unpretentious four-story building in the heart of Tokyo's business and shopping area and next door to the famous Kabuki theater. The Kabuki building, however, stood at least the walls were intact. There was no roof, and the interior was a mass of burnt embers.

For as far as the eye could see from Mr. Idemitsu's third-story office, north, south and east, there was nothing but ruins and a horde of huddled refugees living without hope and resigned to a life of docility and poverty.

It was a desultory meeting that Sazo Idemitsu opened that afternoon in late September, 1945. He and his directors passed aimlessly from one subject to another, without order or rational connection.

After an hour or so, the discussion became heated. For it turned out that all of the directors except Mr. Idemitsu had lost faith and confidence in the company's future and were for dissolving it after salvaging what they could. For to do otherwise seemed to them to be the same as committing suicide.

**Little Hope for Revival**  
Mr. Idemitsu was reminded that the company had about 250 employees in Japan proper and over 1,000 overseas. The only thing these workers had any experience in was the oil business, and that business was no more. There was little hope of its revival for years to come. Soon, it was pointed out, the men overseas would start straggling back to Japan. Many companies, under similar circumstances, had either dissolved or decided not to re-employ such personnel. Why should Idemitsu not do likewise?

"When we sent these workers overseas during the war at the risk of their lives," growled Mr. Idemitsu, "they did not hesitate to go because they were convinced that if they put their fate in my hands, I would look after them through thick and thin. I am not going to forsake them now when they need me most."

The other four directors pleaded that it was well and good to be gallant, but how could the company hire back a thousand workers when it had no work for them and no money to pay them? Mr. Idemitsu said it was not a question of rehiring his workers. They were never separated from the company which he had always and would always consider as a family, his family.

So saying, he walked out of the meeting.

She was fanning a tiny kitchen stove made of earthenware which stood about a foot high. There was a small kettle of water on the top of it. On the other side of the room Mr. Idemitsu sat at his desk, holding a rather large tea cup which he seemed to be admiring as he turned it slowly around and around.

I was happy to see that he was alive, and told him about the rumors of his having committed suicide.

Mr. Idemitsu looked up and smiled wryly.

"A precious tea cup, this," he said, ignoring my salutation. "I may have to sell it, and I thought it might be a good idea to drink from it for the last time. Won't you join me? The girl will have the water boiling in a moment."

"I have just added 250 men to our staff," he said. "They used to be in the radio and electronics section of the Imperial Navy before our armed forces were liquidated on orders of General MacArthur. A friend in the Navy asked me to take them on."

**Looks to the Future**  
I asked him what he intended doing with these men, especially as he had about 1,000 workers coming back shortly from overseas.

"Practically every family has a radio set, and these are in need of repairs because during the war most radio technicians were requisitioned. I think there is a great future in the radio business. We have a building here that we are not using, and I think if we make this a training school to teach our men who return from overseas, we can soon find work for them by sending them to our branches all over the country which are now of no use anyway. What do you think?"

I certainly didn't think it was a brilliant idea, but I knew who oil tycoon Idemitsu was and what he had accomplished and I had a feeling he would succeed in this new venture if anybody could.

So for the next few months Mr. Idemitsu, who knew next to nothing about radio sets, turned his efforts in this new direction and before long his trainees were being dispatched to the four corners of the country to set up radio repair shops.

**Calling at GHQ**

**THERE WERE** other matters to keep a newsmen busy during those early days of the Allied Occupation, and I did not hear much about Mr. Idemitsu's activities for some little while.

Early in 1946, General MacArthur's office issued a list of persons who had been ordered purged from all political activity and who were forbidden to take any active part in the management or other activities of companies in which they were connected because they had allegedly worked hand-in-glove with the militarists to foment and instigate war. Mr. Idemitsu's name was included on that list.

Mr. Idemitsu was not particularly concerned about being purged from political activity because he had little interest in politics. However, he saw no reason why he should be classed with the militarists, the great monopolies which were charged (mistakenly, I am convinced) of having plunged Japan into war.

So, as soon as he could obtain an appointment, Mr. Idemitsu went to General MacArthur's headquarters, where he was received by an underling who brushed him off with the curt answer that the records showed that Mr. Idemitsu had been a tool of the militarists.

**Meets John Also**  
Mr. Idemitsu is a persistent and determined person when he is convinced that an injustice is being done to him. He managed to bring his predicament to the notice of a young Nisei lawyer named John Also who was then in the Legal Section of SCAP.

Mr. Idemitsu laid his prewar personal history vis-a-vis the militarists before Mr. Also.

Only three men among the legislators of the nation had had the courage in the years immediately preceding the outbreak of the Pacific War, to criticize the army. They were Takao Saito who was expelled from the Lower House for having, in 1940, criticized the fascist trend in the army; Hitoshi Ashida, who was denounced for a slightly milder attack, and who, after the war, became Prime Minister; and Sazo Idemitsu who shouted, "You fool!" at the much feared chief of the Military Affairs Bureau of the Army, during the course of a debate in the Upper House. This was in 1940 when General Tojo was already in the saddle and had curbed freedom of speech, and soon after Takao Saito had been expelled from the House. It took guts to buck the militarists in those crucial days.

Paraphrasing it, it should be explained that the debate was over the army's demand that the Fortifications Law be revised. Mr. Idemitsu, questioning Major Gen. Akira Muto, chief of the Military Affairs Bureau, declared that according to the wording of the revised law, it would be necessary for companies having property in zones designated as being in a fortified area, to obtain permission even to dig a ditch. The law forbade people from building houses on land overlooking fortifications and put the general citizenry under suspicion of spying for hostile

powers.

**Angry Tete-a-Tete**

"Are you suggesting," asked Mr. Idemitsu, "that the people cannot be trusted? Are you trying to make an enemy of the people? Do you mean to say that only military people can be trusted?"

"You fool!" cried General Muto. "You idiot!" Mr. Idemitsu shouted back. "I have a louder voice than you and refuse to be intimidated."

General Muto calmed down and said the army did not suspect the people of being disloyal, but that the danger from espionage was such that it was necessary to put teeth into the Fortifications Law.

With that, peace was restored to the House of Peers, but the "You fool" incident became the topic of conversation everywhere and Mr. Idemitsu won the admiration of the people for his courageous stand against the fire-eating militarists.

Young Mr. Also checked on the story and found it to be true. He promised to do what he could for Mr. Idemitsu and tried to his work he convinced his superiors that Mr. Idemitsu was no warmonger.

**U.S. Property Involved**

However, this was not enough to depurge the oil tycoon. It was pointed out that his company had, during the war, seized the property of American oil companies in Shanghai and other cities in China.

Mr. Idemitsu explained that he was not guilty on that count. "The property," he said, "was confiscated by the Japanese armed forces. I was ordered to supply them with oil and was told to use the facilities that they had taken, and I did so."

"I hate militarists and fascists. But I am a patriot, and in war time I think it is the duty of all loyal citizens to cooperate with the military. If it is a crime to do so, then I am guilty, but if this is not the case, I have been purged unjustly. I would like to see General MacArthur and explain my case to him. I am sure he will understand."

Mr. Idemitsu never got to see General MacArthur or even to come within hailing distance of the supreme commander. But after the lapse of a few days it was notified that he could remain with his company and that GHQ had no objection to his dealing in oil if he so desired.

**Picture of 1946**

**NOT LONG** after Sazo Idemitsu was permitted to remain as head of his company, GHQ decided to permit him and others so experienced to handle the distribution of oil in Japan.

The Allied command was being pestered by the blackmarketing of oil it was bringing into the country for use by the military.

This was wonderful news, to put it mildly. Gasoline was one of the scarcest items on the market, even on the black market. The automobiles that were running were mostly using charcoal for fuel. Gasoline, in Tokyo in 1946, was verily like water in a parched desert.

So Mr. Idemitsu and his men rejoiced at the news that they would be permitted to handle this product once more. But their happiness was short-lived.

It so happened there were in key posts in Gen. MacArthur's powerful Economic Section men who had been in and would soon return to positions in the big oil companies.

**Foreign Competition**  
In prewar days, Asia's oil supply was controlled by a cartel made up of America's Standard interests, the Royal Dutch-Shell, and the Anglo-Persian companies. These concerns had seen Mr. Idemitsu encroach on their territory. He had, in fact, outmaneuvered them in Manchuria and, during the Pacific War, he supplied all of the Navy's oil needs from the borders of Siberia, in the north, down to New Guinea in the south.

The big oil interests were naturally not very happy to hear his name mentioned and far from anxious to do business with him.

Thus, when Mr. Idemitsu figuratively looked his gift horse in the mouth, he found it toothless. He could distribute oil—providing he could obtain it.

Late in 1946, the first batch of Mr. Idemitsu's army of workers overseas began straggling back to Tokyo, first from Korea, Manchuria and China, and later from areas farther away. Early in 1947, the first group of his men from the South Pacific returned. Among these was a young man named Masami Ishida.

Like all Japanese abroad, they had practically been cut off from communication with their head offices. They did not even know whether their parent companies were still in existence, for they had heard that Tokyo and every other large city had been wiped out.

**Employee Returns**  
With a heavy backpack on his back containing all his worldly possessions, Mr. Ishida walked with heavy feet into Tokyo one day early in 1946. As he trudged his way toward the center of the city, his hopes began to fade with each step, for everywhere he looked he saw nothing but ruins.

"As I approached the Ginza and saw in the distance the shape of the Idemitsu building still standing, I dropped on my knees and offered prayers of thanks," he said.



Sazo Idemitsu

After a few days of rest, Mr. Ishida was ready to work. He was apprised of the sad state of affairs.

"The only place where I know we can get our hands on some oil," Mr. Idemitsu explained, "is at the bottom of the oil tanks in the former naval bases at Sasebo, Kure and Yokosuka. The oil is practically gone, but there is water at the bottom of the tanks and mixed with this, there must be some oil. I have received permission to salvage that oil."

Mr. Ishida mobilized a few of his men and they set out for Sasebo to survey the situation. Mr. Ishida went down into one of the tanks with a bucket and scooped out the muddy, oily sediment. He and his men kept this up for days. Others joined them. In tanks where there was a fairly large quantity of gasoline, some of the workers were overcome by the fumes and had to be given first aid treatment.

## Salvaging Oil

**BUT** they were happy, for the Idemitsu company was back in the oil business—such as it was. The murky refuse was refined in makeshift facilities and was put on the market where an oil-hungry public eagerly bought every drop of it.

It did not take long for wild reports to spread that Mr. Idemitsu was prospering from his new operations. Men in the defunct Imperial Navy, who had helped him during their heyday, but who were now without work, approached him for jobs. It is in Mr. Idemitsu's nature to extend a helping hand to anyone who has ever done him a favor. Soon he had a tiny work force of ex-navy officers in the company. Some had held the rank of captain and rear admiral.

About this time the nation was beset with labor troubles. Under the guidance of well-meaning American officials in the Labor Section of SCAP's Economic and Scientific Division, Japanese workers were encouraged to form labor unions. Even Buddhist priests formed unions and sent demands for higher pay to their astonished high priests.

**Rise of Labor Unions**  
The SCAP-inspired labor unions were born shortly after Gen. MacArthur ordered the Japanese Government to release all political prisoners from the penitentiaries. Ninety-nine per cent of such prisoners were Communists. This gave

the Japanese public the mistaken impression that Gen. MacArthur was a friend of the Reds, and inasmuch as the general was the top man in Japan at that time, the workers wasted no time in joining the labor unions which, in turn, wasted no time in becoming Red flag waving and trouble-fomenting strongholds of communism. Japan was thrown into chaos.

At first, the Red-saturated labor unionists confined their demonstrations to demands for higher wages and better working conditions, but they soon got completely out of control. As soon as a strike was called, the workers took physical control of the property and not only shut out management and the owners, but in some instances resorted to what they called "management control." The workers took over the plants, managed it and kept management and owners out, but they promised to divide the profits, if any, with the latter.

The one exception was the Idemitsu company. The workers were uninterested in labor unionism much less in strikes. They knew that they owed their jobs to Mr. Idemitsu who had sacrificed everything for them in their moment of greatest need.

## Unions vs. Idemitsu

Despite concerted efforts by labor union headquarters to organize Mr. Idemitsu's workers, even by having their men infiltrate into the company's work force, they made little headway. In Muroran and Wakamatsu, infiltrators did succeed in setting up unions, but they soon folded. In fact, one of the men the labor union headquarters had managed to slip into the company to organize the workers, came one day to see Mr. Idemitsu.

He said he entered the company with the avowed intention of alienating the workers, but that he now realized that this was useless. He had talked to the men and studied what Mr. Idemitsu had done for them, and had come to the conclusion that Mr. Idemitsu was giving them far more than any labor union could. Thus saying he submitted his resignation. Mr. Idemitsu told the man he was not interested in his activities in trying to organize a labor union. All he wanted from him was that he work, and if he cared to stay with the company, he was welcome to do so. The man remains on the company's payroll to this day.

Mr. Idemitsu had re-entered the oil business through his success in recovering and refining waste oil in the bottoms of container tanks in the former Japanese naval depots. It wasn't much of a business, but it wasn't much of a success, but it led to bigger things.

For instance, on the strength of the waste oil business, he obtained loans from the Yokohama Specie Bank (later renamed the Tokyo Bank) and the Tokai Bank. Mr. Idemitsu needed cash badly, for he had entered the brewery and printing businesses also. These were quite unrelated and also had nothing to do with oil, but Mr. Idemitsu was in no position, in those days, to be choosy. He had over 1,000 employees to look after.

**Depurged**  
Things, however, were beginning to look up. In 1947, he received notification from the government that he had been depurged. Although this was a hollow blessing, for he was already back in the oil business and had no intention of re-entering politics, it brought him some satisfaction, and was of considerable help.

For it cleared his name and that meant a lot in those days when Japan was still under Allied occupation. By being depurged Mr. Idemitsu was in a position to engage

openly in negotiations with Caltex. His proposition to the American company was that he was in an excellent position to distribute oil because of his nationwide network of facilities. Caltex was interested and in November, 1947, Gen. MacArthur's Headquarters granted him permission to become a distributor for Caltex.

Mr. Idemitsu was jubilant, for his meant that he was in the big line again. But his happiness was short-lived. The following year, in 1948, Caltex entered into an agreement with Nippon Sekiyu to form a joint company, and this meant that his ties with Caltex had to be severed.

This was a crushing blow, but Mr. Idemitsu took it in stride. From even before the war, the Japanese government had rationed staple food and practically all other scarce but essential items. This system was continued under Gen. MacArthur, but the American administrator was bent on freeing rationed items as quickly as possible.

In 1949, GHQ announced the partial freeing of oil. Under special dispensation from GHQ, the following companies were permitted to sell oil: Standard, Caltex, Shell, Nihon Sekiyu, Nihon Kogyo, Showa Oil, Mitsubishi Oil, General Oil and Idemitsu.

The heads of these firms were summoned, one day, to the Economic Section of SCAP, and from the line of talk he heard it became clear to Mr. Idemitsu that the officials had decided to allocate the lion's share of the oil distribution business to a favored few companies—those having direct ties with the American, British and Dutch cartels.

Mr. Idemitsu was convinced this was not only unfair but that it was not in accordance with the intent of SCAP's policy of freeing the distribution of essential items from official controls. He did not hesitate to say so, much to the embarrassment of the American officers who promised to give Mr. Idemitsu a fair proportion of the business.

## June 25 1950

**SOON** after the partial freeing of oil, something happened which indirectly marked the turning point in the fortunes of the Idemitsu Company.

Suddenly, early on the morning of June 25, 1950, North Korean troops swept across the 38th Parallel and plunged the Korean Peninsula into the bloodiest and costliest war since World War II.

Since the conflict was only a stone's throw from Japan, this country became the logical place for the United States to use as a supply depot, repair shop, arsenal and what not. Overnight, American orders for supplies rained on thousands of tiny Japanese manufacturing companies.

As the conflict in Korea grew in intensity and continued month after month, year after year, American dollars poured into Japan by the truckload, and the country was transformed from a poverty-stricken, war-ravaged nation into a prosperous, modern industrial empire.

## New Factories Mushroom

During World War II, 95 per cent of its industrial plants with their outmoded equipment had been wiped out, so Japan's new factories that now mushroomed had to buy new equipment, and by the time the war drums finally were silenced, Japan had one of the world's most efficient and modern industrial networks, which, in combination with lower wages and the industrious nature

of the people, enabled Japan to make an amazing comeback. Japan's emergence from a devastated nation, of Tokyo from a war-devastated city into the world's biggest and one of the most prosperous, seemed almost like a miracle.

Although the Korean War did not directly bring Mr. Idemitsu very much, it was inevitable that with the country's prosperity the people's standard of living rose, and this meant, in this modern age, individual ownership of automobiles, and the widespread use of trucks, buses, taxis, tractors and other machinery which use oil as fuel.

This naturally sent the demand for oil sky-rocketing, and anyone in the oil business in Japan was bound to find himself on the crest of the wave, if he could obtain oil. That was the catch, as far as Mr. Idemitsu was concerned.

## Watching as an Outsider

He was an outsider, so to speak. He not only had no ties with members of the so-called petroleum cartel, made up of Standard of U.S., Shell and Anglo-Iranian of England, and Royal Dutch of the Netherlands. He was considered an unwelcome intruder and was treated more as an outcast.

Thus, although the oil business was booming, Mr. Idemitsu was not able to take full advantage of the situation.

He realized that he would have to discover new sources of oil, build his own refinery and his own oil tankers for Japan produced practically no oil itself. He knew that the now-defunct Imperial Japanese Navy's oil depot at Tokuyama, which was rotting, could be restored and used. He obtained permission from the government to use it for a nominal sum. However, he could not take over the premises without the approval of SCAP because it was a former military facility. After prolonged negotiations, however, the deal was eventually okayed.

## Nissho Maru Launched

Mr. Idemitsu's next move was the building of a tanker. He obtained a bank loan and the government's permission to construct a ship. This vessel, which he named the Nissho Maru, was launched late in September, 1951.

Some months before this, Mr. Idemitsu started looking around for oil he could buy and the wherewithal to do so. He contacted Sun Limited, a Los Angeles brokerage firm which said he could arrange for a shipment of oil from Houston, Texas.

Mr. Idemitsu's next step was to raise the money to pay for the oil. Payment had to be in dollars and not in Japanese yen.

Early in the present century, an Italian immigrant in San Francisco had been befriended by California's Japanese Emperor, King George Shima (Geo. Kinji Ushijima). Since those early days the Italian, in his turn, has had a soft spot in his heart for the Japanese. He was A.P. Giannini who founded the Bank of Italy which became the Bank of America, an institution which today, long after its founder's death, still has close dealings with the businessmen of Japan.

## Bank of America Helps

It was to the Bank of America that Mr. Idemitsu went with his proposition to buy American oil. The bank gave him a \$5 million loan which made it possible for Mr. Idemitsu to buy, through Sun Limited, oil from Shell, Texas and Union Oil.

The Nissho Maru set sail for the United States on Dec. 23, 1951—a day to remember in Mr. Idemitsu's history.

The vessel loaded a full supply

of high-octane gasoline, a scarce item in Japan, and returned in May, 1952. The ship was welcomed with much fanfare and there was great rejoicing in the Idemitsu Co. for the Korean war boom had brought prosperity and with it, a high-octane guzzling myriad of automobiles.

For the first time since the war, money began to flow into the coffers of the Idemitsu Company and, in honor of his father, Mr. Idemitsu inaugurated what he named the "Shiojuku," a benevolent association, to look after his employees and their families.

Soon after the Nissho Maru's return with its precious cargo, two Middle Eastern gentlemen called on Mr. Idemitsu. They congratulated him on his successful venture, and said they came with a proposition in which they were certain he would be interested.

Mr. Idemitsu was surprised and got a little flattered that his tiny and inconsequential activity had attracted the attention of visitors from so far away. Actually, Mr. Idemitsu's oil operations amounted to not even half a drop in the gigantic bucket of world-wide oil sales. He was, at that time, perhaps the least significant of the multitude of international oil operators.

## Iranians Call

**THE** gentlemen said they were Iranians, and represented their country's oil industry which had recently been nationalized by Premier Mossadeq. They declared that their government was prepared to sell oil on terms much better than Mr. Idemitsu could obtain anywhere else.

Mr. Idemitsu said he was interested, but would naturally have to give the matter some thought, and on this the men parted with the understanding that they would meet again soon.

After his visitors' departure, Mr. Idemitsu hurriedly called in his executives. The problem was studied from various angles. One of the world's most lucrative sources of oil was offering to sell its product in limitless quantities and on extraordinary terms to an insignificant Japanese oil dealer. Here was an opportunity one could not hope for except in his most extravagant dreams.

There must be a catch in the proposition, the Idemitsu executives reasoned. They concluded that it could hardly be expected that any hard currency loan could be obtained from the Bank of America or any other international financial institution for such an undertaking, and no Japanese bank would be in a position to advance foreign currency. Besides, there were international political implications to consider.

**Wary of Proposal**  
Mr. Idemitsu and his men agreed that the proposition was too good to be true, otherwise why wouldn't the big operators have clinched the deal?

So when Mr. Idemitsu met the Iranians again, he told them that he regretted that he could not accept their offer, and why.

At this point it is necessary to explain what the situation in Iran was at that time. Dr. Mossadeq

(Continued on Page 6)

## Editor's Note

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## IDEMITSU STORY -

(Continued from Page 5)

had confiscated the property of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Co., after nationalizing the oil industry. He promised his people that nationalization would improve their standard of living, which was one of the lowest in the world.

However, instead of improving Iran's plight, because of the nationalization, the country was in a state of economic collapse. The national treasury was empty. The people were starving. The whole country was in a state of chaos.

Mr. Idemitsu's Iranian visitors were frantic. In desperation, they said if Mr. Idemitsu could not pay in dollars, he could do so in Japanese manufactured goods.

## New Light on Problem

This put the problem in a new light, and Mr. Idemitsu promised to give the matter further consideration. While he was doing so, President Eisenhower announced on June 25, 1953, that Iran could rely on United States aid until she settled the oil dispute.

Mr. Idemitsu reasoned that the means that if his company were ahead and purchased Iranian oil, he would be in a better position to help Iran. He might make a quick profit by buying Iranian oil, but should the courts later rule that Anglo-Iranian's rights to the oil resources in Iran were legal, an abiding, he would be cut off from that source. At the same time, the Bank of America and all other American banks would write him off as far as future loans were concerned, and the American oil companies from which he had made his purchase for the Nissho Maru might regard it unwise to deal with a company which, in defiance of their president's entreaty, traded with a country which was being ostracized.

In Japan, no other oil company would even consider buying oil from Iran, and the same held true of all buyers throughout the world.

The only exception was a firm in Italy which bought a tanker load only to have the vessel and its cargo seized by British ships off the coast of Africa.

## Deal Called Off

So, considering all these developments, Mr. Idemitsu reluctantly informed the Iranians that the deal was off.

The Iranians approached the Japanese Foreign Office, which halfheartedly summoned Mr. Idemitsu and some other oil dealers. In the interests of good Japanese-Iranian relations, the official said, it was his duty to inform them that the Iranian Government was anxious to sell oil to Japan. But he did not advise them to buy, for to do so would certainly antagonize the British, and Anglo-Japanese relations were incomparably more important to Japan than those with Iran.

Yet the persistence of the Iranians finally caused Mr. Idemitsu to renege the promise. Looking back on that trying period, he says today that he felt like a tightrope walker. If he reached the other end of the rope, a pot of gold was his, but there was always the danger of slipping off and losing everything—having the Iranian oil he purchased confiscated and, on top of that, antagonizing the Americans to such an extent that he could obtain no further loans or oil from them.

## Mission to Iran

IRANIAN oil was still a rose surrounded by thorns in the fall of 1952 when Mr. Idemitsu met a former official of the economic and scientific section of SCAP.

He was Mr. Coffman, now a member of Overseas Consultants, Inc. of New York. From Mr. Coffman, Mr. Idemitsu learned that plans were under way in New York to form a joint Anglo-American-Dutch company to buy oil from Iran.

Then, in December, Secretary of State Dean Acheson declared that the State Department could not stop American companies from buying oil from Iran.

This changed the entire picture. Mr. Idemitsu's big worry now was that the proposed new company in New York would beat him in making a deal with the Iranians. He saw a fortune practically in his hands being suddenly snatched away.

He could not sleep at night and was restless during the day as he spurred his staff to complete preparations to dispatch a mission to Iran.

## Secret Mission to Teheran

Late in 1952, Katsuko Idemitsu, younger brother of Mr. Idemitsu and a vice-president of the company, accompanied by Mr. Tetsuo, a director, left secretly for Teheran. On their arrival, they were welcomed with open arms by the Prime Minister, Dr. Mossadegh.

Negotiations progressed smoothly and Katsuko Idemitsu kept his brother in Tokyo informed of developments. Mr. Idemitsu was satisfied that his brother would elicit the deal with Dr. Mossadegh and charter a tanker.

In February, 1953, an agreement was signed between the National Iranian Oil Company and Idemitsu. No sooner was news of this broadcast, than the Anglo-Iranian Oil Co. announced that the nationalization of oil in Iran was a one-sided proposition and that the Anglo-Iranian Oil Co., on the basis of the issue concluded between the government of the Persian Empire and the Anglo-Persian Oil Co. (Anglo-Iranian's former trade name), could not be deprived of title to the subsoil of the oil in Iran.

nationalization law on May 1, 1951, in effect Anglo-Iranian consigned the National Iranian Oil Co. did not have the right to sell oil to Mr. Idemitsu.

This was not an unexpected development. Mr. Idemitsu, realizing that international companies had been bound to occur, had obtained Hideo Yamao, one of Japan's outstanding authorities on international law. This attorney, as assisted by Seiji Sawa and Shigeo Takabayashi. They warned Mr. Idemitsu of the dangers he faced but advised him that they were convinced they could successfully defend him if the case as ever brought before a Japanese court.

## The Risk Involved

This meant that once the Iranian oil was unloaded in Japan, Mr. Idemitsu could be fairly certain of obtaining a favorable court decision even if Anglo-Iranian sued him.

But if the cargo were to be seized en route and the case tried in a British court, it was likely the decision would go against Mr. Idemitsu. Not only would the oil be confiscated, but the tanker could be seized and might be held for a considerable length of time.

When the owners of the tanker Mr. Idemitsu had chartered learned of this, they backed down. They pointed out that carrying Iranian oil would jeopardize their relations with the United Kingdom, a major port of call for their ships. No other ship owner would charter a tanker to Mr. Idemitsu.

The Japanese oil tycoon thus came to another impasse. "Why not use our own Nissho Maru," one of his executive suggested at a meeting of the board of directors.

"And have it grabbed by the British?" he was asked.

## Tackling the Problem

Legal adviser Yamao was consulted. He said it was hardly likely that the British would seize a Japanese tanker on the high seas even if it carried contraband, because of the grave international implications. However, as the use of the Nissho Maru, British warships could maneuver to force a vessel into British territorial waters if the vessel in question happened to be near such waters, for instance in the Malacca Straits or near Hong Kong.

Immediately after Japan's defeat in the war, the Imperial Japanese Navy had been scrapped, and soon thereafter a large number of jobless navy officers had sought Idemitsu's assistance. The navy had bought his oil during and before the war, and anyone who befriended Idemitsu is a friend for life. He had taken many of these officers into his employ, including captain and even a rear admiral.

He called in some of these veterans and asked them whether the Nissho Maru, were it to be dispatched to Iran, would be able to return with its cargo without danger of seizure by the British. They assured him this could be done if the Nissho Maru carried a former navy man to advise the captain.

## Anglo-Iranians Sue

The die was cast. The Nissho Maru left for Abadan on March 3. It arrived there on April 10, loaded a full cargo of oil and weighed anchor for its return voyage with a former Imperial Navy captain setting the course.

No sooner had the Nissho Maru sailed from Abadan than the Anglo-Iranian Oil Co. filed suit in the Tokyo District Court to have the Idemitsu Co. dispossessed of the oil it purchased in Iran on the ground that the oil was the property of Anglo-Iranian Co.

The Nissho Maru took a roundabout route to avoid the Malay Peninsula, parts of which were still under British protection, and Hong Kong, which was a British Crown Colony. The exact location of the vessel was kept secret, but it was considered a foregone conclusion that it would return to Japan early in May.

Newsman were on the lookout for the vessel and when she was sighted off Kobe May 9 airplanes were sent to photograph her. That night the entire nation was anxious to learn where she would dock and what would happen to her valuable cargo.

Sometime after midnight, the Nissho Maru slipped into Kawanabe Port, a few miles northeast of Yokohama, and by dawn there wasn't a drop of oil in her hold. The cargo had been piped into Idemitsu's tanks very quickly.

That night, in many tea houses and eating places in Tokyo, there were celebrations.

Also jubilant were the representatives of the Iranian National Oil Company who were in Tokyo awaiting the verdict of the court. They were anxious to cable the court's judgment to Teheran. But it was written in Japanese and was full of technicalities. Attorney Yamao had difficulty in translating the contents of the document. He worked far into the night before he was able to complete a satisfactory summary.

The unbounded rejoicing in the Idemitsu ranks was understandable. It meant that this little-known Japanese company had suddenly emerged as an important international oil buyer. Mr. Idemitsu had received assurances from Dr. Mossadegh, during the talks in Teheran, that if he would buy from Iran when everyone else refused to do so, he could depend in most-favored treatment in the future.

Seldom was a company in such a propitious position as Idemitsu was in now. It could buy an unlimited quantity of oil on buyers' terms in a sellers' market.

## Plans for Expansion

In the Idemitsu headquarters in Tokyo, far-reaching plans were laid for an epoch-making expansion program. This called for the construction of the world's biggest oil tanks and the most up-to-date oil refinery.

But once again, Mr. Idemitsu was to be faced with frustrating news on the heels of glad tidings. Three months after the Tokyo District Court handed down its verdict, a court decision occurred in Iran. Dr. Mossadegh, who had given him such

heartened assurances of most-favored terms, was behind bars, and a new government, which declined to honor its predecessor's promises, was in power.

But Idemitsu was by no means the only company that was thrifty for petroleum. With the nationalization of oil by Iran, the giants in the industry went out frantically in search of new supply sources. Gulf Oil of the United States, in conjunction with the British Petroleum Co., had formed the Kuwait Oil Co. some years previously. At that time, the Arabian and Iranian oil fields were supplying the bulk of oil coming from the Middle East.

As a result of the nationalization of the Iranian oil industry, attention was focused on Kuwait and in a short time Kuwait Oil Co. became the world's largest source of oil.

This new company entered into a long-term contract with the government whereby, in exchange for the exclusive right to that country's oil, it agreed to share profits on a 50 per cent basis.

## Exclusive Rights Gained

Kuwait's oil resources were practically limitless, far exceeding those of Iran. Moreover, Kuwait was far easier to reach than Iran. Whereas large tankers would have difficulty in putting into Iran's shallow harbors, Kuwait could accommodate any tanker, regardless of size.

In 1953, Mr. Idemitsu approached Gulf Oil. News of his daring spirit, his courage and his resourcefulness had spread far and wide by then, so Gulf was only too happy to enter into a long-term contract with this up-and-coming Japanese.

Idemitsu obtained exclusive rights for Japan and could buy all the oil the company wanted, the quantity to be governed only by how cheaply it could be transported. That was the deciding factor in competition with rivals.

There were few big ships that were idle, so Mr. Idemitsu contacted the National Bulk Carrier Co., one of the world's leading builders and operators of oil tankers. He explained his needs, and the outcome of negotiations was the building of an 85,000-ton ship which, when launched the following year, became the biggest ship afloat.

It was christened the Nissho Maru. Fittingly enough it was built in Kure, Japan, although NBC was an American company.

## Mammoth Tankers

ON a chilly day in December 1957, the mammoth tanker, under charter to Mr. Idemitsu, left Kure and steamed majestically into Tokyo Bay, which was the Idemitsu firm's home base. Its skipper, who had taken the craft on its shakedown trials and test run, was Capt. J.C. Parker.

Heading a noisy, striped pant delegation which went to Tokyo Bay to welcome and admire the Universe Admiral was Mr. Idemitsu himself. As he boarded the ship he was greeted by Captain Parker, and the two soon retired to the skipper's quarters.

It was an auspicious meeting. Captain Parker, an extraordinary American, is today acknowledged as the greatest living authority on mammoth oil tankers. Like Mr. Idemitsu, he was that rare human, a practical dreamer.

Sitting in the world's biggest ship, the two men talked about even larger tankers. Like long-distance runners who, in those early days, were discussing the four-minute mile, and aviation enthusiasts who talked about breaking the sound barrier, Mr. Idemitsu and Captain Parker debated the pros and cons of the 100,000-ton tanker, then a dream among oil and shipping men.

## 100,000-Ton Vessel

The advantage of great size in oil tankers is quickly apparent. The charter charge per ton of hauling oil from Kuwait to Tokyo is \$3.03 per ton via a 100,000-ton vessel, but soars to more than double that—to \$5.00 to be exact—via a 30,000-tonner.

But there are also disadvantages. Because of the ship's deep draft, many harbors are too shallow. Shipbuilding experts also warned that an outside ship stood the risk of breaking in half in heavy seas, and there were numerous other technical problems to be considered.

It was contended, for instance, that the bigger a tanker, the more difficult it would be to navigate and maneuver.

Captain Parker, a mammoth tanker advocate, was convinced that the vast strides in metallurgy and engineering warranted building 100,000-ton tankers, particularly in the case of a company like Idemitsu which had a long-term contract to obtain oil from a country whose harbor facilities were capable of taking 100,000-ton-plus ships. Tokuyama, where the oil was to be discharged, was also deep enough for such a ship, in fact even for ships as large as 200,000 tons.

Captain Parker told Mr. Idemitsu that his experience with the Universe Admiral had convinced him that a 100,000-tonner could be navigated with ease even in a typhoon, of which there are a constant series in the South Pacific between August and October.

'Universal Apollo'

Mr. Idemitsu was not only impressed. He was fascinated. He asked Captain Parker to submit a full report following his return from each trip to Kuwait. After six or seven of these voyages, the two men exchanged notes and despite the grave warnings against building a ship in excess of 100,000 tons, Mr. Idemitsu accepted Captain Parker's recommendations.

He then discussed terms and other details with the National Bulk Carrier Co., and offered to charter a 115,000-ton ship on a long-term basis if NBC would construct it. The offer was accepted and work started immediately on

the Universe Apollo.

The operations of Mr. Idemitsu, at long last, were on a sound footing. No longer did his company have to worry about entering the strange and unusual enterprises, such as repairing radio sets, brewing alcoholic beverages and selling books.

Anyone who could buy oil was certain of a market in Japan, and if the oil could be shipped at a cheaper cost than a competitor, the profits were that much greater. With each trip of the Universe Admiral, Mr. Idemitsu made a small fortune, and to say that the growth of his company in the next few years was phenomenal, putting it mildly.

On its completion, the 115,000-ton Universe Apollo was chartered to Mr. Idemitsu in 1959. Its first skipper was Captain Parker. Apollo's sister ship, the Daphne, followed in 1961, and again it was skippered by Captain Parker for Idemitsu.

In 1962, the 132,000-ton Nissho Maru was completed and Mr. Parker was on board for its maiden voyage although the vessel being under Japanese registry, was captained by a Japanese who had a long and successful marine career.

## Refining Oil

BEFORE and during the war, the Japanese Navy was by far the biggest Asian consumer of oil.

Because Mr. Idemitsu had close connections with the now-defunct Imperial Navy and had employed a number of former naval officers, he was in an excellent position to know which former naval oil facilities were best suited for refineries.

In 1955, Mr. Idemitsu opened negotiations with the government to have the former naval oil refinery at Tokuyama released to his company. Located in Yamaguchi Prefecture, Tokuyama City is in a bay which is conveniently near such industrial areas as Tokyo, Nagoya and Osaka.

During the war, the city was destroyed in a bombing raid which wiped out not only the oil refinery but thriving chemical, spinning, bottle-making and cast iron industries.

Within a few months after talks were opened, Idemitsu's request was approved. He approached the Bank of America for a loan to build the refinery. After Universal Oil Product (UOP), one of America's leading manufacturers of oil refineries, contracted to build the plant, the Bank of America advanced the loan.

## Y15-Billion Refinery

Masami Ishida, who 10 years ago had been making a livelihood by going down in a smeared khaki suit to the bottom of Sasebo oil tanks to scoop up murky refuse with a bucket, had risen to managing director of the company. He was put in charge of building the Y15-billion refinery.

Under a team of American technicians, the work progressed at breakneck speed and on March 17, 1957, ten months almost to the day the work started, the Tokuyama Refinery was completed.

It produced 35,000 barrels daily at first, but this was increased to 45,000 barrels that same year. Only 350 Idemitsu employees were required to man the massive, ultramodern automated plant.

It was an impressive moment when Mr. Idemitsu presided at the opening ceremony. Anchored in the harbor was the world's biggest tanker at that time, the 85,000-ton Universe Admiral, with a full cargo of oil for Idemitsu.

Four UOP-licensed fluid catalytic cracking, platforming, unifying and unisul units were installed in the refinery. An asphalt plant and an atmospheric and vacuum crude distillation unit were also added.

## In the Big Time

Mr. Idemitsu was definitely in the big time at last. Few companies, even in the mercurial oil industry, have grown as fast as his company did in the decade between 1953-1963.

By 1963, Idemitsu Kosen was ringing up sales of \$275 million per year and was perhaps the only major oil company in the world which was buying on both sides of the Iron Curtain. Of course, its purchases from the Soviet Union, in 1961, were a mere drop in the bucket, and Mr. Idemitsu was not particularly concerned about them.

Then suddenly and without warning, the U.S. Department of Defense announced on Dec. 21, 1961, that it would cut Mr. Idemitsu off as a supplier to U.S. military jets in Japan. He was shocked and hurt.

Actually, his sales to the U.S. military accounted for less than one per cent of his business, so losing the Pentagon's orders was, as Mr. Idemitsu put it, "utterly negligible" from a dollars and cents standpoint.

Even though Idemitsu had been purchasing Russian oil, American military inspectors conducted frequent and regular inspections to make certain that Russian oil was not being processed for American jet fuel. A furor, however, resulted when a U.S. congressman stated in a speech that the Defense Department was purchasing jet fuel from a Japanese company using Russian oil.

## Blacklisted by U.S.

This projected Mr. Idemitsu on the international business scene as a pro-Communist and as persona non grata to the United States.

Being blacklisted by the U.S. Defense Department was like having one's picture posted in public as a criminal.

The odd thing about this is that for years Mr. Idemitsu, who is anti-Communist, went out of his way to steer clear of Russians. Soon after his successful deal with Iran and later with Kuwait, he was approached time and again with offers of Russian oil. But he was not interested in trading with the Communists.

Then, in 1960, the Japanese Government concluded a trade agreement with the Soviet Union, one of the terms of which was the purchase of 100,000 tons of oil by Japan. The Government persuaded some of the minor oil dealers to buy 70,000 tons, but it could not dispose of the remaining 30,000 tons. The major companies all had close working arrangements with American interests so they would not touch it.

When Mr. Idemitsu was asked, he made his position clear to the Government. He was, he said, receiving loans from the Bank of America and was purchasing the bulk of his oil from Gulf Oil Company, an American concern. If the Government still wished him to buy Russian oil for the sake of promoting Japanese-Soviet trade, he would be willing to consult the Bank of America and Gulf Oil.

## Japan Gov't Requests

The Government said it was duty-bound to have Japanese companies buy the oil, and requested Mr. Idemitsu to make every effort to accede to its request.

Thereupon Mr. Idemitsu left on a trip around the world, and while in the United States sounded out the Bank of America and Gulf Oil, both of which declared that under the circumstances, they would raise no objection.

It is significant that U.S. Ambassador to Japan, Edwin O. Reischauer made it a point, soon after the Pentagon action, to publicly honor Mr. Idemitsu. This was at the christening of Mr. Idemitsu's 132,000-ton Nissho Maru, when Mr. Reischauer smilingly posed with Mr. Idemitsu and his daughter aboard the Nissho Maru when it was christened. Again, when the Nissho Maru put into Tokyo Bay in October, 1962, Ambassador Reischauer was one of the few foreigners present.

The amount of oil Mr. Idemitsu buys, and from whom, can easily be confirmed by seeing where his tankers go for their oil. Of the world's four tankers which are in excess of 100,000 tons, three are either owned or chartered by Mr. Idemitsu. They are the 132,000-ton Nissho Maru, and the 115,000-ton sister ships, Universe Daphne and Universe Apollo. These vessels are used exclusively to transport oil from Kuwait to Tokuyama and Chiba. Besides these three, the 85,500-ton Universe Admiral and a couple of smaller ships are also under charter to Mr. Idemitsu for the same purpose.

## Soviet Oil Question

The oil Mr. Idemitsu imports from the Soviet Union is carried by much smaller tankers chartered exclusively from Norwegian and other foreign companies. It is no secret to the American Government how much, or how little, oil they carry to Mr. Idemitsu's refineries.

Although Mr. Idemitsu is an advocate of mammoth tankers, he has no plans at present to build anything larger than the Nissho Maru. For one thing, he now owns the world's biggest ship and there is no indication that any of his competitors is planning to wrest this honor away from him.

So, with Captain J.C. Parker, the man who knows so much more about mammoth tankers than anyone else, safely in his pocket, Mr. Idemitsu is content to rest on his laurels.

Wouldn't he be able to make more money if he had bigger tankers? Certainly, he answers, but it costs money to build mammoth tankers, and if he can find investments that will bring in greater returns, why build ships?

In 1962, Idemitsu commenced the construction of another giant

refinery in Chiba Prefecture. Managing Director Ishida, who was in charge of building the Tokuyama Refinery, was put in charge of this undertaking. Although he had a staff of American technical advisers in Tokuyama, he built the Chiba Refinery without any outside help. The plant has been in operation since January—in the amazing time of eight months.

## Petrochemical Industry

Mr. Idemitsu has been enchanted, in recent years, with the highly profitable petrochemical industry, which is closely linked with oil, and he is bent on meeting this new challenge.

Aside from the fact that he can buy his own petroleum, Mr. Idemitsu has another unique advantage over his competitors in the petrochemical industry. His empire is free of labor unions, thus no time is ever wasted on labor-management negotiations and a strike is unthinkable.

Behind this ideal condition is Mr. Idemitsu's noble gesture in creating a benevolent foundation some years ago when his company was barely making both ends meet. He gave the Shojukai, as the association was called, 30 per cent of the company's shares and the association, in turn, has looked after each employee according to his needs.

In the disastrous collision between Idemitsu's tanker, the Munakata Maru, and the Norwegian freighter Tharald Brovig, last year in the narrow channel leading into Tokyo, 36 men aboard the Japanese ship perished.

The Shojukai will look after the needs of the families of all who died—the widows for life, and the children until they have graduated from university. This is only

one instance of the manner in which the Shojukai operates.

## Idemitsu's Contribution

There can be little doubt that Mr. Idemitsu has played a major role in enabling Japan to effect a minor industrial revolution. Factories and mills throughout the length of the country have switched from coal to fuel oil, and, while this has played havoc with the coal industry, it has been responsible for modernizing equipment in industrial plants, raising efficiency and slashing costs.

How big is Idemitsu today? In 1959, his oil sales totaled less than 50,000 kiloliters. This rose to 8,500,000 kiloliters last year, accounting for more than 16 per cent of the nation's total oil sales. Idemitsu's operations, in fact, are more extensive than those of any other independent oil tycoon, Paul Getty, who is reputed to be the world's wealthiest man. Of course, Mr. Getty, with his Tidewater and other oil possessions, is worth more than Mr. Idemitsu's but Mr. Idemitsu's yearly take is said to have already caught up with that of his American counterpart and is continuing to grow.

(Adv.)

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