



# The Church Measures The Evacuation

THREE RECENT CHURCH STATEMENTS  
OPPOSING CONTINUED WHOLESALE  
DETENTION OF AMERICA'S JAPANESE

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA OFFICE

FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION

2151 VINE ST.

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

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OCTOBER 26, 1942

(Further information on this vital subject can be found in an illustrated pamphlet, AMERICAN REFUGEES, which can be obtained from the above address at 5¢ each, 8 for 25¢, 40 for \$1, or \$2 per hundred. A bibliography on the subject is also available free.)

*"... contrary to the American concept of justice ..."*

#### THE DISCIPLES OF CHRIST CONVENTION

The evacuation and internment of citizens of Japanese ancestry formed the most hotly debated issue before the 1942 convention of the Disciples of Christ at Grand Rapids, Mich., July 28 - August 8. According to the CHRISTIAN CENTURY (August 12), the 2,000 delegates moved after prolonged debate to ask the government radically to change its present policy.

Holding that removal of citizens from their homes and their internment in camps solely on the basis of their racial origins is "contrary to the American concept of justice," the assembly voted by an estimated 3-to-1 majority to ask the authorities immediately to set up hearing boards to determine the loyalty to the United States of citizens of Japanese lineage and to release from detention all who are found to have been detained without cause.

#### ASK COMPENSATION FOR EVACUEES

The convention, whose attendance was apparently not affected by wartime restrictions, held that the government should compensate citizens of Japanese ancestry for losses sustained by them through evacuation, and should aid them to find work. It declared its belief that "the future of American Christian missionary effort in the Orient, in Africa and in other lands is involved" in the effort to right this wrong.

"What we do in this situation will have more important and far-reaching influence upon the colored peoples of the world than all the appeals we may make for confidence in the democratic cause in this world struggle." The convention asked the Federal Council of Churches to aid in persuading the government to follow its views.

*"Precedent set for anti-democratic forces ..."*

#### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL EDUCATION AND ACTION AS ADOPTED BY THE SYNOD OF CALIFORNIA OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MEETING IN OCCIDENTAL COLLEGE, JULY 28, 1942 ON JAPANESE EVACUATION

While the Federal Government has deemed it necessary in the interests of national security to remove from areas in our Pacific Coast States more than one hundred thousand people of Japanese ancestry, and,

While, the Army and civil authorities were most kindly and courteous in their dealings with these evacuees and sought to make the evacuation process as humane as possible,

We believe that Christian principles and the war aims of our nation, alike, demand that we now courageously face the various implications of this policy, lest it undermine our own liberties and put our democracy in jeopardy. We would thus respectfully point out, that:

1. The evacuation policy has involved racial discrimination, in that it was aimed at the Japanese alone, the majority of whom are American citizens.
2. The policy actually resulted in the practical suspension of the constitutional rights of a minority of American citizens without due process of law or providing hearings whereby they might prove their loyalty.

3. The speed and oft-times uncertainty of the evacuation procedure contributed to inevitable distress, serious economic loss and certain human values were put in jeopardy.

4. Popular hysteria and public antagonism generated by baseless rumors and the activities of politicians discouraged the Army's original policy of voluntary evacuation and resettlement and necessitated the present policy of segregation in Assembly and Relocation Centers.

5. The separation from homes and ordinary occupations, the loss of the privileges to which they had long been accustomed and the inevitable curtailment of contacts with Caucasian friends in the comparative isolation of the Centers have seriously affected the morale and maintenance of true Americanism.

6. The withdrawal of Japanese workers from agriculture and other industries has considerably reduced the production of goods and services and caused real loss to our wartime economy. At the same time the influx of laborers to take the place of the Japanese has created new racial problems.

7. The evacuation policy has already become a valuable propaganda weapon in the hands of the enemies of democracy, especially in the Far East.

8. A precedent has been set for anti-democratic forces at home whereby they may be able to liquidate other "undesirable minorities."

#### BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE SYNOD OF CALIFORNIA OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, U.S.A.

1. Expresses its confidence in the integrity and loyalty of the large majority of our Japanese American citizens, who with their elders, have cooperated with the authorities in what has been a most trying experience.

2. Commends the liberal and far-sighted policies adopted by the War Relocation Authority and trusts that its enlightened leaders will be able to carry out such plans as shall best contribute to preparing the Japanese for return to normal life in American communities.

3. Recommends that as soon as possible a policy for the wide dispersal of Japanese Americans, at least be inaugurated; believing that wide distribution of evacuees with opportunity for free enterprise is a sounder policy than mass segregation with controlled labor, as it fosters and maintains true Americanism, good morale and diminishes the difficulty of reintegrating them into normal life after the war.

4. Urges, in order to facilitate resettlement, as well as to promote fair play, that Hearing Boards be set up in each Center, as recommended by the Tolan Committee, where American citizens, at least, can have an opportunity to prove their loyalty and suitability for resettlement.

5. Endorses the plans of the Federal and Home Missions Councils and the Protestant Commission for Japanese Service to foster and create a public opinion favorable to the resettlement of Japanese in interior communities, and urges all churches to cooperate in this undertaking.

6. Views with great alarm all efforts such as the Anderson Bill and such movements as the "White America for White Americans," which aim to disfranchise Japanese and other American-born Orientals. This strikes at the very foundations of our American Commonwealth.

7. Opposes all efforts to exploit Japanese labor for selfish purposes.

8. Decries the agitation to debar alleevacuees from returning after the war to their former homes, or the move to send them to Japan, as being contrary to those very principles of justice and freedom for which the nation is now fighting. We urge our churches to lead in creating a public sentiment favorable to their return.

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*"... the method of totalitarian nations."*

RESOLUTIONS OF THE CALIFORNIA ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE OF THE METHODIST CHURCH  
STOCKTON, JUNE 17 - 21, 1942

In recent months more than 100,000 people of Japanese origin have been taken from their homes and placed in assembly centers and relocation centers. This action was precipitated by an order of President Roosevelt on February 19 giving the military authorities of the west coast complete control in such matters. The fact that only Japanese were so moved, involves the basic principles of racial discrimination.

We believe that the principle upon which our nation should proceed in such situations must be basically democratic and that the democratic way even in a war crisis does not discriminate between people of differing racial or national origins. Such discrimination is the method of totalitarian nations.

Therefore we believe that the most nearly Christian procedure is the method of selective evacuation through judging individuals cases as recommended by the Tolan Committee of Congress which found this method to be in full keeping with the needs of our national security.

We deeply regret that this principle of race and national equality and its logical method, that of selective evacuation, were not used in the recent mass removal of the people of Japanese origin; and we strongly urge that in any future decision affecting national or racial or other minorities the democratic and Christian principle and method be employed.

URGE "SELECTIVE JUDGING" NOW

We further believe that there is yet time to follow the basic principle of racial fair play even as England readjusted its treatment of people of alien origin and as has been followed in Hawaii to a large extent; and we urge the President of the United States to order the selective judging of individual cases, in order that the right to the liberty of movement or even to return to their homes with adequate protection may be established by Japanese.

In the meantime we make these proposals for immediate action.

1. That we oppose any legislation, such as the Anderson bill, which may be designed to deprive Japanese people of citizenship.
2. That we urge our churches to aid the War Relocations Authority in the resettling of Japanese in eastern communities, giving particular attention to (a) stimulating an attitude of friendly acceptance in those communities and (b) aiding in their economic establishment. We further recommend that our churches cooperate with other denominations who are already at work in this problem.
3. That we urge our churches to begin now in preparing their communities for the return of our Japanese brethren at the close of the war.
4. That we re-affirm our belief in the Christian principles of the brotherhood of man under the fatherhood of God, assuring these Japanese people that they are still our brothers.