

PACIFIC COAST COMMITTEE

ON

AMERICAN PRINCIPLES AND FAIR PLAY



The Committee on American Principles and Fair Play vigorously endorses the following government policies. It is our conviction that these policies strengthen the war effort of the nation and are in line with our democratic traditions, based upon the federal Constitution.

1. Continued segregation of all disloyal persons of Japanese ancestry, in order to insure maximum national security.

“ . . . all known subversive Japanese (should) be immediately segregated and removed from existing relocation camps and be confined in special detention camps for the duration of the war with Japan.”

. . . . Special House Committee of California Representatives: Costello, Englebright, Tolan, Izac, and Anderson.
(I.N.S. Washington, May 12, 1943)

“ Immediate internment of all disloyal Japanese.”

. . . . Recommendation by Senator Albert B. Chandler to Senate Military Affairs Committee.
(A.P. Washington, May 7, 1943)

2. The full recognition of the constitutional rights of loyal Americans of Japanese ancestry who have served in the armed forces of the United States.

“It is the inherent right of every faithful citizen, regardless of ancestry, to bear arms in the nation’s battle.”

. . . . Henry L. Stimson, Secretary of War.

“The first prisoner of war taken by the United States was captured by a Hawaiian-born Japanese American national guardsman, who overpowered the operator of a Japanese submarine, while patrolling a Hawaiian beach on Dec. 7, 1941.”

. . . . United Press, April 22, 1943.

"I have never had more whole-hearted, serious-minded cooperation from any troops than I have received from my present command."

. . . . Lt. Colonel Farrant L. Turner, commanding 100th Inf. Battalion, U.S.A., formed from Americans of Japanese ancestry.

"Your record in battle has been marked by one outstanding achievement after another. You are always thinking of your country before yourselves. . . . You have written a brilliant chapter in the history of America's fighting men."

. . . . Lt. General Mark W. Clark, Commander of the Fifth Army, upon the occasion of the presentation of a citation to the 100th Battalion in the vicinity of Belvedere, Italy, June 20, 1944.

3. The opportunity for loyal Americans of Japanese ancestry to resettle in the manner which, in the judgment of the federal government and in recognition of their constitutional rights, can make the greatest contribution to the national economy.

"In accordance with the directive in the Presidential Executive Order which created the Agency, the War Relocation Authority has developed procedures which are aimed at bringing about the relocation into normal communities of the largest possible number of the evacuated people consistent with the national security."

. . . . Dillon S. Myer, Director War Relocation Authority. June 9, 1943.

"Every loyal American citizen should be given the opportunity to serve this country wherever his skills will make the greatest contribution—whether it be in the ranks of the armed forces, war production, agriculture, government service, or other work essential to the war effort."

. . . . President Franklin D. Roosevelt, February 1, 1943, commenting on the organization of the War Department's combat unit for Japanese Americans.

4. Fair Play for Americans of Japanese ancestry who are loyal.

"The mass evacuation of Japanese did not imply disloyalty on the part of all Japanese and it does not appear either right or in accord with the American conception of democracy to retain these loyal ones in restrictive custody,"

. . . . Colonel William P. Scobey, War Department General Staff.

"Having been in charge of military intelligence activities since June, 1941, I am in a position to know what has happened. There have been no known acts of sabotage, espionage, or fifth column activities committed by the Japanese in Hawaii either on or subsequent to December 7, 1941."

. . . . Colonel Kendall J. Fielder, Assistant Chief of Staff for Military Intelligence, Hawaiian Department.

"The Americans of Japanese origin are an invaluable element in our population; I welcome their presence, and regret the bitter necessity of imposing on the trustworthy and loyal majority of nisei the restraints which are made needful by the bad behavior and evil repute of a minority I welcome the policies of our government which are designed to relieve the nisei of discriminatory restrictions as rapidly and fairly as possible."

. . . . Joseph C. Grew, former United States Ambassador to Japan, April 26, 1943.

We support these government policies.

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The Committee has taken no position on any suggestion that persons of Japanese ancestry be returned to the Pacific Coast at this time. We have confidence in the present policies of the War Department, and will support the War Department if and when it decides that national security will warrant such return.

Our primary concern is to insure the application of the following principles to the solution of these problems.

- (1) Attacks upon the constitutional rights of any minority tend to undermine the rights of the majority;
- (2) Attempts to deprive any law-abiding citizen of his citizenship because of racial descent are contrary to fundamental American principles and jeopardize the citizenship of others;
- (3) Legislation to deprive Americans of Japanese descent of any of their legal rights would set a precedent for depriving other racial groups of their rights and would weaken the confidence of our allies, particularly those in Asia and Latin America, in the sincerity of our professions to be fighting for the rights of all peoples;
- (4) It is un-American to penalize persons of Japanese descent in the United States solely for the crimes of the Government and military caste of Japan.

The Committee on American Principles and Fair Play was formed to support and defend the constitutional rights of law-abiding persons of oriental descent in the United States and particularly of the Japanese American evacuees. Persons desiring to aid the educational program of the Committee either through financial contribution or volunteer service should write to the Executive Secretary at:

465 California Street, San Francisco 4, California

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