

▲ BRIEF HISTORICAL REPORT OF THE

PACIFIC COAST

COMMITTEE ON AMERICAN PRINCIPLES AND FAIR PLAY

October 1, 1941 - December 15, 1945

Prepared by Ruth W. Kingman, Executive Secretary of the Committee

That tensions between the United States Government and Japan were felt in California as early as October of 1941, was indicated in a release issued on October 1 of that year by the Northern California Committee on Fair Play for Citizens and Aliens of Japanese Ancestry.

Signed by its chairman, General David Prescott Barrows, the release called upon fair-minded Californians to combat discrimination against their fellow residents of Japanese race. Its introductory paragraph follows:

"....One by-product of the current tension between Japan and the United States is of special concern to California, and may affect the morale of our armed forces. It is this: popular resentment toward Japan may find expression in greater discrimination or even physical violence against fellow-residents of Japanese extraction, distrust of the Japanese Government being transferred to all persons of Japanese race. A moment's thought will show that such animus would be not only unAmerican, but also a menace to public welfare and the good name of our State."

On December 29, 1941, three weeks after Pearl Harbor, the Fair Play Committee, under the new name of Committee on National Security and Fair Play, issued a further release, the introductory paragraph of which read:

"The central objective of our Committee on Fair Play has been supported by the California public, even under the stress of Japan's treacherous attack. Californians have kept their heads. There have been few if any serious denials of civil rights to either aliens or citizens of Japanese race, on account of the war. The American tradition of fair play has been observed."

The release expressed satisfaction on the following points:

1. "All of the organs of public influence and information, press, pulpit, school, radio, etc., have discouraged mob violence and have pleaded for tolerance and justice for all."
2. "Federal and local officials charged with maintaining order and suppressing subversive activities have shown both vigor and sympathetic consideration in the fulfillment of their duty."
3. "Private civic agencies have acted promptly to handle the many difficulties encountered by Japanese residents on account of necessary wartime restrictions on persons and property...."

".....This Committee is not concerned either to appraise or to guarantee the loyalty to the United States of citizens or resident aliens, whether they be of the Japanese or any other race. Espionage or subversive activities by Japanese residents, or by anyone else, should be reported as a matter of course to the F.B.I. or the local police, and they, not private individuals or vigilantes, should be left to take protective measures. We believe in order under law, not under violence or caprice."

On March 3, 1942, a detailed statement of this Committee "welcomed the President's proclamation of February 20th, placing all residents in vital military areas under the control of the Secretary of War and the military commanders....As Californians, no less than as American citizens, we accept it as a wise solution of the vexed problem of handling enemy aliens and dangerous citizens."

This appeal was prepared for the Committee by Galen M. Fisher. No account of the work of the Fair Play Committee could be considered complete without special reference to the tireless efforts put into its program by Dr. Fisher. His leadership in all phases of the Committee's activities has always inspired the people who have been privileged to work with him.

In the March 3 release, it was suggested that (1) in the event of evacuation....evacuated persons be committed to civilian governmental agencies rather than military, (2) the removal of aliens and citizens be kept at the minimum consistent with military necessity and national security, (3) "The integrity of our nation and all the liberties guaranteed by it are at stake. It is a national fight, and only the Government should call the signals. In the spirit of the President's proclamation, it behooves us all--public officials and private citizens alike--to set up no impediments in the way of the military and other Federal authorities, and to place ourselves at their command....Engaged as we are in a life and death struggle to preserve our hard-won democratic heritage, we should be traitors if we flouted democratic principles of justice and humanity in our treatment of either aliens, or citizens, even under the stress of war. We, therefore, appeal to our official representatives, municipal, county, state, and national, and to our fellow-citizens of whatever origin, to maintain order under law and the respect for persons summed up in the words "Fair Play".

When the policy of the federal government, as worked out by the War Relocation Authority, permitted the persons of Japanese ancestry who had been excluded from the Pacific Coast to resettle inland, considerable objections were raised by the residents of the inland communities. It appeared to members of the Committee that a more widely representative organization than they had thus far affected would have to carry on an effective program. With that end in mind, the Committee on National Security and Fair Play was dissolved on January 8, 1943, to make way for a larger, stronger organization.

In a letter to the vice-chairmen of the committee, written on January 8, 1943, the chairman, Dr. Grady, said "We may believe that we have exercised a moderating influence on both public opinion and government authorities, and helped avert mob violence against Japanese residents, which was a prime objective of the original founders of our Committee."

The Pacific Coast Committee on American Principles and Fair Play

The Pacific Coast Committee on American Principles and Fair Play was organized on January 28, 1943, in San Francisco, as an outgrowth of the Committee on National Security and Fair Play.

All persons of Japanese ancestry had been evacuated from the Pacific Coast. The hue and cry had been raised which, if successful, would permanently prevent their return. The traditionally anti-Oriental bodies of California, among them the Native Sons and Daughters of the Golden West, the State Grange, and some of our patriotic organizations and their affiliates, were busily at work memorializing Congress and the State Legislature in efforts to bring about discriminatory legislation. Many well-meaning, sincere, frightened and angry persons were being swept into hysterical attitudes by professional agitators whose sponsorship revealed an economic interest in the permanent absence of Japanese American competition, principally in agriculture.

PERIOD I.

(February 19, 1942, to December 18, 1944)

Membership.

Obviously, the Committee's first task was the creation of a wide organization. Decisions were reached which called for mobilization of all existing sympathetic opinion. It was felt that membership should be drawn from a wide constituency, and should include outstanding representatives of Labor, Education, Religion, and Industry. To this end, hundreds of letters were sent out, and the Executive Secretary spent several weeks conferring with community leaders from Seattle to Los Angeles. Organizations, such as the Pasadena Fair Play Committee, and the Fresno Fair Play Committee expressed a desire to join in the wider organization, and their memberships became the backbone, and from time to time the spokesmen, of the entire group. Committees in Santa Barbara, San Jose, Sacramento were encouraged in their organizing, as were smaller groups in Palos Verdes and several other outlying communities.

Categories of membership were established, ranging from Student memberships, with annual dues of \$1.00, through Regular memberships (dues \$2.00 per year), and Sustaining Memberships (dues \$10.00 per year). The amount of financial support received through these memberships, plus a few moderate gifts, and later generous Foundation grants, made it possible for the Committee to print, mimeograph or multigraph and distribute over 100,000 pieces of material containing well documented statements and facts in support of the government's policy.

(The treasurer of the Committee is Harry S. Scott, President of the General Steamship Corporation of San Francisco. All financial transactions of the Committee have been under his supervision and the books have been audited annually by Long and Wyman, certified public accountants, 300 Montgomery Street, San Francisco)

With leaders in Church, Education, Labor and Business recognizing the Committee as a dependable source of information concerning the evacuees, the Executive office, by the middle of June, 1943, was so pressed with requests for material and guidance, that an office secretary was secured, to handle much of the detail involved.

Preparation of Material and Determination of Policy.

One of the most useful pieces of material prepared by the Committee was the statement drawn up and published on June 15, 1943. Outlining the principles upon which the organization was based, it provided the yardstick by which all subsequent action of the Committee was measured. More than ten thousand copies of the original statement, plus several thousand more, as it was later brought up to date, have been distributed. A portion of the statement is as follows:

"Our primary concern is to insure the application of the following principles to the solution of these problems. (ed. note: Problems concerning lawabiding persons of Japanese ancestry.)

- (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.

With the distribution of the foregoing Statement of Policy, the Committee established its interest in the attitudes of policy-making bodies, whether civic, religious, or governmental. While many of its members were associated in one way or another with groups whose primary interests included problems of welfare, often effecting the evacuees, it was decided that the program of the Committee would be limited to the support of the rights of Americans of Japanese ancestry, rather than to include a program of welfare and/or personal service to the evacuees.

(See attached sheet for list of material prepared and distributed by the Committee)

Much of the work was done through other organizations, whose members made use of the factual material provided by the Fair Play Committee. Church groups, student organizations, labor unions and various civic bodies were advised, upon their own request, as to what might be done through their own channels, to develop unbiased attitudes toward the Japanese Americans.

In order that the Committee might feel sure that the suggestions made were in full accord with the government's wartime policies, certain members of the Advisory Board, and Executive Committee, as well as the Executive Secretary, kept in touch with both the War Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

On several occasions Advisory Board members met with members of the General Staff of the Western Defense Command. The Executive Secretary conferred with Assistant Secretary of War John McCloy and with Attorney General Francis Biddle in Washington. All of the Committee's releases were sent to representatives of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in San Francisco. At all times, excellent relations were maintained with the Department of the Interior and the War Relocation Authority, and upon one occasion, Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes met with the Advisory Board in San Francisco.

Because its members felt confidence in the government's policy as administered by the War Relocation Authority, much of the Committee's work during 1943, and 1944 was concentrated upon an interpretation of that agency's program. Faced with an overwhelmingly difficult administrative task, W.R.A. also had to meet a wartime Congress, and an indifferent or openly hostile press, not to mention repeated attacks by the Dies Committee and its state-sized counterpart in California.

When the War Department, largely as a result of efforts of Assistant Secretary of War, McCloy, activated an all Nisei Combat Unit in the Army, one of the main objectives of the Committee was gained. The right of loyal citizens to serve in the armed forces was established.

Tremendous pressure was directed at Washington to prevent the acceptance of Nisei in the Army. The anti-Nisei forces well knew that a large step had been taken in restoring rights which would eventually lead to the return of Japanese Americans to the Pacific Coast.

Approximately one-half of the material released by the Fair Play Committee during 1943 and 1944 referred to Nisei in the armed services. Many articles and releases were in support of the rights of the Nisei servicemen and his law-abiding parents. As the unsurpassed record of the 442nd Infantry has become familiar to the American public, and the exploits of the Intelligence units in the South Pacific have been recounted, there has been a marked decrease in anti-Nisei agitation, even on the West Coast. In 1943-1944, however, that record was only in the making.

Both the War Department and the War Relocation Authority have done an outstanding job of publicizing the record of the Nisei servicemen. That record has done more than any or everything else to convince hostile Westerners that the War Department has sound reasons for disagreement with General DeWitt's ill advised statement that "A Jap is a Jap".

"If and When".

War Department responsibility for ordering the evacuation was always recognized by the general public.

War Department responsibility for the return of the evacuees has still to be recognized by many.

The Committee at no time questioned the right or wrong of evacuation as ordered. However, it did contend that if and when the order was rescinded, the evacuees should be allowed to return. To that end, material was prepared and distributed, pointing out the contributions the law-abiding Japanese Americans would be able to make to the war effort and to national unity, if and when the War Department permitted their return.

Strong opposition was presented in portions of the press and by telegrams to the President and in letters to Congressmen. Resolutions (strangely similar in form and content) were passed by Boards of Supervisors, Chambers of Commerce, American Legion Posts, and many other organizations, strongly protesting any return of evacuees. All predicted dire results to the nation at large, to the Pacific Coast specifically, and last but not least, to any person of Japanese ancestry who might appear in the evacuated area, should the order be rescinded.

Up and down the Pacific Coast, other groups, stimulated by the Committee, were taking measures, openly and privately, assuring the War Department, the War Relocation Authority, and the Western Defense Command that the majority of the people living on the Pacific Coast were willing to abide by the decisions of the War Department in time of War. Assurances were made by some law-enforcement bodies, and particularly by the Attorneys General of the states of Washington, Oregon, and California, that if and when the evacuation order was rescinded, law and order would be maintained. (See Period II and Period III for further report on law enforcement).

During this period, Nisei in uniform, and later members of their immediate families who had been cleared by the military, were permitted to return to the evacuated area. Strong groups in the Northwest, particularly in Seattle, were outspoken in support of the rights of the servicemen. The Committee membership in Washington and Oregon remained small--in Washington because existing groups were already doing effective work, in Oregon because of the distance between the Executive office in California and Portland, where some of the bitterest anti-Nisei organizations originated.

In December of 1943 an executive office was set up in Los Angeles to serve southern California, and in June, 1944, a strong committee was organized in that city.

As nearly one half of the Japanese Americans evacuated from California left from Los Angeles County, it was highly important that feeling against their right to return should not crystalize if and when they were permitted to do so. Therefore, the formation of a strong Fair Play Committee, whose efforts could be added to those already being made by the other civic, religious and educational groups in the Los Angeles area, was timely and effective.

PERIOD II.

(December 18, 1944, to August 14, 1945)

Almost simultaneously with the rescission of the exclusion order by the War Department, (December 18, 1944) came an announcement by the War Relocation

Authority that all Relocation Centers would close by December, 1945.

There was no longer any question as to the right of the evacuees to return.

All of the persons and organizations who had been trying by every means possible to prevent the return of law-abiding Japanese Americans had been shown by War Department action, that they had failed utterly. They now found themselves in the embarrassing position of opposing the War Department in time of war.

The Committee, however, had always based its program on mobilization of support for the War Department if and when a rescission of the Exclusion would be announced.

Thus the work of the Committee was, overnight, changed from an "if and when" to a "when" basis. The law-abiding people whose rights had been obscured during the dark days of group suspicion were enjoying the support of the War Department, and the work of the Committee became easier.

In December of 1944, the Executive Committee, together with several members of the Advisory Board, met to consider the problems which would face the returnees. It was felt that, inasmuch as the federal government had moved the evacuees out, government agencies could be expected to assist in their return.

Government Responsibility for Evacuee Aid

Shortly after the announcement of the closing of the Relocation Centers, certain problems presented themselves to the evacuees as they planned to return to their homes. More than half were expected to resettle elsewhere, but most of those remaining in the centers expected to return to the Pacific Coast. The most pressing needs were:

- (1) Financial aid.
- (2) Housing.

Most of the evacuees had been working in the centers for \$16.00 per month. Expenses had eaten up any or most of their reserve, and they disliked asking for charity. The W. R. A. was faced with an enormous administrative task unparalleled in United States history. With little support from an unsympathetic Congress, it has managed to carry out a very distasteful task in a more humanitarian way than could have been hoped for.

The limitations of W. R. A. made it impossible that truly adequate financial provision be made for the returning evacuees. As a result, much bitterness and distrust of W. R. A. developed within the Centers. The Committee has given all possible support to W. R. A. in its efforts to secure adequate funds for a satisfactory conclusion of its program.

The housing shortage throughout the United States is now a matter of common knowledge. However, early in 1945 the picture was not as clear as it is now, in December of 1945. W. R. A. announced the coming closing for the Centers and told evacuees that if they had no other relocation plans they would be put on trains which would return them to their former homes. The acuteness of the housing shortage was not recognized in time to make proper provision for housing the returnees.

As a result, the War Relocation Authority has promoted a mass return of the evacuees to areas where housing is already inadequate. Such a return is often not only a physical hardship to the returnee, but also presents problems in public relations which threaten to undo much which the Committee has been able to accomplish in the past three years.

The Committee, while continuing to support the W. R. A. relocation policy, has given no support to its present program, and has sent memos sharply critical of that program, to Secretary of the Interior Ickes, President Truman, and Dillon Myer.

Director of the War Relocation Authority.

Community Cooperation With Returnees

Development of civic groups throughout the state which would provide permanent organizations equipped to combat community tensions rising from racial and other minority problems was undertaken by the Committee.

It was recognized that county and local welfare agencies, religious groups and other organizations whose programs served minority constituencies, could be expected to cooperate with the government agencies.

It became a policy of the Fair Play Committee to work for recognition of the rights of law-abiding persons of Japanese ancestry to membership in any inter-racial post-war or social planning group in California.

A statement made by the Committee at this time reads, "Of this we are certain. The status of any one minority is irretrievably related to all minorities. There are many able groups and individuals here on the Pacific Coast and elsewhere who have made the problems of minorities their chief concern. Some have maintained a warm and active interest in the thousands of Americans of Japanese ancestry during these past bitter years. More have allowed problems of a less vicious controversial nature to take first place in their overcrowded schedules and budgets.

"One of the most important things we must do is to gain recognition of the rights of law-abiding persons of Japanese ancestry, recognition and membership in any inter-racial post-war or social planning group in California.

"We have occasionally, in the past, been criticized for concentrating our efforts in behalf of law-abiding persons of Japanese ancestry. We look forward to the day when that concentration of effort will not be necessary, when members of this, one of our smallest racial minorities, will receive friendly recognition by all groups working in the field of minority problems.

"When that day comes, our immediate task will be done, and we can turn our keen interest and strong support toward the development of proper attitudes and conduct among men of all races."

In an effort to draw together the government and private agencies for a consideration of their responsibilities, a conference was called for January 10 and 11, 1945.

CONFERENCE ON INTER-RACIAL COOPERATION PALACE HOTEL, SAN FRANCISCO, JANUARY 10-11, 1945

Sponsored by the Pacific Coast Committee on American Principles and Fair Play, the Conference was built around the following purposes:

1. To draw together persons connected with Government Agencies and voluntary organizations in order to plan jointly for the orderly and harmonious integration into community life of such evacuees of Japanese ancestry as may return, with Army approval, to the West Coast, and
2. To consider creating machinery to ensure coordination of plans agreed upon and of activities of organizations concerned with inter-racial and inter-cultural relations.

Participants: Representatives of Government Agencies:--

War Relocation Authority
Federal Social Security

War Manpower Commission
Federal Public Housing Administration
Children's Bureau
U. S. Office of Education
Civil Service Commission
President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice
Public Health Service
State War Board
California Agricultural Adjustment Agency
California Department of Agriculture
Farm Security Administration
Emergency Farm Labor Project, Agricultural Extension Service
Federal Land Bank, Berkeley
United States Employment Service

Members of Voluntary Organizations:

Pacific Coast Committee on American Principles and Fair Play--
Representatives from: Los Angeles, Pasadena, Santa Barbara,
Sacramento, Fresno, San Mateo, San Jose, Seattle.
San Francisco Council for Civic Unity
Seattle Council for Civic Unity
Berkeley Democratic Club
National Conference of Christians and Jews
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
Filipino Groups
Residents of relocation centers
Berkeley Inter-racial Committee
American Council on Race Relations
Berkeley Branch--Women's International League
Committee on Resettlement, Federal Council of Churches.
Rosenberg Foundation
Columbia Foundation
Chinese Six Company
Office of Community War Services
Young Men's Christian Association
Young Women's Christian Association
American Civil Liberties Union.
International Institutes
Congress of Industrial Organizations
Northern California Council of Churches
East and West Association
Community Chest
American Friends Service Committee
Japanese-American Citizen's League
Jewish Survey Committee
Representatives of the different churches.

Statements were made by representatives of government agencies, pledging non-discriminatory treatment for returnees.

In round table discussions, it was concluded that some expert guidance was necessary to provide a coordinated program of inter-racial and inter-cultural groups on the West Coast.

The second day of the Conference was devoted to a consideration of the "Outlook and Situation of Japanese Americans in Pacific Coast Agriculture".

Discussion was introduced by a series of ten minute statements by:

Director of the War Relocation Authority.
Chairman of the State War Board and California AAA Committee.

Director, California Department of Agriculture.
Regional Director, Farm Security Administration
Associate State Supervisor, Emergency Farm Labor Project, Agricultural Extension Service, University of California.
President, Federal Land Bank of Berkeley.

In a discussion led by the Chairman of the State Board of Agriculture, committee members joined with returned evacuees in an attempt to clarify the situation of the returning Japanese American Farmers.

Field Work Following Conference

As the paid personnel of the Committee has never been adequate to do all of the field work necessary for the development of a full program, other organizations have contributed the services and expenses of their own personnel to assist in the work. The Federal Council of Churches, the American Council on Race Relations, the Young Men's Christian Association, the Young Women's Christian Association, and the Congregational Church have all assigned staff members to the task of going out into the counties and smaller cities of California in an effort to mobilize the fair-minded people in those communities. These representatives worked out of the Committee's office, developing the program as outlined by the Committee.

The marked success of such field personnel, plus a natural upsurge of community concern, has resulted in the formation of organizations in at least fifty communities in California. Some already existing organizations were strong, notably the Berkeley Inter-racial Committee, the San Francisco Council on Civic Unity, the Los Angeles Council on Civic Unity, the Mayor's Committee of San Francisco, and the Inter-racial Committee of Monterey. These groups had been going concerns for some time, and had developed excellent programs by the end of 1944. Others, like the Mayor's Committee in Fresno, and certain smaller groups in more rural communities, are off to a strong start, while others are still rather nebulous and in great need of direction.

Suggestions have been sent to some of these organizations from time to time, such as:

(1) Guide Posts. Mimeographed sheet sent out at request of church groups, indicating what practical services might be offered to returnees and instructing members as to procedure to be followed in case of trouble or rumored trouble involving returnees.

(2) Homeward Bound. A pamphlet prepared and sent out by the American Council on Race Relations and the Fair Play Committee together, with suggestions to community groups wishing to assist the evacuees in their return.

(3) Actions to Take Immediately When An Offense Occurs. Mimeographed sheet prepared and signed by State Attorney Robert W. Kenny, giving concise instructions as to how to notify authorities of any offense, threatened or actual.

Further Community Organization.

As an outgrowth of the Palace Hotel Conference, plus an increasing number of requests from groups in outlying communities, a second conference was planned.

To an increasing degree, the work of the Fair Play Committee was being taken over by other organizations. This was highly gratifying, as it indicated that the Committee had been successful in gaining support for the Nisei by other groups.

Outstanding members of the press were now outspoken in support of loyal Japanese Americans. Certain American Legion Posts had taken an excellent stand and had initiated Nisei members. The C. I. O. had come out strongly in support of the right of law-abiding Japanese to employment. The International Longshoremen and Warehousemen's Union had expelled two of its members who persisted in discrimination against a Japanese American fellow member. Schools and Universities were showing

fine attitudes in welcoming their returning faculty members and students of Japanese ancestry.

To insure an ongoing development of this trend toward true Americanism, the Committee called a conference to be held, at the request of the local Fair Play Committee, in Sacramento.

Conference of California's Councils of Civic Unity
and Similar Community Organizations
Sacramento, California, July 6, 1945

The following organizations were invited to send representatives:

Council for Civic Unity, Mountain View
Council for Civic Unity, Vallejo
Council for Civic Unity, Oakland
Council for Civic Unity, Stockton
Council for Civic Unity, San Jose
Council for Civic Unity, Sacramento
Council for Civic Unity, Long Beach
Council for Civic Unity, Los Angeles
Mayor's Committee on Civic Unity, Oakland
Mayor's Committee on Civic Unity, San Francisco
San Diego Committee for Civic Unity
Inter-racial Council, Stockton
Inter-racial Committee, Berkeley
Inter-racial Committee, Monterey
Inter-racial Commission, Pasadena
Rev. Arthur Fruhling, Vacaville
Mr. Charles Jeppeson, Vacaville
East & West Association, Santa Barbara
Committee on Japanese Resettlement, Stockton
Twin Cities Citizens League, Yuba City
The National Conference of Christians & Jews, San Francisco
Fair Play Committee, Fresno
Fair Play Committee, Palo Alto
Fair Play Committee, Pasadena
Fair Play Committee, Los Angeles
Fair Play Committee, San Mateo
Fair Play Committee, Santa Barbara
Friends of the American Way, Pasadena
Race Relations Group, University of California, Berkeley
Open Forum, Vacaville
Japanese American Citizen's League, San Francisco
Council for Civic Unity, San Mateo

At the invitation of the Committee, observers were sent by the Western Defense Command and the Ninth Service Command.

In three work sessions, the following subjects were discussed:

1. The place and functions of Councils of Civic Unity in the Contemporary Picture.
2. "Racial Tensions and the Law."
3. "California vs. Un-American Practices."

In the discussion on the Place and Functions of Councils of Civic Unity, the Regional Director of the American Council on Race Relations, as chairman, was able to bring before the conference a consideration of types and programs of Civic organizations most effective in resolving community tensions due to minority problems.

Racial Tensions and the Law

In a consideration of racial tensions and the law, the chairman, Robert Kenny, Attorney General of the State of California, prefaced his talk by reading a release from the American Civil Liberties Union, in which a reward of \$1,000 was offered for "information leading to the arrest and conviction on a felony charge of persons who molest the returning Japanese Americans within one year from that date."

During the first half of 1945, there had been an increasing number of "incidents" where violence and threats of violence had been known to occur. There had been no bodily harm done any returnee, but more than eighty reports of arson and other destructive acts or threats had been made to the authorities.

One of the reasons for the holding of the Conference in Sacramento was to call attention to the determination of both the Governor and Attorney General to maintain law and order. The discussion revealed the dissatisfaction of those attending with the lack of law-enforcement. It also gave the Attorney General an opportunity to outline procedures for implementing the law-enforcement officers and courts.

At a luncheon meeting between sessions, the speaker, Frank A. Clarvoe, Editor of the San Francisco News, challenged members of both majority and minority groups to develop attitudes and practices which would contribute something constructive to a society all of whose members were fighting for "freedom".

Following a discussion of the general inter-racial picture in California, it was generally concluded that some kind of integration of all groups working on problems related to racial tensions was desirable.

A motion was passed providing that "the program committee (of the Conference) be asked to act as a nucleus and to undertake any procedure that recommends itself to them in order to make the next step in tackling the problems of organizing a statewide council."

The program committee was made up of the following:

1. Executive Secretary of the San Francisco Council of Civic Unity.
2. Executive Secretary (Regional) of the Japanese American Citizen's League.
3. Director (Regional) The American Council on Race Relations.
4. Assistant Treasurer, Fair Play Committee.
5. Executive Secretary, Fair Play Committee.

In the weeks immediately following the Sacramento Conference, several meetings were held for a discussion of a statewide organization. (Further account of organization to be continued in Part III of this Report).

PART III

(August 14, 1945 to December 15, 1945)

With the abrupt end of the War with Japan, the work of the Committee took on still further changes.

Once again, there was a twofold task. First, support of evacuee right to return. Second, Development of state organization.

Support of Evacuees

The Committee has always refrained from undertaking any kind of welfare work. At the same time, it has done what it could to analyze the evacuees needs, and to enlist the interest of other groups in developing welfare programs.

As most of the returnees were returning to the southern part of the state, it was natural that the Los Angeles Committee would spearhead the development of committees whose members would try to meet the welfare needs of returning evacuees.

Since V-J Day, particularly, the Los Angeles Office has been instrumental in developing widespread and generous interest in such welfare program. From September, 1945, to the present, southern groups have been practically autonomous and have carried on a program specifically in line with local needs. At the same time they have remained closely allied with the Central Office, and have had its continued and full support.

After V-J Day, the problem of housing returnees was lessened considerably. It was made possible for the War Department to provide a number of vacated army installations, and the Federal Housing Authority to provide unneeded housing projects and trailer camps.

It became evident that existing provision for those in need of public assistance was either inadequate or was not being satisfactorily administered. When this was pointed out to the Federal Social Security, through whose offices public assistance funds were being distributed, way and means of creating a more satisfactory procedure were worked out.

The Committee is presently engaged in efforts which may assist in securing additional funds to be administered by Social Security should need arise after the present government fiscal year.

Statewide Organization

Following several meetings of the Organizing Committee, copies of a preliminary set of By-Laws was sent to each organization represented at the Sacramento Conference. After much consultation it had been concluded that the type of coordination and leadership which a statewide organization would need could best be secured if a considerable portion could be found in some already established body.

The Fair Play Committee, as an emergency, war-time organization, felt that the times called for a more permanent structure. The organizing committee decided to ask the American Council on Race Relations to provide leadership and guidance to that permanent structure.

At the present date (December 15, 1945) a second, amended set of suggested By-Laws is being drawn up, and will be submitted immediately, to the cooperating bodies for acceptance or rejection.

Final organization will be effected in January, 1946, and an ongoing program assured.

PUBLICATIONS, REPRINTS AND RELEASES

used by

COMMITTEE ON AMERICAN PRINCIPLES AND FAIR PLAY

1. Statement of Purpose and Policy. (See p. 5 of report for full description) Brochure setting forth the policy of the Committee. 30,000 copies distributed.
2. Signed statement by outstanding citizens, a brochure made up of statements of President Roosevelt, Secretary of War Stimson, Col. Kendall J. Fielder, of Military Intelligence, Hawaiian Department, Attorney General Francis Biddle, and others, expressing concern that distinction be made between law-abiding resident Japanese Americans and our enemy in Japan.
3. Signed statements, of J. Edgar Hoover, of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Chief of Policy Gabrielson of Honolulu, testifying to the lack of sabotage in Honolulu on December 7, 1941.
4. War Department Release carrying facts concerning Americans of Japanese ancestry in the United States Army.
5. Editorial by Chester Rowell, a reprint from the San Francisco Chronicle of June 14, 1943, headlined "Much Hysteria About Japanese Americans".
6. A Balance Sheet on Japanese Evacuation, by Galen M. Fisher. A booklet containing reprints of four articles appearing in the Christian Century of August 18, and 25, and September 1, and 8, 1943. (1) "Untruths About Japanese-Americans", (2) "Our Two Japanese-American Policies", (3) "Are the Evacuees being Coddled?", and (4) "What Race-Baiting Costs America". (Ed. note: With this writing, December, 1945, orders and requests are still coming in for this booklet, from Universities and libraries throughout the country. To date there have been 16,500 printed, but few still to be distributed).
7. Truth about the Jap Camps, reprint of an article by Maxine Davis, Liberty Magazine, August 7, 1943.
8. Democracy Begins at Home, reprint of two articles from Summer edition, 1943, of Common Ground. (1) "Get the Evacuees Out", by M. Margaret Anderson, (2) "Relocating a People", by Robert W. Frase, of the Employment Division, War Relocation Authority.
9. Beyond the Horizon, reprint of autobiographical sketch by Sgt. Yori Wada, appearing in the University of California Alumni Monthly, December, 1943.
10. American Fighting Men Speak Out, booklet prepared by the Committee, made up of quotations from letters from service men both Caucasian and Nisei, on the fighting fronts, expressing their attitudes toward the anti-Nisei hysteria then being expressed at home.
11. A Voice That Must Be Heard, an amplification of the Committee's "American Men Speak Out", prepared by the War Relocation Authority, and containing many more letters.
12. Ben Kuroki's Story, the Committee's pamphlet edition of "An Address by Sergeant Ben Kuroki of the United States Air Force", presented before the Commonwealth Club, in San Francisco, February 4, 1944.

13. Our 110,000 New Boarders, reprint from Reader's Digest of March, 1943, of an article by J. P. McEvoy, condensed from the Baltimore Sunday Sun, February 7, 1943.
14. Pertinent Facts, a sheet prepared by the War Relocation Authority in February, 1944, and revised in the spring of 1945, calling attention to important data concerning Japanese Americans and their life in and out of the Relocation Centers.
15. Myths and Facts About the Japanese Americans, a booklet prepared by the Department of the Interior (W.R.A.) in June, 1945, "Answering Common Misconceptions Regarding Americans of Japanese Ancestry".
16. "The Test of A Free Country", a pamphlet prepared by the Committee presenting a talk given by Dr. Robert G. Sproul, President of the University of California, and honorary Chairman of the Committee, in Los Angeles, California, on June 29, 1944.
17. Poster - carrying excerpts from the aforementioned "The Test of A Free Country".
18. Addresses of Dillon S. Myer, Director, War Relocation Authority.
 - (1) The Truth About Relocation. (Commonwealth Club, San Francisco, August 6, 1943.)
 - (2) Racism and Reason. (Meeting sponsored by Committee, Los Angeles, October 2, 1944.)
19. Nisei In Uniform, booklet of photographs and text, prepared by the United States Army and the War Relocation Authority, describing work of Japanese Americans in the Armed Forces.
20. Homeward Bound, a pamphlet prepared and sent out by the American Council on Race Relations and the Fair Play Committee, suggesting specific and practical aids to returning evacuees. Suggested for use by organized groups.
21. Racial Relations on the Pacific Coast, reprint from the San Francisco News of an address by its Editor, Frank A. Clarvoe, before the Commonwealth Club of California, January 19, 1945.

Several thousands of copies of additional material, some provided by the Department of the Interior, some by Denominational Presses, and still others mimeographed on Committee orders, have been distributed. All were as carefully prepared and documented as the foregoing, and contributed materially to the growth of confidence its constituents felt in the work of the Committee.