

WASHINGTON OFFICE
Japanese American Citizens League

MEMORANDUM

From Mike Masaoka Date March 5, 1971

To RAY OKAMURA, EDISON UNO Subject TITLE II REPEAL CAMPAIGN

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STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

We are pleased to report that, yesterday afternoon, Chairman Robert Kastenmeier of House Judiciary Subcommittee No. 3 decided that he will try to hold public hearings on H. R. 234, the Matsunaga-Holifield-Kastenmeier-Mikva bill to repeal Title II of the Internal Security Act of 1950 and to prohibit the establishment of emergency detention camps, in about two weeks, or about the week of March 22.

The exact dates should be known within a few days.

At the moment, the thinking of the Wisconsin Democrat, whose Administrative Assistant is Kaz Oshiki, a recent Chairman of the Washington, D. C. JACL Chapter and one of the early winners of the Pvt. Ben Frank Masaoka Memorial Scholarship, is to conduct streamlined hearings with perhaps only a representative of the Department of Justice and several of the more influential Congressmen co-sponsoring this legislation as witnesses, with Congressman Spark Matsunaga possibly as the lead-off witness.

The reasoning is that, since extensive hearings were held last year by the House Internal Security Committee, there is no need to expend that much time on hearings again, especially since most of it would be repetitive. Actually, the only testimony desired is on the added aspects of this year's bill, that is those sections relating to the penal code that are amended. And, more importantly, speed is of the essence because of the competition of the so-called HISC Bill to amend Title II.

If the Department of Justice will cooperate this year, the hearings should be completed within a day or two at most.

An informal poll indicates that a clear majority, possibly all, of the Subcommittee will vote to report H. R. 234 as soon as possible after the hearings are completed.

Moreover, we have the personal assurance of Chairman Emanuel Celler of the full Judiciary Committee that once the Subcommittee acts, the Committee will expedite a favorable report on this bill. Again, there appears to be a solid majority of the 38-member Judiciary Committee for this measure.

March 5, 1971

This week, a ploy by Chairman Richard Ichord of HISC failed.

He tried to persuade the Speaker of the House, Carl Albert, to agree to allow his Ichord-Ashbrook amendments to reactivate and revive Title II, which was reported by HISC last session after it had rejected the Matsunaga-Holifield repeal bill, to be considered under "suspension of the rules", by which two-thirds of House members present on the day assigned for this purpose may agree to take up a bill out of order and without prior clearance from the House Rules Committee. The Chair felt the need for this maneuver because he knew that Congressman Matsunaga was on the Rules Committee and would probably do his best to frustrate efforts for early clearance for the Ichord-Ashbrook bill.

When this strategy was learned, Congressman Matsunaga, Chairman Celler of the Judiciary Committee and dean of the whole Congress, and Chairman Kastenmeier of Judiciary Subcommittee No. 3, called on the Speaker and secured an understanding that the Ichord-Ashbrook bill would not be considered under a "suspension of the rules" procedure.

This will probably mean that when and if HISC reports the Ichord-Ashbrook bill to the House, and Chairman Ichord asks the Rules Committee for clearance, Congressman Matsunaga will have to use all of his prestige and influence on the Rules Committee to hold up the HISC bill until after his own repeal bill is reported by the Judiciary Committee and cleared by the Rules Committee for House debate and vote.

We are also very pleased to report that the Executive Council of the AFL-CIO, representing 16 million union members, in mid-February adopted a resolution at its mid-winter meeting in Bal Harbour, Florida, calling for the repeal of Title II of the 1950 Internal Security Act.

This action followed the call for such resolution by the National Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, of which JACL is a founding and charter member, last year.

The wartime evacuation and detention of Japanese Americans and the violation of civil liberties during the hysteria of the (Joseph) McCarthy era were cited as reasons for repeal.

The power of this huge organization, with its hundreds of lobbyists, should be a most helpful "new force" backing repeal this year.

Thirty-six more Congressmen have joined in co-sponsoring the Matsunaga Bill, making a grand total of 148 members of the House of Representatives who are signatories of repeal legislation.

This week, two more bills were introduced for this purpose, H. R. 5243 and H. R. 5244. Twenty-six of the new sponsors are Democrats and ten are Republicans.

Messrs. Okamura-Uno

- 3 -

March 5, 1971

The new Democratic co-sponsors are:

H. R. 5243:

Clarence D. Long of Ruxton, Maryland
Charles B. Rangel of New York, New York
Peter W. Rodino, Jr. of Newark, New Jersey
Dan Rostenkowski of Chicago, Illinois
John F. Seiberling of Akron, Ohio
Robert O. Tiernan of Warwick, Rhode Island
Morris K. Udall of Tucson, Arizona
Charles A. Vanik of Cleveland, Ohio
Charles H. Wilson of Los Angeles, California

H. R. 5244:

Bella S. Abzug of New York, New York
Les Aspin of Racine, Wisconsin
Nick Begich of Anchorage, Alaska
Edward P. Boland of Springfield, Massachusetts
Frank J. Brasco of Brooklyn, New York
John C. Culver of Marion, Iowa
George E. Danielson of Los Angeles, California
Robert F. Drinan of Newton, Massachusetts
Bob Eckhardt of Houston, Texas
Richard H. Fulton of Nashville, Tennessee
Sam Gibbons of Tampa, Florida
Ella T. Grasso of Windsor Locks, Connecticut
Henry Helstoski of East Rutherford, New Jersey
Louise Day Hicks of Boston, Massachusetts
John C. Kluczynski of Chicago, Illinois
Arthur A. Link of Alexander, North Dakota
Romano L. Mazzoli of Louisville, Kentucky

The new Republican co-sponsors are:

H. R. 5243:

Charles A. Mosher of Oberlin, Ohio
Tom Railsback of Moline, Illinois
Howard W. Robinson of Owego, New York
Philip E. Ruppe of Houghton, Michigan

H. R. 5244:

Robert J. Corbett of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
R. Lawrence Coughlin of Villanova, Pennsylvania
Edwin B. Forsythe of Moorestown, New Jersey
Hastings Keith of West Bridgewater, Massachusetts
Stewart B. McKinney of Fairfield, Connecticut
Robert H. Michel of Peoria, Illinois

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