



National Council for Japanese American Redress

925 West Diversey Parkway, Chicago, Illinois 60614

INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN NO. 1

Did you know ...

That the Bureau of Motion Pictures of the Office of War Information issued in October 1942 a special bulletin to the motion picture industry "to exercise extreme discretion in the treatment of Japanese-Americans on the screen." The OWI declared that the wholesale evacuation of Japanese American communities was "an admission that the government found it impossible in a short time to segregate the disloyal from the loyal." The bulletin further stated that military officials pointed out the following: "...the concentrations near the West Coast of these people who look like our Japanese enemies enormously complicated the defense of our Coastal areas; hence, in the interest of national safety, they were evacuated": So the Japanese Americans were made to pay the price for the inability of the War Department to be able to detect the loyal from the possibly disloyal persons.

That Executive Order 9066, issued by President Roosevelt on February 19, 1942, authorizing the Secretary of War and military commanders to prescribe military areas from which to exclude persons, and the numerous exclusion orders expelling Japanese Americans from Western states were deliberately designed by the highest authorities in government so that as soon as the Japanese were removed, Proclamations would be, and were, issued to exempt any mass evacuation of German and Italian aliens.

That not only the military and Western states officials, but also top civilian authorities in Washington orchestrated the removal of Japanese Americans on the basis that "there was no way to distinguish between the loyal and the disloyal." In contrast, it was determined that through special hearings, the War Department would be able to segregate thousands of suspected Italian and Germans on an individual basis.

That the legality of the exclusion and confinement of American citizens, particularly the Japanese Americans, continued to trouble the officials responsible for the evacuation throughout the 1942-1945 period. To counteract anticipated litigation by victims of the exclusion orders, the War Department had drafted a bill to Congress proposing the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus (due process of law) in order to justify the blatant violation of the United States Constitution.

That, in addition to the War Department and other federal authorities, a Pacific Coast Delegation of congressmen and Western states government leaders petitioned the President for expulsion of all Japanese Americans; this event occurred in February of 1942.

That, if the War Department had indeed implemented the initial exclusion order to expel German and Italian aliens, thousands of leaders in government, the military, commerce, industry, labor, churches, etc., and/or their families or relatives may have been subjected to the same treatment as the Japanese; such as Lt. Gen. Walter Krueger, General MacArthur's Chief of Staff; Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia of New York City; Dillon Myer, Director of the War Relocation Authority; Herbert Wechsler, Assistant Attorney General of the Department of Justice; Charles Poletti, Special Assistant to the Secretary of War; Brigadier General Joe E. Loutzenheiser, Hqs. Army Air Force, and countless others who had important status in this country. The Japanese Americans, in contrast, had very, very few advocates to fight for their rights, and no one in high government or influential positions dared to speak out against the injustice perpetrated against the Japanese Americans.

That, in violation of the United States Code, the Census Bureau provided the War Department and the War Relocation Authority with raw data files and special tabulations involving at least 80,000 individual Japanese Americans. The confidentiality promised by the Census Bureau to all U.S. residents was breached.

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