



# 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.

(continued)



That in 1942, a local government official in Yolo County, California, attempted to have Congress pass legislation revoking the U.S. citizenship of Japanese Americans.

That the Federal Communications Commission investigated repeated allegations by the War Department of illegal radio transmission by Japanese Americans during the pre-evacuation period, and that not one of the incidents was found to be valid; yet the War Department chose to disregard these FCC reports. These false claims influenced the judgment of such persons as Walter Lippman and Earl Warren who, therefore, pressed for and supported the evacuation movement.

That the Department of Justice refused to prosecute a very large number of individual exclusion cases brought to it by the War Department on the grounds that Public Law 503, providing for detention of persons violating curfew restrictions and travel regulations in military areas, was too broad and sweeping in scope to support such litigation.

That the Registration Form, containing those infamous questions Nos. 27 and 28, popularly referred to by interned victims as "the loyalty questionnaire," was drawn up with the assistance of Japanese Americans who "cooperated" with the U.S. government intelligence agencies.

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Those highly-placed government officials, instrumental in developing and implementing the mass evacuation of Japanese Americans, should be required to tell the true story behind this gross miscarriage of justice on the part of the U.S. government.

The facts stated above are documented in now-declassified files of the United States government. If you feel that these and other heretofore relatively unknown facts should be brought before the courts and into the public eye, we urge you to join the National Council for Japanese American Redress in its law suit against the government to obtain monetary compensation for the victims.

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