

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS
OF THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

HEARINGS ON H.R.4110

TESTIMONY OF KARL R. BENDETSSEN

THE TITLE OF H.R.4110 IS "TO ACCEPT THE FINDINGS AND TO IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMISSION ON WARTIME RELOCATION AND INTERNMENT OF CIVILIANS."

IN SEC.2(A)(2), (3) IT IS STATED IN SUPPORT OF THE FINDINGS AND PURPOSES OF H.R.4110:

"(2) THE EVACUATION, RELOCATION AND INTERNMENT OF INDIVIDUALS OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY WAS CARRIED OUT WITHOUT ANY DOCUMENTED ACTS OF ESPIONAGE OR SABOTAGE OR OTHER ACTS OF DISLOYALTY BY ANY CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENT ALIENS OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY ON THE WEST COAST;

"(3) THERE WERE NO MILITARY OR SECURITY REASONS FOR THE EVACUATION, RELOCATION AND INTERNMENT."

THE USE OF THE WORD "INTERNMENT" IN THE TITLE OF THE COMMISSION'S REPORT AND IN THE BILL ARE EACH TOTALLY FALSE USAGES. EXECUTIVE ORDER 9066 DID NOT DIRECT OR AUTHORIZE INTERNMENT OF THOSE EXCLUDED FROM A MILITARY AREA, VIZ THE PACIFIC COAST STATES AND WESTERN ARIZONA. ALL WERE FREE TO GO ANYWHERE ELSE THEY WISHED. MANY THOUSANDS DID. INTERNMENT IN WORLD WAR II (AS IN THE CASE OF WORLD WAR I) REFERS EXCLUSIVELY TO INDIVIDUAL CASES OF ENEMY ALIENS, GERMAN, ITALIAN

AND JAPANESE, WHO AFTER A HEARING IN EACH INDIVIDUAL CASE WITH THAT INDIVIDUAL, REPRESENTED BY COUNSEL OF HIS OWN CHOOSING, WAS FOUND BY THE HEARING JUDGE INDIVIDUALLY TO BE A DANGEROUS ALIEN ENEMY. THERE WERE COMPLETELY SEPARATE INTERNMENT FACILITIES FOR THESE PEOPLE OPERATED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.

PERSONS OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY RESIDENT IN MILITARY AREAS, VIZ THE PACIFIC COAST AND WESTERN ARIZONA, WERE EXCLUDED FROM SUCH RESIDENCE BY EXECUTIVE ORDER 9066. NONE OF THE PERSONS OF SUCH ANCESTRY RESIDING ELSEWHERE IN THE UNITED STATES WERE AFFECTED.

WHEN THE PACIFIC COAST STATES AND WESTERN ARIZONA WERE DECLARED TO BE MILITARY AREAS FROM WHICH PERSONS OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY WERE EXCLUDED UNDER E.O. 9066, THERE WAS NO INTENTION IN THE FIRST INSTANCE OF PROVIDING ANY HOUSING FACILITIES FOR THE EXCLUDEES UNTIL IT BECAME ABSOLUTELY CLEAR THAT SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS OF SUCH RESIDENTS WERE UNABLE TO RELOCATE THEMSELVES.

THE COMMISSION STATES THAT THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NO MILITARY NECESSITY UNDERLYING THE DECISION OF PRESIDENT FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT TO ISSUE EXECUTIVE ORDER 9066. THE COMMISSION SLANDERS AND LIBELS THE CHARACTER OF PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT BY STATING THAT HIS DECISION TO ISSUE EXECUTIVE ORDER 9066 WAS BASED ON RACIAL PREJUDICE. MRS. BERNSTEIN, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION, WHO TESTIFIED BEFORE THIS SUBCOMMITTEE, STATED THAT THE COMMISSION DID EXAMINE WORLD WAR II MILITARY INTELLIGENCE, INCLUDING MAGIC AND FOUND NO TRACE WHATEVER OF A MILITARY OR SECURITY THREAT FROM RESIDENT JAPANESE AMERICANS.

THIS SUBCOMMITTEE IS KNOWLEDGEABLE OF THE REVELATIONS OF MAGIC INTELLIGENCE. MAGIC TOTALLY REFUTES THE IRRESPONSIBLE STATEMENTS AND FINDINGS OF THE COMMISSION. MAGIC INTELLIGENCE CONCLUSIVELY ESTABLISHES THAT THERE WAS A MAJOR MILITARY NECESSITY FOR THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION TO ISSUE E.O. 9066 AS COMMANDER IN CHIEF.

THE COMMISSION MEMBERS, PRIOR TO ACCEPTING THEIR APPOINTMENTS, HAD EACH ALREADY DECIDED WHAT THE COMMISSION SHOULD CONCLUDE. THE COMMISSION WAS AND IS UTTERLY BIASED. MOST OF THEIR HEARINGS WERE A DISGRACE TO THE GOOD TRADITIONS OF LEGISLATIVE INVESTIGATIVE PROCEDURES. WHY SO?

THOSE WHO LOBBIED FOR THE CREATION OF THE COMMISSION THROUGH AN ACT OF CONGRESS ATTENDED EVERY COMMISSION HEARING. WHENEVER ANY ATTEMPT WAS MADE BY A WITNESS TO GIVE TESTIMONY THAT WOULD JUSTIFY THE PRESIDENT'S ACTION, OR TESTIMONY THAT EXCLUDEES WERE NOT INTERNED, IT WAS UNIFORMLY GREETED WITH BOOS AND HISSES. THERE WERE EVACUEES WHO APPROACHED A COMMISSION HEARING PREPARED SO TO TESTIFY ADVERSELY TO THE FALSEHOODS EMPLOYED IN LOBBYING FOR THE ACT TO CREATE THE COMMISSION AND FOR H.R. 4110. THEY WERE INTIMIDATED. THERE ARE STILL ON THE PACIFIC COAST EVACUEES WHO WOULD SO TESTIFY BEFORE THIS COMMITTEE IF THEY WERE PROTECTED.

MANY OF OUR JAPANESE RESIDENTS, BOTH CITIZENS AND ALIENS, WERE AND ARE LOYAL. BUT MAGIC CLEARLY AND CONCLUSIVELY ESTABLISHES THAT THERE WERE MANY WHO WERE ACTIVELY DISLOYAL AND THAT THE LOYALTY OF OTHERS WOULD NECESSARILY BE UNCERTAIN IF A JAPANESE ATTACK ON THE PACIFIC COAST WOULD HAVE BEEN MADE.

DESPITE THE COMMISSION'S REPORT, THIS SUBCOMMITTEE SHOULD KNOW, AS A FACT, THAT COUNTLESS JAPANESE MOVED OUT OF ASSEMBLY CENTERS TO THE INTERIOR WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE WARTIME CIVIL CONTROL ADMINISTRATION AND MANY, MANY OTHERS MOVED AT WILL FROM THE RELOCATION CENTERS. THEY WERE ENCOURAGED TO DO SO. THEY WERE NOT INTERNED. EXECUTIVE ORDER 9066 DID NOT AUTHORIZE INTERNMENT OF EXCLUDEES. NONE WERE INTERNED.

I MADE SEVEN VISITS CALLING ON THE GOVERNORS AND THE MAYORS OF THE PRINCIPAL CITIES AND TOWNS IN THE INTERIOR STATES OF IDAHO, NEVADA, ARIZONA, NEW MEXICO, UTAH, COLORADO AND WYOMING TO URGE THEM TO ENCOURAGE JAPANESE WHO HAD BEEN EXCLUDED FROM THE WEST COAST TO LEAVE THE CENTERS AND TO HELP THEM FIND EMPLOYMENT AND RESIDENCES.

MANY ELECTED TO STAY IN THE RELOCATION CENTERS. THEY HAD JOBS ON THE OUTSIDE AT FULL WAGES. THEY HAD FREE ROOM AND BOARD. NO FAMILIES WERE EVER SEPARATED. EDUCATION AND MEDICAL CARE WAS PROVIDED. THE JAPANESE THEMSELVES ADMINISTERED THE RELOCATION CENTERS (AS WELL AS THE TEMPORARY ASSEMBLY CENTERS).

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT, SECRETARY OF WAR STIMSON, SECRETARY OF THE NAVY FRANK KNOX WERE EACH AND ALL STATESMEN OF GREAT STATURE, AMONG THE FINEST MEN WHO HAVE EVER SERVED OUR NATION.

THE TIME IS LONG OVERDUE FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES, INCLUDING ITS CONGRESS, THE HOUSE AND THE SENATE, TO MAKE ITS OWN UNPREJUDICED INVESTIGATION AND DEFEND THE GOVERNMENT AGAINST THE GROTESQUE CHARGES STATED IN SEC. 2(A) (1), (2), (3) AND (4) OF H.R.4110 THAT IT WAS RACE PREJUDICE AND NOT REALISTIC SECURITY PRECAUTIONS WHICH INDUCED PRESIDENT

ROOSEVELT'S ORDER. THE DECISION WAS NOT MADE BY MILITARY MEN; IT WAS MADE BY THE ONLY MAN IN THE UNITED STATES WHO COULD MAKE IT, THAT IS TO SAY, FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES.

WHEN PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT SIGNED EXECUTIVE ORDER 9066, THE ACCUMULATIVE EFFECT OF MAGIC INTELLIGENCE FROM BROKEN JAPANESE CODES PRESENTED A FRIGHTENING SPECTER OF MASSIVE ESPIONAGE NESTS ON THE WEST COAST OF THE UNITED STATES, ESTABLISHED AND CONTROLLED BY THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT AND UTILIZING LARGE NUMBERS OF RESIDENT JAPANESE. TO CONCLUDE, AS HAS THE COMMISSION ON WARTIME RELOCATION AND AS STATED IN H.R.4110 THAT PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT WAS MOTIVATED SOLELY BY POLITICAL AND RACIAL CONSIDERATIONS IS IRRESPONSIBLE AND LIBELOUS.

THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE STUDY EVER MADE OF EVENTS LEADING UP TO PEARL HARBOR "HEARINGS BEFORE THE JOINT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE ON THE INVESTIGATION OF THE PEARL HARBOR ATTACK," 39 VOLUMES PUBLISHED IN 1946, EXAMINED EVERY ASPECT OF MAGIC IN EXCRUCIATING DETAIL. THE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE CONCLUDED THAT MAGIC CONTRIBUTED ENORMOUSLY TO THE DEFEAT OF THE ENEMY, GREATLY SHORTENED THE WAR AND SAVED MANY THOUSANDS OF LIVES. FEW ARMY AND NAVY OFFICERS HAD ANY KNOWLEDGE OF MAGIC INTELLIGENCE. TO PREVENT ANY LEAKAGE TO THE JAPANESE THAT THEIR CODES HAD BEEN BROKEN, MAGIC WAS RESTRICTED TO THE SECRETARY OF WAR, THE ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF, THE CHIEF OF ARMY WAR PLANS, THE DIRECTOR OF MILITARY INTELLIGENCE, THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY, THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS, THE CHIEF OF THE NAVY'S WAR PLANS DIVISION AND THE DIRECTOR OF NAVY INTELLIGENCE, THE

SECRETARY OF STATE AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

I TURN NOW TO ANOTHER RELEVANT ASPECT.

THE WARTIME CIVIL CONTROL ADMINISTRATION WAS ESTABLISHED BY GENERAL DEWITT. AS ONE OF HIS GENERAL STAFF OFFICERS, HE DIRECTED THAT I EXERCISE HIS AUTHORITY OVER WCCA. THE WCCA HAD SEVERAL FUNCTIONS. AMONG THESE WERE THE ADMINISTRATION OF WARTIME BLACKOUT REGULATIONS AND THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF ALASKA TRAVEL CONTROL. FOLLOWING PEARL HARBOR, UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF E.O. 9066, NO INDIVIDUAL COULD ENTER ALASKA WITHOUT A PERMIT. THERE WAS MAJOR MILITARY CONSTRUCTION URGENTLY NEEDED IN ALASKA. THIS REQUIRED A LARGE WORK FORCE. ALASKA TRAVEL CONTROL ESTABLISHED SEVERAL OFFICES IN THE U.S. AND THREE IN CANADA. ENTRY TO ALASKA WAS SOLELY THROUGH THE PORT OF SEATTLE, WASHINGTON. INTENDING EMPLOYEES FOR THE WORK FORCE HAD TO BE SCREENED IN ORDER TO BE ISSUED PERMITS TO PASS THROUGH SEATTLE. AS A MATTER OF FACT, THE COMMITTEE WILL BE INTERESTED TO KNOW THAT MY ASSIGNED MISSION TURNED OUT TO REQUIRE THREE CREWS: ONE ON THE JOB, ONE LEAVING AND ONE ENTERING.

ENTIRELY OPPOSITE FROM THE FALSE STATEMENTS OF THE COMMISSION'S REPORT, THE WARTIME CIVIL CONTROL ADMINISTRATION CAREFULLY AND SEPARATELY STORED THE HOUSEHOLD GOODS OF ALL EVACUEES. IN EACH CASE, A DETAILED INVENTORY WAS TAKEN AND EACH FAMILY WAS ISSUED WAREHOUSE RECEIPTS. FOR THOSE WHO EVACUATED THEMSELVES AND TOOK UP RESIDENCE ELSEWHERE, THE WCCA ARRANGED THE SHIPMENT OF THEIR POSSESSIONS IN EACH CASE AT NO COST TO THE FAMILY. AS SOON AS THE RELOCATION CENTERS HAD BEEN BUILT AND FURNISHED AND THE REMAINING EVACUEES WERE MOVED INTO THEM, THE WAR RELOCATION ADMINISTRATION (WRA) TOOK OVER AND IT CONTINUED THESE ARRANGEMENTS.

THE STATEMENTS IN THE COMMISSION'S REPORT ARE TOTALLY FALSE THAT ACTION UNDER E.O. 9066 CAUSED THE PILLAGE AND DESTRUCTION OF THE HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND FURNISHINGS OF EVACUEES. WHEN THE RELOCATION CENTERS WERE EMPTIED, EACH EVACUEE OBTAINED HIS HOUSEHOLD GOODS AT NO COST.

E.O. 9066 DELEGATED AUTHORITY THROUGH THE SECRETARY OF WAR TO GENERAL DEWITT AND, IN TURN, HE DELEGATED IT TO ME TO CALL ON ANY AND EVERY AGENCY OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO ASSIST IN MAKING THE EVACUATION AS PAINLESS AS POSSIBLE. I DID SO AND RECEIVED FULL COOPERATION AND INDISPENSABLE SERVICES WHICH GREATLY BENEFITED EVACUEES. MANY EVACUEES OWNED VERY EXCELLENT TRUCK GRADENS AND TRUCK FARMS. I ARRANGED WITH THE AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT TO BRING ABOUT THE HARVESTING OF ALL CROPS. SALES WERE MADE BY THE DEPARTMENT AT AUCTION. THE CASH PAYMENTS WERE HANDLED AT MY REQUEST BY THE FEDERAL RESERVE DISTRICT AND THEIR FUNDS WERE DEPOSITED IN THE BANK ACCOUNTS OF EACH EVACUEE--
NO EXCEPTIONS.

THERE IS MUCH MORE TO SAY. I AM READY AND WILLING TO RESPOND TO QUESTIONS AND TO WHATEVER THE COMMITTEE LATER DECIDES TO REQUEST.

I KNOW EVACUEES OF SENIOR AGE WHO INTENSELY WISHED TO TESTIFY BEFORE THE COMMISSION DURING ITS WEST COAST HEARINGS. THEY WISHED TO SAY THAT THEY WERE FREE TO BE ANYWHERE IN THE UNITED STATES EXCEPT THE WEST COAST. OTHERS WHO WERE FIRST IN AN ASSEMBLY CENTER AND THEN IN A RELOCATION CENTER WISHED TO TELL THAT THEY WERE FREE TO LEAVE; THAT THERE WAS NO INTERNMENT. THE COMMISSION DID NOT MAINTAIN ORDERLY HEARINGS. THOSE WHO WISHED TO TESTIFY ADVERSELY TO THE FALSEHOODS OF THE PROPONENTS

WERE NOT PROTECTED BY THE COMMISSION. THEY WERE PHYSICALLY INTIMIDATED BY THE PROPONENTS OF THE COMMISSION, SOME OF WHOM WERE NOT EVEN BORN UNTIL AFTER WORLD WAR II. THESE PROPONENTS ALWAYS BOOED AND HISSED IF A WITNESS WAS DEEMED ADVERSE TO THEIR FALSE POSITIONS. THEY BOOED AND HISSED ME.

JAPANESE ARE NOT MENTIONED IN E.O.9066. IT APPLIED TO ANY AND ALL RESIDENTS, NOT JUST TO THOSE OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY. ALL U.S. CITIZENS AND OTHERS WERE EXCLUDED FROM ENTERING ALASKA WITHOUT A PERMIT.

THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES IN AN OPINION UPHOLDING E.O.9066 HELD: " * * * KOREMATSU WAS NOT EXCLUDED FROM THE MILITARY AREA BECAUSE OF HOSTILITY TO HIM OR HIS RACE. HE WAS * * * BECAUSE WE ARE AT WAR WITH THE JAPANESE EMPIRE * * * . THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES FEARED AN INVASION OF OUR WEST COAST."

ON DECEMBER 7, 1941 WE LOST OUR PACIFIC FLEET. THE U.S. COULD NOT BRING TO BEAR DEFENSES AGAINST A JAPANESE ATTACK ON THE PACIFIC COAST. ONE WAS UNDER WAY IN MAY OF 1942. IT WAS DETERRED BY A SLIM MARGIN IN THE BATTLE OF MIDWAY. JAPANESE FORCES DID SEIZE AND OCCUPY THE ALEUTIAN ISLANDS OF ATTU AND KISKA, UNTIL THEY WERE DISLODGED FROM KISKA BY OUR MILITARY FORCES. THIS BROUGHT ABOUT THEIR EVACUATION OF ATTU.

ON ALL CITIZENS AND NONCITIZENS, WAR IMPOSES HARDSHIPS WHICH CANNOT BE COMPENSATED BY THE GOVERNMENT. SERVICEMEN ARE SEPARATED FROM THEIR FAMILIES. FAMILIES ARE BROKEN. THE CONSEQUENCES OF WARTIME ARE CRUEL WHEN A NATION MUST DEFEND ITSELF.