

Editorial--Anti-Japan Propaganda and the Japanese-American

That an anti-Japan propaganda is mushrooming is becoming more than a figment of one's imagination. It is unquestionably evidenced in the ILGWU "made in Japan" ads posted on subways in New York.

Are such racist ads a vehicle in combatting economic competition or just an old sport of finding a scape-goat? And what should we of Japanese ancestry in this country do about it? Though aimed at Japanese manufacturers, the immediate visible targets are the Japanese people here, whether overseas Japanese or the Japanese-Americans.

Are there legitimate reasons for concern or are we being overly sensitive? War-time hysteria of the '40's and the concentration camp experience was only a generation ago. And while it is unlikely that internment for Japanese people will ever be repeated, antagonism and hostility incited through economic insecurity in this highly competitive society, can be unleashed against those who seem to pose a threat.

ILGWU's insinuations of American workers' jobs being displaced by cheap coolie labor can cause undue anxiety that can foment into hatred. Also, *being aware of* ^{besides garments} ~~emphasizing~~ the large numbers of Japanese products marketed here, ~~a~~

(TV, radio, cameras, motorcycles, cars, ships, medical instruments, aircraft, trucks, computers, synthetic rubbers, textile, and electronic goods), the question of home products becomes key. "Buy American" becomes a legitimate cry. ^{*} The concern for the American worker and consumer becomes justified. Of the large segment of Third World (ethnic peoples) represented in blue-collared jobs, ironically Japanese-Americans are numerically few. They are more in the white-collared world or in professional fields. Thus, Japanese-Americans can be isolated from the ~~the~~ fellow-Third World people and be pitted against. We appear

to be like the Japanese counter-part--the successful, seemingly easy-living, well-educated Japanese businessman.

But historically, acceptability for ethnic peoples (even and in-
^{has been}
cluding the so-called "quiet Americans"--that's us) a dubious, tenuous,
hazardous and relationship, controlled often by the economics, politics, and im-
 age-creating of those in power.

What, until recently, was considered a reciprocal economic-political partnership between United States and Japan, has developed into a rivalry tantamount to a cold war.

The Japanese-Americans, as in World War II, are caught in the middle and have become a part of the battle-ground. Where and how do we react and respond? When hostility towards us is evident, what do we do? What is our role?

Who is the culprit in the problems of unemployment, inflation, poverty, and other social ills here? IDGWU is pointing the finger at Japanese aggression in the business world. Japan has become a convenient scape-goat where America was found wanting in not finding solutions to her internal contradictions.

But the conflicts are much larger than "jobs running away from America." Hostility towards Japan is not just in America alone, but one that is growing across Asia. Why? Headlines in the various papers across the world reveal in a nutshell, the more serious problem of Japanese expansionism and rising militarism.

In an era of growing Asian awareness and identity, peoples' struggle, liberation, and creating a more equitable society, our role must be, not only to challenge the ILGWU-type of anti-Japan propaganda with

political understanding, but also the Japanese and American governments and its ^{their} big business, cut-throat competition and plunder. Both of the giant capitalist investor-nations sharing the resources of Asia, must be forced to curtail their selfish priorities that ALL the other nations flanking the Pacific Ocean have an opportunity for self-development, sovereignty, and survival.