

# A NISEI SPEAKS

By Shuji Fujii

## National defense vs. nisei: War hysteria? Our duty & obligation

Feb. 3—The reports of Secretary of Navy Knox and Justice Roberts concerning Japanese fifth columnist activities in Hawaii have undoubtedly awakened the whole nation to our own vulnerable position here on the mainland. The American public is now strongly united in a general clamor for all precautionary measures to insure prevention of a like disaster here. Government restrictions dealing with "enemy aliens" have been stiffened considerably, especially during the last week or so.

### Not "war hysteria" . . .

While it may be true that certain "patriotic racketeers" are inciting undue public sentiment against the resident Japanese, vigilance and alertness on the part of the government, and the public's very natural demand for forethought and preparedness cannot by any means be considered "war hysteria".

Responsible government officials, heretofore understanding of and still sympathetic to issei-nisei problems, are now assuming a decidedly firm attitude. Their stand is that "precautionary measures are vitally necessary inasmuch as it is difficult to distinguish between those loyal and disloyal to America."

As long as such bad eggs are at large, the Japanese communities as a whole—and in particular those loyal to America—even though the situation is not of their making, must necessarily suffer.

### Citizenship in jeopardy . . .

Today Japanese communities face possible wholesale eviction of not only the "enemy alien" issei but nisei as well.

The wishful thinking on the part of some nisei that "nisei are safe and beyond governmental regulation because of our citizenship" must be discarded once for all. As long as there are both nisei and kibe who abuse the privileges of citizenship, the position of all nisei is in jeopardy.

### War is grim reality . . .

War is grim reality. Too few people realize the full significance of those words.

This is no time to holler that our civil liberties and constitutional rights are being violated; that equal rights are denied us, or to express personal disappointment in the workings of democracy, or in certain public officials who have been considered as sympathetic and "liberal".

Rather, this is the time for every loyal American of Japanese descent to defend by word and deed the democracy of America, the very existence of which is being undermined by subversive elements among us.

### Our duty & obligation . . .

It is our first duty and obligation to ferret them out so that we who are loyal can retain our citizenship, constitutional rights and our right to earn a livelihood.

For this reason—for national defense as well as for the security of our communities—DOHO urges every reader and every loyal American of Japanese descent, issei or nisei—to remain constantly vigilant against subversive activities and remarks in our midst, and to report such at once to the FBI, Naval and Military Intelligence.

Only Nisei Vernacular in the U.S.

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## Nozawa, Tanabe Named New Kibei Leaders

Masao Nozawa and Eiji Tanabe were named to head the new "Americanization Committee," a new committee of the Japanese American Citizens League for the kibei, it was announced by Shigemitsu Aratani, president of the local JAAL.

Aratani stated that they disbanded the old Kibei Division and that a new committee will undertake the Americanization of the kibei. Both Nozawa and Tanabe were presidents of the Kibei Division during its earlier days and prior to the pro-Japanese domination of Hori-Itami-Kubota & Co.

The previous Kibei cabinet "dissolved" early in January, in an attempt at white-washing its past misleadership. They are responsible for the present confusion and seditious acts by certain kibei.

It is said that Itami agreed to withdraw himself from any leading position in the kibei Americanization program in the future. Nozawa and Tanabe, serving as co-chairmen, have not picked out members of their new committee so far. But it was understood that members of the 1941 Kibei cabinet would not be included in the new set-up.

Intelligence work and Americanization are considered the most important tasks of the Committee. With both knowledge and understanding of the Japanese language and psychology, the kibei's contribution to root out seditious elements should be noteworthy, while the Americanization enlightenment move is considered more or less a long-range program.

Thus and thus only can we fulfill one of those "extraordinary contributions" which we alone, of all racial groups, are in a position to make.

## What price nisei bosses? Businesses change hands; questions are raised

"The job problem is increasingly acute since the economic control of Japanese communities has been in the hands of the issei, whose legal status is shrinking day by day. So the best solution for both nisei and issei would be for us nisei to take over issei business houses, thereby saving the businesses themselves and at the same time giving out jobs to the unemployed nisei."

This seems to be the idea facilitating the present transfer of issei business firms to nisei hands, as seen in the wholesale produce, flower, nursery, farming fields, etc.

### Two sides to the question . . .

Similar practices may be increased as issei business licenses are reported to be likely revoked by the State government.

The seeming idea, is of course, that the nisei will be freed of issei economic domination.

But there are two angles to the question to be considered.

One is the relation between the new nisei "operator" or "owner" and the old issei owner.

Will the new nisei boss be entirely free from the old issei boss?

Very few nisei are in a position financially to buy an entire issei business. The usual transaction seems to be payment on a monthly basis—like buying furniture or an automobile on the instalment plan. But until all payments are made, the actual ownership

## JACL MEET GIVEN OVER TO RELIEF, EVACUATION PLANS

Evacuation and relief were chief concerns at the emergency meeting of the JACL's Southern District Council held at Maryknoll school Feb. 1st.

A committee was formed to work with the enemy alien control board and other governmental agencies for assisting and carrying out the evacuation of alien and citizen Japanese from vital military areas.

Since details of government plans were lacking, no definite recommendation was made excepting a pledge of "full material and linguistic assistance" by the body.

On relief and destitution, Fred Tayama reported that out of 70 odd cases so far handled, 68 are badly in need because their family heads were interned in Montana. All cases in Los Angeles are being cared for by Masao Satow and Maki Ichiyasu through the International Institute.

The release of \$10,000 deposited in the Yokohama Specie Bank by the Central Japanese Association and some additional funds of other issei organizations, frozen after the war, is under consideration, it is reported. In this case, it is possible that these funds may be used to alleviate the increasing destitution among resident Japanese.

(DOHO believes, however, that a U.S. government subsidy should be sought, possibly through the Welfare Division of the Office of Civilian Defense, instead of using released frozen funds.

## Slocum Appoints Editor of Doho to 2A Committee

Shuji Fujii, DOHO's editor, is once again back on the Anti-Axis Committee. He was appointed to the Press control as well as Publicity committees by Chairman Tokutaro N. Slocum at the 2A executive meeting of Saturday, Jan. 31.

Through the medium of this publication, he wishes to pledge his whole-hearted cooperation with the recently outlined aims of the new Anti-Axis set-up.

is still in the hands of the issei seller.

### Who is the actual boss . . . ?

If the nisei owner cannot keep up payments for any reason whatsoever, ownership goes back to the issei.

In the agricultural field, quite a large acreage of farm lands are owned, leased, or operated by nisei in name only; these nisei are not at all free from issei control. So we may consider the first question answered.

The second angle is the relation between employer and employee.

The majority of nisei have been long dependent on the issei for employment. Taking full advantage of this situation, many issei bosses injected Japanist propaganda in the minds of their nisei employees. They had to take it or leave it; and their economic situation, never a secure one, forced many of them to take it.

### Nisei still under issei . . .

Under the "changed ownership" then, they are still indirectly controlled by the issei through these new nisei employers. Furthermore, from the standpoint of employees, they are not free from economic bondage, whether they are under issei or nisei bosses.

So the conclusion is that though the transfer of business ownership may satisfy the yearnings of some of the nisei for boss-ship, nisei employers are far from solving the employment problem facing the majority of nisei today.

The use of such funds—funds of front organizations of the fascist Japanese government for relief—may give a good excuse for seditious elements to affirm that the U. S. didn't give a damn what happened to the needy families of the men they interned.)

A central relief agency was proposed and set up that destitute families might come and ask for assistance. It will also conduct a survey of all needy families in various localities. Rev. Yamaka of the M. E. Church, Rev. Yamaski of St. Mary's Church, and Masao Satow and Maki Ichiyasu of the YMCA and YWCA respectively, were named for this committee.

Tokutaro N. Slocum, chairman of the Anti-Axis committee, made special pleas for increased vigilance against subversive and seditious acts among our people, and requested to report immediately to the authorities. Cooperation with the FBI, Naval and Military Intelligence authorities was emphasized.

## New York City Japanese Artists Condemn Japan

Japanese artists of New York condemned in the strongest terms "the unprovoked and vicious attack" of militarist Japan and expressed "determination to support the United States to the utmost as artists and men, and further, to bear arms if necessary to insure the final victory for the Democratic forces of the world."

The resolution, dated Dec. 12, 1941, was recently sent to Isamu Noguchi, nisei sculptor now in San Francisco. Signers included Yasuo Kuniyoshi, Chizu Tamotzu, Thomas Nagai, Sakari Suzuki, Leo Amino, Roy Kadowaki and Bunji Tagawa.

The full text of the resolution follows:

**ON BEHALF OF COMMITTEE OF JAPANESE ARTISTS RESIDENT IN NEW YORK CITY, WE WISH TO ISSUE THE FOLLOWING DECLARATION:**

The unprovoked and vicious attack of Japan during negotiations between the two countries shocked us beyond expression. That it came even while President Roosevelt was sending overtures to Hirohito, proves that the attack was deliberately staged to forestall his peace efforts. Obviously an irresponsible and militaristic clique is in the driving seat. They are part of the Fascist War machine driving toward World domination. They represent a dire threat to all mankind and its institutions evolved through thousands of years of cultural growth and development.

For many years most of us have been resident in America. We have participated as individuals and as a group in the cultural and artistic life of the community. We have been privileged to enjoy the freedom of expression and action extended to all inhabitants of this great Democratic land, the United States.

Let us express here and now our determination to support it to our utmost power as artists and men, and further, to bear arms if necessary to insure the final victory for the Democratic forces of the World. Whether a Fascist calls himself German, Italian or Japanese, he is part and parcel of the same plot against all mankind.

— BUY U.S. DEFENSE BONDS —

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Editor: Shuji Fujii

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