

Jap Pleads Guilty Here to Violations Of Registration Act

Obana, However, Still
Maintains Innocence
On Conspiracy Charge

In the first case of its kind in District Court involving a Japanese, Tsutomu Obana, secretary of the Japanese Committee on Trade and Information, San Francisco, today pleaded guilty to four counts in an indictment charging him with disobeying the Foreign Agents Registration Act in failing to advise the State Department fully of pertinent information in his registration statement.

Obana pleaded guilty to counts two, three, four and five before Justice T. Alan Goldsborough in Criminal Court No. 1 of District Court, and his case was referred to the probation officer for further investigation.

These counts charge him with willfully omitting material facts in filing his registration statement.

Albert E. Arent and Arthur B. Caldwell, special assistants to the Attorney General, said Obana failed to state that the foreign principal for whom the committee was acting as agent was the Japanese government and that the principal source of the committee's income was the Japanese Consul General in San Francisco.

Previously, Obana had pleaded innocent to all the counts of indictment. By today's plea he persisted in maintaining his innocence concerning the conspiracy count.

In accepting the plea today, Justice Goldsborough did not indicate when Obana would be sentenced.

Obana is one of three Japanese and three American defendants charged with conspiracy to violate the Foreign Agents Registration Act.

The jurist already has tentatively set the trial of the conspiracy case for the second Monday in May.

Other defendants in the case, with Obana, are: Frederick Vincent Williams, former newspaperman and publicity agent in San Francisco; David Warren Ryder, publisher and publicity man, San Francisco; Ralph Townsend, writer associated with Scribner's Commentator; K. Takahashi, former manager of N. Y. K. Steamship Line at San Francisco, now in Japan; and S. Takeuchi, former manager of the Mitsu Bishi Co., a Japanese importing concern in San Francisco.