
REMEMBER PEARL HARBOR!

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

The Department of Justice announces that a Federal Grand Jury sitting in the District of Columbia today returned indictments charging three American citizens and three Japanese nationals with conspiracy to violate the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, and the Act as amended.

Named as defendants in the conspiracy indictment were: Ralph Townsend, of Lake Geneva, Wis., and David Warren Ryder and Frederick Vincent Williams, of San Francisco, Cal., all American citizens; and Tsutomu Obana, K. Takahashi and S. Takeuchi, all Japanese nationals.

In addition, the Grand Jury returned indictments (1) charging Townsend and Ryder with failure to register as agents of a foreign principal as required by the Foreign Agents Registration Act, (2) charging Williams, in nine counts, with wilful failure to state material facts in registration statements he subsequently filed under The Act as an agent of the Japan Times and Mail (now the Japan Times and Advertiser), an English-language newspaper published in Tokyo, and (3) charging Obana, in four counts with wilfully omitting to state material facts in his registration statements filed in behalf of the Committee.

The conspiracy indictment identifies Takahishi and Takeuchi as the organizers, among other Japanese nationals resident in the United States, of "Jikyoku Iinkai" (Japanese Committee on Trade and Information) in San Francisco on or about September 26, 1937, to disseminate pro-Japanese information and propaganda. According to the indictment, Takahashi served

as chairman of the Committee from its inception until March 15, 1940, and Takeuchi as chairman thereafter until August 22, 1940, when the Committee formally disbanded. The indictment identifies Obana as secretary of the Committee from the middle of December, 1937, until it disbanded.

According to the indictment, Townsend and Ryder acted as public relations counsel, publicity agents and representatives of the Committee from September 26, 1937, to August 22, 1940, in which capacities they "informed and advised the Committee in matters pertaining to political interests and public relations....and engaged in the placing and disseminating within the United States of information and propaganda favorable to....the Committee and the Government of Japan."

The indictment alleges that Williams was employed by the Committee from June 1, 1938, until after formal disbanding of the organization to deliver lectures, to arrange radio programs, and to write, purchase and distribute articles and other propaganda favorable to the interests of the Government of Japan.

The indictment charges that all six defendants, and others, "unlawfully, wilfully, feloniously and knowingly" conspired to carry on propaganda activities on behalf of the Government of Japan in violation of the Foreign Agents Registration Act by (1) wilfully failing to register under the Act, (2) wilfully making false statements of material facts in registration statements filed "in purported compliance" with the Act, and (3) wilfully failing to state material facts in such registration statements.

The indictment charges that Obana filed a registration statement in the name of the Committee on November 16, 1938, and supplemental statements on July 5, 1939, and February 23, 1940, in each of which he wilfully

failed to state the material facts that the Committee was acting as an agent of the Japanese Government and that the major part of its income was received from the Consulate General of Japan, in San Francisco. According to the indictment, an amount in excess of \$175,000 was obtained by the Committee from this source, the balance coming from Japanese companies and individuals in the United States.

The indictment against Williams, in nine counts, charges that he wilfully failed to disclose, in registration statements filed under the Act, that part of his business as agent of the Japan Post and Mail was "to disseminate within the United States information and propaganda favorable to the interests of the Government of Japan by means of lectures, radio talks and other media of publicity", and that he was to receive payment of his salary of \$350 a month in cash from the Japanese Consulate in San Francisco.

The indictment against Townsend charges that, as public relations counsel, publicity agent and representative of the Committee, he "delivered numerous speeches and radio talks in which he analyzed the political situation in the Far East in a manner reflecting favorably upon the political and military activities of the Japanese government and people;" that he "assisted in the preparation of speeches, statements, pamphlets and other propaganda material issued and distributed by the Japanese Consul in San Francisco, the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and the Committee", that he "wrote, published, disseminated and aided in disseminating throughout the United States and in foreign countries numerous circulars and pamphlets, including 30,000 copies of 'There is No Half-Way Neutrality', 60,000 copies of 'The High Cost of Hate', and 60,000 copies of 'America Has No enemies in Asia', all containing political propaganda favorable to the interests of the Committee and the

Government of Japan, for which he received substantial compensation from the Committee in the guise of payments for the purchase of the major portion of the pamphlets."

According to the indictment against Ryder, he "edited, published and disseminated throughout the United States a monthly pamphlet called 'Far Eastern Affairs', in which the political situation of the Far East was analyzed in a manner reflecting favorable upon the political and military activities of the Japanese Government and people," receiving compensation from the Committee "in the guise of payments for the purchase of the major portion of the pamphlets, totalling in excess of one-half million (500,000) copies."

The indictments are the result of an investigation initiated in San Francisco last November by Albert E. Arent and Arthur B. Caldwell, trial attorneys in the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice, under the direction of George A. McNulty, Chief of the Trial Section, and Assistant Attorney General Wendell Berge, in charge of the Criminal Division.

McNulty and Arent last year conducted a similar Grand Jury investigation into the activities of Nazi propaganda organizations, which resulted in the conviction of Transocean News Service and Dr. Friedrich Ernst Auhagen for violation of the Foreign Agents Registration Act.