

Dies Report Says Japs Had U. S. Spy Network In Operation 10 Years

Staff 1-30-44
Finds Nipponese Used Commercial Bodies as Front for Getting Data

Japan prepared for its blow at Pearl Harbor by a decade of intensive espionage and propaganda in America, carried on by nearly a score of seemingly innocuous social, commercial and cultural groups, the Dies Committee reported last night.

The report was a result of a long investigation carried out on the West Coast by committee agents.

Directing in detail the activities of these Japanese-American "clubs," the committee found, was the infamous Black Dragon Society, an organization of super-militarists and terrorists with headquarters in Tokio.

As a result of its findings, the committee urged legislation:

1. To bar from America "alien-minded individuals who come here only to subvert and destroy."
2. To prohibit the setting up here of foreign tourist bureaus, information offices and "forums which propagandize not for Americanism, but for some cause or philosophy that would destroy it."
3. To ban from the United States "treaty merchants and commercial attaches who serve as agents of espionage and not of commerce."

Had Specific Purpose.

In broad outline, the committee concluded that the numerous Japanese cultural, commercial, social and educational organizations established before the war among the 126,947 Japanese had a clear-cut purpose—to report to Tokio every possible scrap of information that

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would be of military value in war. These reports, culled by fishermen, industrial employes, tourists and farmers in militarily-important areas, were immediately sent to Tokio in secret code through Japanese consulates.

As early as 1941, Chairman Dies said in the report, he had accumulated sufficient evidence on Japanese activities in the United States to warrant public hearings. But, because of the strained relations then existing between Washington and Tokio and the hope then held that they might be improved, he was advised by the Justice Department, after it had consulted with the President and State Department, to abandon them.

Nevertheless, the committee continued to gather data on Japanese activities. Shortly before the attack on Pearl Harbor, the report said, investigators learned that the Japanese on the West Coast were accumulating large supplies of food and water, "undoubtedly in expectation of some momentous event. This information was made known to other branches of the Government.

Lists Jap Organizations.

The latest Dies report, which follows one on German activities in the United States, lists in detail all the Japanese organizations existing in this country before December 7, 1941, together with their officers, purposes, activities and, in some cases, notes from their official minutes. Leaders in the Japanese communities on the West Coast often were officers in several organizations, and transmitted orders to them from Tokio.

Most insidious of the groups listed is the Black Dragon Society, a band whose sworn object is the exaltation of the Japanese Emperor and the spread of Japan's "New Order" throughout the world. It operated in this country primarily through affiliated youth organizations.

"The committee found," the report said, "that of approximately 30,000 male Japanese who resided in California prior to their evacuation, at least 10,000 were members of or affiliated with youth organizations operated and directed by the Black Dragon Society."

Dedicated to Terrorism.

The group, organized in Tokio in 1870, is dedicated to terrorism, according to the Dies report. In its unsavory history is a chain of political murders extending from the assassination of Prince Okubo in 1878 through the wholesale killing of Japanese Cabinet members in 1930 and the army revolt of 1936. "In 1941," the report said, "the

committee began its investigation into the operations and activities of the Black Dragon Society. Committee investigators found qualified witnesses to testify on the subversive nature of the organization, and obtained pictures of Japanese-American members of the organization in conference with Mitsuru Toyama (the group's founder) in Tokio. Committee investigators also obtained the records of the youth branch of the Black Dragon Society, which conducts its activities under the name of the Butoku-kai (Military Virtue Society).

"One of the concentrated activities of the Black Dragon Society in the United States was to keep all Japanese loyal to Japan. Evidence before the committee reveals that the Black Dragon Society was in control, behind the scenes, of all the important Japanese organizations in the United States, from the Central Japanese Association down to the various agricultural associations. It reveals further that the Black Dragon Society controlled all vice, gambling and narcotic trafficking in Japanese communities."

"State Within a State."

The Japanese on the West Coast, the committee found, really constituted a state within a state, taking their orders from their consuls, who,

in turn, received them from Tokio. The organization that served to solidify the Japanese here, native-born as well as foreign-born, was the Central Japanese Association, which, on orders of the consuls, directed the most intimate details of Japanese life.

"The committee obtained sufficient evidence," the report said, "to indicate that the Central Japanese Association was originally instituted by the Japanese consuls as a part of a Japanese conspiracy against the United States.

"The Central Japanese Association served as a government for all Japanese residing in the United States. As a matter of fact the Japanese consul and the Japanese leaders on the West Coast simply ignored the United States Government so far as the Japanese in the United States were concerned. The association was used by the Japanese government to control the daily lives of all Japanese in the United States. At times this control stipulated even the prices at which crops could be sold."

Protected Jap Fishermen.

The committee found that the association fought, with influence and money, every effort of the California legislature to restrict Japanese fishermen, who regularly were reporting to Tokio on movements of American war vessels along the West Coast as well as the location and details of defense installations.

"The Japanese," the report said, "applied the principle of total espionage—meaning that every Japanese is or may be a potential spy. No detail was too small for the individual Japanese to report to the consulate agent. The Japanese made an inventory of everything having to do with our military and naval defenses."

In addition to the espionage by fishermen, the committee found that Japanese in every line of industry, even farmers, were assigned espionage tasks that might come within their particular field of work.

The committee places full blame for at least tacit co-operation in this espionage on the Neisi, or American-born Japs.

"Instead of informing the American Government of such activities," the report said, "the American-born Japanese shielded the native country of their alien parents. They would not reveal Japanese espionage activities even when questioned concerning them."

In addition to the Black Dragon Society and its youth affiliate and the Central Japanese Association, the Dies Committee listed as Jap

groups taking part in espionage and propaganda: the North American Virtue Society, the Japanese Imperial Military Veterans' Association, the Japanese Military Duty League, the Japanese Navy League, the Society for Learning in Commemoration of the Holy Virtues of Meiji, the Society for International Cultural Relations, the Japanese Cultural Society, the Japan-America Society, the Japan Pacific Association, the Board of Tourist Industry and affiliates, the Japanese News Agency (Domei), Japanese Language schools and prefectural societies, the Japanese Young Men's Association, the Japanese-American Citizens' League, book stores and "educational" groups.