

# Jap Segregation Plan

Post 7-8-43

## Loyal, Disloyal to Be Sorted

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Segregation of loyal from disloyal Japanese now at War Relocation Authority centers will start early this fall and is expected to cost one million dollars, Dillon S. Myer, WRA director, told a Dies subcommittee yesterday.

Myer said he was going to ask the Army to assist in moving all Japanese and Japanese-Americans whose first loyalty is to Japan to one center under armed guard.

Indorsing the Senate resolution passed Tuesday requesting such segregation, Myer said he had first determined upon a segregation policy last May, but had been delayed because of transportation and other difficulties.

The center director said the program would be started with those who have openly expressed desire to return to Japan and would include any discovered disloyal by investigation.

### Releasing Policy Explained

At the same hearing Myer explained his policy of releasing Japanese-Americans from the camps as rapidly as possible by asserting that the Government stood "on very shaky legal ground" in holding those who are American citizens in detention.

"The evacuation and relocation program," Myer said, "raises important questions of constitutionality. This is so because two-thirds of the persons of Japanese ancestry evacuated from the West Coast military areas are citizens of the United States."

Explaining that WRA believed the evacuation itself was a necessary and constitutional move, he added that detention was not necessarily a part of that program.

"The detention or internment of citizens of the United States against whom no charges of disloyalty or subversiveness have been made, or can be made, for longer than the minimum period necessary to screen the loyal from the disloyal, and to provide the necessary guidance for relocation, is beyond the power of the War Relocation Authority," Myer asserted.

Myer pointed out that writs of habeas corpus might be secured on behalf of these citizens, and that the Supreme Court decision of June 21, 1943, in the case of Gordon Hirabayashi vs. United States did

not rule on such detention.

### Decision Recalled

The court held curfew for Japanese-Americans was valid but did not rule on the evacuation orders, he said.

Representative Thomas (Republican) of New Jersey interrupted Myer's reading of the prepared statement on the constitutional query to ask if he were addressing the committee or the press. Myer said, "Both."

During the stormy session the WRA director, repeatedly denouncing "alarmist publicity," sharply challenged the committee's chief investigator, Robert E. Stripling, to produce "one shred of evidence" to back up published charges that the WRA was releasing subversive people from its camps.

Representative Costello (Democrat) of California asked Myer if he had not been furnished with a list of names at the close of Tuesday's hearings.

"Yes," Myer said, "a list of names without any addresses in many instances, and with no statement whatever on why these people mentioned were supposed to be subversive. I can't go on that. I must have evidence, if a habeas corpus action is taken."

Myer said he was "very dis-

turbed" about these Dies charges and the fact that he had no evidence on these people.

Thomas interrupted to remark:

"Yes, that's not the only thing you are disturbed about, and you'll be disturbed about more before I get through."

Termining the WRA a "silly social experiment," Thomas asserted he was introducing a bill in the House to have all WRA centers put under control of the War Department.

Representative Costello brought out the fact that in hearings before the Senate Military Affairs Committee the War Department had opposed any such move.

### House Servant Requests

The question of whether all Cabinet officers were going to make requests to WRA for Japanese-American house servants was interjected by Thomas after it was disclosed that Attorney General Biddle had sought a houseman for his cousin, Miss Constance Biddle, of Bryn Mawr, Pa., from a WRA camp. The salary offered was \$80 a month and maintenance.

Myer replied that so far as he knew only Secretary of the Interior Ickes and Biddle had made any requests. The director, in response to a question from Thomas, denied that the request had any influence on a letter written several months later by Biddle indorsing the agency's program of releasing Japanese-Americans.

Myer said some 15,000 had been released from WRA camps, of which 15 per cent were alien Japanese who had been carefully checked.

Representative Mundt (Republican) of South Dakota, who described Myer's presentation as "a pretty impressive legal argument," questioned the director at length on the policy of "spending taxpayers' funds" to teach judo (Japanese wrestling) and goh (Japanese checkers) at these centers.

Myer agreed when Mundt stated that Americanization would progress faster if American games were taught, and not games thatarked back to Japan.